

Spartanburg County Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster

c/o Spartanburg County Office of Emergency Management
Post Office Box 5666
Spartanburg, SC 29304

**** Minutes****

July 20, 2007

The Spartanburg County VOAD meeting convened at 10:10 am on Friday, July 20, 2007 in the American Red Cross Building.

Those present were:

Name	Agency	Phone	Email
Carol Justice	Church of Jesus Christ of LDS/CERT	864-439-8716	caroljustice@bellsouth.net
Robbie Swofford	Spartanburg County CERT	864-595-5368	rswofford@spartanburgcounty.org
Marge Woodruff	ARC, CERT, SBDP	864-706-7676	woodruff01@bellsouth.net
Don Jones	3M, Boiling Springs Disaster Relief	864-706-0973	dejones2@bellsouth.net
Callie Hammett	United Way of the Piedmont	864-582-7556	chammett@uwpiedmont.org
Linda Burns	Piedmont Chapter - Red Cross	864-583-8000	lburns@piedmontarc.org
Pat Elliott	Piedmont Chapter - Red Cross	864-583-8000	pelliott@piedmontarc.org
Vivian Tanner	Mobile Meals	864-573-7684	vivian@mobile-meals.org
Jenny Holmes	Congregational Nursing	864-560-3710	jholmes@srhs.com
Georgia Lanford	Congregational Nursing	864-560-3711	glanford@srhs.com
Miriam Hart	DHEC - Medical Reserve Corp	864-596-2227 ext239	hartmc@dhec.sc.gov

The following agenda items were addressed:

OPENING, CALL TO ORDER – Pat Elliott

Pat welcomed everyone to the meeting. She briefly discussed the Agenda and passed it out.

INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone in attendance took a moment and introduces themselves to the group.

VOLUNTEER INTAKE FORM

For the most part, everyone seemed pleased with the form. Robbie Swofford explained the reasoning behind placing the form online. In addition, he relayed several suggestions he had received from CERT Team Members who had already filled this form out. With their suggestions in mind, Mr. Swofford suggested clarifying groups/affiliations (esp. religious groups) and explaining the need for volunteers to clarify other in the lower column. No other suggestions were made. The revised form can be found at www.scoem.org.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEWS

During the meeting, the following Organizational overviews were given:

SRHS Congregational Nursing Program This is a network of health ministry workers, most of whom are registered nurses, thorough out Spartanburg County. The CNP provides networking, support and resources for these nurses. They are currently connected with approximately 100 area faith communities and 45 nurses serving in roles of congregational nurses in these faith communities. They have the ability to mobilize the faith communities in fairly short notice.

United Way of the Piedmont is a private, not-for-profit organization governed by a local board of volunteers and as such is accountable to the local community. Their mission is to increase the organized capacity of people to care for one another and we do this by:

Impact community – to change people’s lives: This fiscal year they funded 109 programs in 56 agencies to address the needs of our community.

Foster partnerships – to address community issues: Each year they allocate resources to invest in collaborative efforts with other community organizations to resolve numerous community issues.

Promote volunteerism – to utilize our most precious resource: This fiscal year, they coordinated 2,400 volunteers who gave \$460,000 worth of time to the community.

Develop resources – to fund programs that address critical issues: They work with businesses and individuals to insure that funding is available for the most efficient programs delivering the most benefit to the community.

Inform and educate - to increase community knowledge: They answer and refer callers daily concerning available community services.

AmeriCorps*VISTA is a national service program run directly by the Corporation for National and Community Service. For over 40 years, VISTA has been dedicated to working with agencies in communities to help further local efforts in alleviating poverty. Individuals work full time for one year at nonprofit organizations and public agencies to recruit community volunteers, raise funds, help manage projects, and otherwise build the capacity of non-profit organizations to become sustainable. The United Way of the Piedmont sponsors 17 AmeriCorps*VISTA sites in Spartanburg County.

RSVP of Spartanburg County offers interesting, meaningful volunteer opportunities to persons, 55 years of age or older, who are eager to do something that makes a difference in their community. Join over 300 RSVP volunteers who last year contributed over 46,000 volunteer hours in a variety of volunteer positions. RSVP specializes in tapping the skills and experience of those who are nearing retirement, recent retirees and long-term retirees by matching their talents and interests with the critical needs of local non-profit organizations.

Boiling Springs First Baptist Church Disaster Relief Ministry provides volunteers from their church to assist Baptist Relief Feeds Units. They feed up to 5000 people a day. Teams work 5 to 7 days, and then another team rotates in. They are one of those rotating teams. They will also provide sheltering service to a disaster feeding unit that responds to a local disaster and locates its unit in their church parking lot. They can also provide other volunteers from the church for other activities as needed.

3M Company: The 3M Company supplies respiratory protection for Chem/Bio events, Pan Flu, and other disasters. Mr. Jones helps coordinate distribution and training for those needs. He also has safety and industrial supply contacts for other types of products needed in a disaster.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints takes a very proactive approach towards Emergency Preparedness. With an active presence in the Greenville VOAD, they wish to do the same in Spartanburg. With numerous translators and CERT trained members, LDS looks forward to participating in the Spartanburg County VOAD.

Mobile Meals delivers approximately 2,000 meals per day with the assistance of 130-150 volunteers per day. They are not government or state funded and their facility is provided by First Presbyterian Church for \$1 per year. In the event of a disaster, they would mobilize their kitchen to prepare up to 5,000 meals per day with 12-14 kitchen volunteers. They do not keep large quantities of spare food, so the food would have to be transported from another location. They have approximately 200 coolers on site that could be utilized to transport food to various locations if needed.

CLOSING REMARKS

Pat Elliott thanked everyone for coming. The date for the next meeting was set for August 17, 2007 at 10:00am. The meeting will take place at the Red Cross Building.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robbie Swofford
Robbie Swofford
CERT Coordinator

