



Greetings,

Like you, I have watched with horror at the string of natural disasters that have struck Puerto Rico, the surrounding areas in the Caribbean and Mexico over the past week. If you would like to help, I have laid out a listing of organizations facilitating aid to impacted areas below.

The Hispanic Federation

The Hispanic Federation and a Coalition of Community Organizations and Elected Officials Launched “Unidos”: A Hurricane Relief Fund for Hurricane Maria Victims in Puerto Rico

A coalition of New York City civic leaders including Mayor Bill De Blasio and U.S. Congress Member Nydia Velázquez have joined the Hispanic Federation and its partnering community based organizations to launch “Unidos” (United), a hurricane relief fund to help those impacted by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

The fund will be managed by the Hispanic Federation, a leading Latino nonprofit organization with more than 25 years of experience in providing disaster-relief assistance to Latinos in the United States and Latin America. One hundred percent of the proceeds will help hurricane victims and the recovery efforts through fellow community and civic organizations in Puerto Rico.

To donate via text, compose a new text message for number 41444. Type UNIDOS (space) YOUR AMOUNT (space) and YOUR NAME. (For example: Unidos 100 John Doe) Then press “send” and click on the link to complete your donation.

To donate via website, visit www.hispanicfederation.org/donate and select “Hurricane Relief Effort” from the drop-down menu.

To donate in person, visit any Popular Community Bank branch.

Account name: Hurricane Relief Effort.

Checking account number 6810893500.

[The New York Times released a list of global, national & local charities focused on helping the victims of Hurricane’s Maria & Irma:](#)

Local Charities

[ConPRmetidos](#)

While its main focus is on promoting innovation by connecting Puerto Ricans abroad to those on the island, this local nonprofit has also started a fund to help victims of Hurricanes Maria and Irma.

[GoFundMe](#)

The crowdfunding website maintains a list of verified campaigns, many of them local, collecting donations for victims of the storm. Donors can give to a campaign or directly to GoFundMe, which will then distribute the money to the campaigns.

[Unidos por Puerto Rico](#)

This initiative, from Beatriz Rosselló, the first lady of Puerto Rico, enlists private sector help in providing aid to those affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Donations are accepted through a variety of means, including PayPal.

[National and Global Charities](#)

Each group below [has earned](#) the top rating, four stars, from Charity Navigator, which grades charities based on transparency and financial health.

[All Hands Volunteers](#)

All Hands works with local volunteers and groups to respond to natural disasters. With Hurricanes Harvey and Maria, it is focusing its efforts on the U.S. Virgin Islands. “Our help is needed in the islands, so that’s where we’ll be,” said Erik Dyson, the group’s chief executive.

[AmeriCares](#)

The relief and development organization, which provides health services to those in need, [said that](#) it was working with officials in Puerto Rico to stock emergency shelters with medical supplies. Earlier in the week, it had airlifted \$1.8 million worth of medicine and supplies to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

[Catholic Relief Services](#)

Donations to the faith-based group will help to provide shelter, water, tarps, tents, kitchen kits and other supplies to families affected by the storm, it said.

[Convoy of Hope](#)

Another faith-based initiative, Convoy of Hope provides food, water and emergency supplies to those in need throughout the world.

[Direct Relief](#)

Direct Relief [reported](#) that it was working with local authorities to deliver a shipment of medicine and medical supplies to islands in the region. It also said it was working to provide insulin to 120 displaced dialysis patients.

[GlobalGiving](#)

This crowdfunding website connects donors to nonprofits and companies around the world. Donations will be spent first on the immediate needs of victims and then on longer-term recovery efforts “run by local, vetted organizations,” according to the website.

[International Medical Corps](#)

The group has been working with local authorities to provide emergency care after Hurricane Irma and said it had moved medical supplies into place ahead of Hurricane Maria.

[Earthquake in Mexico](#)

[The New York Times also produced a list of local and international organizations that are providing aid to the devastation brought on by the recent earthquake:](#)

Topos México is a nonprofit rescue brigade made up of volunteers that was created after a 1985 earthquake. The group posted to Twitter information on how to donate through PayPal and its bank accounts, and thanked people for their support.

[Mexican Red Cross](#) has been accepting [direct donations online](#) and has set up an [Amazon Wish List](#) for necessary items.

[Direct Relief](#), a humanitarian aid organization, has staff members in Mexico City and has pledged that 100 percent of its donations will go directly to relief efforts, which it says will include facilitating the delivery of medical supplies to affected areas.

[GlobalGiving](#), a crowdfunding organization, has pledged that all money donated to its earthquake fund will go to recovery and relief efforts.

[Fondo Unido México](#), part of the United Way network, has created an emergency fund to help the areas affected by the earthquakes as well as the recent series of hurricanes.

Finally, Mayor De Blasio announced 18 firehouses and EMS stations across the five boroughs where New Yorkers can donate critically-needed items for Hurricane Maria relief.

The City encourages donation of items that are critically needed for recovery. These items will be delivered to families directly affected by the storm. Below is a list of items New York City is collecting to send to those affected by Hurricane Maria:

- Diapers
- Baby food
- Batteries
- First Aid Supplies
- Feminine Hygiene Products

Please note the City is only collecting the items listed above. All donated items must be non-perishable, not second-hand, nor contain any liquids of any kind. Open or unsealed donations of food or hygiene supplies will not be accepted. Wet wipes will also not be accepted. Any other items will be kindly returned.

There are 18 drop off locations accepting donations across all five boroughs. Donations will be accepted during the hours of 7 am through 9 pm. Please be aware that FDNY members at these locations may not be present during drop-off hours if they are responding to an emergency.

Brooklyn

- Engine 271/ Ladder 124: 392 Himrod Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237 (Bushwick)
- Engine 277/ Ladder 112: 582 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221 (Bushwick)
- Engine 201/ Ladder 114: 5113 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220 (Sunset Park)
- Engine 228: 436 39th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232 (Sunset Park)
- Engine 218: 650 Hart Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221 (Bushwick)

See you around the neighborhood,
Bobby

District Office: 416 7th Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11215 (718) 788-7221