

Season of Giving: Showing Christ's Love to Hurricane Helene Survivors and Responders

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Background

- In October of 2024, our region was struck with one of the most devastating natural disasters of southeastern history: Hurricane Helene.
- Our community and many others were devastated and overwhelmed by the amount of destruction that increased requirements/necessities for survival.
- Our chapter was in the midst of submitting a different grant, when we decided this money could be used more effectively, especially with Christmas approaching.
- We decided to devote our time and money to those volunteering 24/7 and community members who were struggling like never before.

Purpose

- Community members were without basic necessities including: water, food, medicines, hygiene products and cleaning products around the holidays. We wanted to help decrease these burdens.
- We felt indebted to the countless workers including those who volunteered with our local water companies and electrical companies to restore utilities throughout the region.

Methods

- When the flood happened, CPFI and many of our student organizations at Gatton came together to ask for donations/supplies that were given to those in need throughout the community.
- Our CPFI meeting in November was held to make thank you cards for volunteers. These were donated at various locations in Washington County, Carter County, and Johnson County. These included relevant bible verses.
- Once we received our grant money, we reached out to one of our pharmacy fellows who knew of individuals that still had a large need for supplies.
- Our CPFI members spent an evening shopping at a local grocery store to gain supplies listed for the Christmas Social in Bakersville, NC at Little Rock Creek Baptist Church.



Results

- As a chapter, we wrote 100+ cards to thank volunteers for their time and commitment to the community.
- Items for donation included: diapers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, laundry pods, cleaning supplies, Tylenol & Ibuprofen (children's included), canned food, water pallets, and various snacks.
- Chapter members brought the items and went together to a local church in Bakersville, NC for the day on December 14th.
- While at the Christmas social we participated by helping adult's "shop", playing games/crafting with kids, serving meals, wrapping gifts, and even meeting with Santa!
- A rewarding experience was being able to encourage families to get as much as they needed, since many were hesitant to take more than a few items. God continued to provide an abundance of supplies, and another local organization showed up with more toys!

Conclusions

- While there are still many families suffering from the impact of the hurricane, this project was very beneficial in supplying needed items.
- As pharmacists, we have a responsibility to step up for our communities. Donating needed OTC products to these families was a blessing.
- It was extremely rewarding to spread some joy in a season where it was lacking.
- Without The CPFI Hands & Feet Grant, we could not have provided for those we love in our community.
- Thank you to all the wonderful donors who make this project possible every year!

Acknowledgements

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- We continue to pray for those who lost loved ones.