

World Cares Center's

2016 ANNUAL REPORT





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The Disaster Volunteerism Academy
Classroom Training
Online Training

CONNECTIVITY

The Ready Responders Network

SUPPORT

The Ready Responders Exercise
Hurricane Matthew Response

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Project Elf

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The Iron Skillet Cook Off

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World Cares Center is a nonprofit organization that promotes community and leadership empowerment in disaster prevention, response, and recovery.

At a time of seismic global shifts, it is important now more than ever for communities to unite. While there is often interest among community members to contribute, they don't always understand how to do safely and effectively. When things don't go as planned and disaster strikes, where can community members go to learn where they are needed most? In the absence of organization and available training within a community – unexpected events can result in disorder and inefficiency.

This is where World Cares Center provides value.

Initially emerging as an all-volunteer based movement to help promote social, emotional, and physical healing for the volunteer and responder community after the attacks on 9/11, WCC is now in its 15th year of service as a known affiliate of the United Nations Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, and a Department of Defense recognized subject-matter expert in disaster preparedness, response and mitigation.

Our holistic approach ensures that all members of the disaster response ecosystem are working with the same fundamental toolbox, and we shape our work around three key priorities: Education-Connectivity-Support.

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PROGRAMS

The Disaster Volunteerism Academy

DISASTER VOLUNTEERISM ACADEMY

World Cares Center's (WCC) purpose is to build capacity from within high-risk, low-income communities and empower their citizens who step away from the comfort of their everyday life to help others during times of crisis. WCC ensures that these constituents are trained, prepared and ready to respond to crisis locally by leveraging existing resources. Through training, support and coordination, WCC empowers these spontaneous volunteers and disconnected communities to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from crises, training thousands of citizens, community leaders, and not-for-profit groups to work together during catastrophic times. WCC believes that resiliency is best promoted when communities are prepared to respond to disasters and mitigate their inherent risks, thereby reducing human and economic asset loss upon impact.

Leveraging local classrooms, senior centers, and WCC's online resources, disaster volunteers and local leaders – together with WCC – are instilling community responsibility and preparedness while collaborating with other disaster responders. We service youth, adults, and even senior citizens. By expanding both the demographic and geographic scope of our current classroom-style learning environment, we help volunteers all across the globe, from New York and Chicago to Nepal and Sri Lanka. WCC will continue to engage local leaders and community members in underserved communities to provide a curriculum that is impactful and relevant to the disasters we face today.

In 2016, WCC launched the Disaster Volunteerism Academy online, a free 24/7 learning management portal hosting disaster volunteerism safety and leadership training. The team also provided in classroom training to a total of 1,142 individuals.

LOOKING AHEAD: As training is crucial to successful relief support, our ambition is to continue improving upon our offerings and significantly grow our geographical impact. Your support is critical to achieving our goals of disaster resilient communities world-wide.

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CONNECTIVITY

The Ready Responders Network

READY RESPONDERS NETWORK

WCC has developed the Ready Responders Network (RRN) – a virtual Emergency Operations Center that facilitates connections among communities, local leadership, government and volunteer-affiliated organizations. Users can access the network at any time before, during, or after disaster strikes.

THE NEED: Emergency operation centers require extensive time and financial resources to manage, and they are often impractical for local communities and grassroots groups to develop. Communication among between and on-the-ground volunteers is imperative, but it is difficult to connect both, as many agencies do not aim to engage grassroots volunteers. The Ready Responders Network bridges this gap, allowing lines of communication to remain accessible by offering access to anyone at all times free of charge. From providing a system to request additional volunteers and providing ongoing disaster updates, the Ready Responders Network is developed specifically for the grassroots and community groups in disaster response to share information and connect to resources.

LOOKING AHEAD: Keeping up with upgrades in technology and virtual communication, WCC has put resources towards continued enhancement of the functionality of the RRN, allowing for grassroots sharing of information, relaying of status updates, and coordination of resources to give local volunteers and managers the opportunity to be more effective and cost efficient by utilizing WCC's existing support network.

WHO ARE THESE READY RESPONDERS: Ready Responders are individuals that by day have a regular job, but when disaster or crisis strikes, they are ready to help themselves, their neighbors, and their colleagues recover and emerge from disasters more resilient. They are students, office workers, the unemployed, and employed alike. They are critical to accomplishing our mission, and without education and connectivity, disaster relief cannot happen.

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SUPPORT

Response and Practice

In April 2017, FEMA, in concert with agencies subject to but not including the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense, will host a simulated response to a nuclear bomb detonation. Titled **Gotham Shield**, the exercise, which WCC will participate in, will allow emergency responders to practice their response and recovery efforts and engage support organizations. WCC's participation in Gotham Shield will serve as a learning-tool and pave the foundation for a 2018 Boots on the Ground exercise, affirming our need to strengthen the knowledge of citizen responders through a practical component.

WCC will engage and train new members and work with those previously trained to develop response plans and further cross-sector collaboration through this simulated disaster. We will utilize the Disaster Volunteerism Academy and the RRN as a primary form of coordination and connectivity with officials. The Boots on the Ground exercise will allow individuals and local leaders to participate in disaster volunteerism management and volunteerism placement and planning through exercises entailing flood response, dry ice distribution, case management intake and volunteer reception center management. The Boots on the Ground exercise will allow individuals to engage in hands-on training, all while addressing current weaknesses in disaster response methods and correcting those weaknesses with the use of safe and effective response methods.

Hurricane Matthew Haiti: October 24 – 28, 2016

World Cares Center has been actively involved with providing aid to the Caribbean nation of Haiti – one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. From the massive earthquake in 2010 to Hurricane Matthew in 2016, WCC has worked with Haitian communities as they struggle to recover against insurmountable obstacles. In support of Hurricane Matthew relief efforts, WCC delivered 500 hygiene kits, Personal Protective Equipment and empowered 80 local leaders as disaster managers. These empowered leaders have conducted needs assessments, Cholera prevention training, and resource distributions. They are now prepared to continue to lead future recovery and prevention programs for their communities.

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SPECIAL PROGRAMS



Ready Rockaway Responders: In concert with *Ready Rockaway*, Senator James Sanders, Councilmember Donovan Richards, and St. Johns Episcopal Hospital, WCC honored community leaders and members who continue to serve the Rockaways and launched the *Ready Rockaway Responders* workshop series to help the Rockaway communities prepare, respond, and recover from future disasters together.

Project Elf: In partnership with St. John's Episcopal Hospital, Project Elf is a day of festivities that allows families from under-served, high risk communities of Far Rockaway to receive holiday household hazard awareness training and enjoy holiday festivities. Volunteers from the business sector join our team in gift-wrapping, decorating, and logistical support. By engaging all members of the community, Project Elf combines fun-filled activities with the dissemination of information that saves lives.



Partner Support: WCC ensures that our disaster volunteers stay safe beyond the classroom. Partner organizations including NECHAMA, a Jewish organization that responds to flooding disasters, are the beneficiaries of Personal Protective Equipment provided by WCC and our donors. By sharing our resources we make sure that disaster volunteers are not only trained, but have the equipment they need to stay safe.

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HISTORY

World Cares Center's Timeline

- 2001:** WCC is founded amidst the 9-11-2001 relief efforts and launches its [September Space Community Center](#) programming
- 2002:** The first [Iron Skillet Cook Off](#) is launched as a thank you to the 9-11 Responders and Volunteers
- 2003:** WCC opens its doors to stranded New Yorkers during the [NYC Black Out](#)
- 2004:** WCC provides training and support to [Hurricane Katrina](#) groups and the Welcome Home Centers
- 2005:** WCC's [Disaster Leadership Training](#) series launched
- 2006:** WCC delivers its Disaster Leadership Training series to emergency management agencies across the US
- 2007:** The September Space Community Center's sunset after [serving 45,000 9-11 Rescue Workers and Disaster Volunteers](#)
- 2009:** Youth in Action and Seniors in Response training series launched
- 2010:** WCC deploys in support of the [Haitian Earthquake Response](#), training local leaders and disaster managers and distributing relief supplies
- 2011:** WCC deploys in support of [Hurricane Irene Relief](#), managing NJVOAD flood response partners in concert with NJ211 [serving 1200 survivors](#), and developing its first Flood Response training, supporting survivors of the Japanese Tsunami, adapting WCC's *Healing Journal for Parents and Children*, and publishing [Leading and Managing Spontaneous Community Volunteers in Disasters](#), CRC Press
- 2012:** WCC opens 3 Volunteer Reception Centers in response to [Superstorm Sandy](#), training 22,000 disaster volunteers, succeeding in mucking and gutting 1,400 homes with zero injuries, and delivering \$35,000 in relief supplies.
- 2013:** WCC supports survivors of Typhoon Haiyan adapting WCC's *Healing Journal for Parents and Children*, and launches [Project Elf](#) to bring joy to under-served, disaster impacted communities
- 2014:** WCC becomes a member of the [United Nations Risk Reduction Initiative](#) and launches a sister city partnership with Japan and Sri Lanka, sharing its curricula.
- 2015:** WCC launches the [Disaster Volunteerism Academy Online Training](#)
- 2016:** WCC begins the redevelopment of the [ReadyRespondersNetwork](#)

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ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The Iron Skillet® Cook-Off

Sharing a meal is an integral part of any healing process, and this was no different during September 11th recovery efforts. Outstanding chefs like David Bouley fed our rescue workers around the clock, and average New Yorkers came out of the comfort of their homes to help their the community. Lifelong relationships were built among volunteers and the first responder community. It was there that the concept of the Iron Skillet® Cook-Off was developed.

Those experiences guided WCC's mission and our annual event, the Iron Skillet® Cook-Off. We are one community that pulls together to help each other. Together we are at our best, and we want you to be part of that community.

WCC hosts the annual Iron Skillet® Cook-Off, in which firehouse chefs and restaurant chefs compete to raise awareness and funds to support the organization's mission in training, preparing, and deploying volunteers during times of crisis. In 2016, with the help of Brooklyn Brewery, Tito's Handmade Vodka, the Mets Foundation and our other generous sponsors, we were able to raise \$125,000 through this single event.

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SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS

The people that make it happen

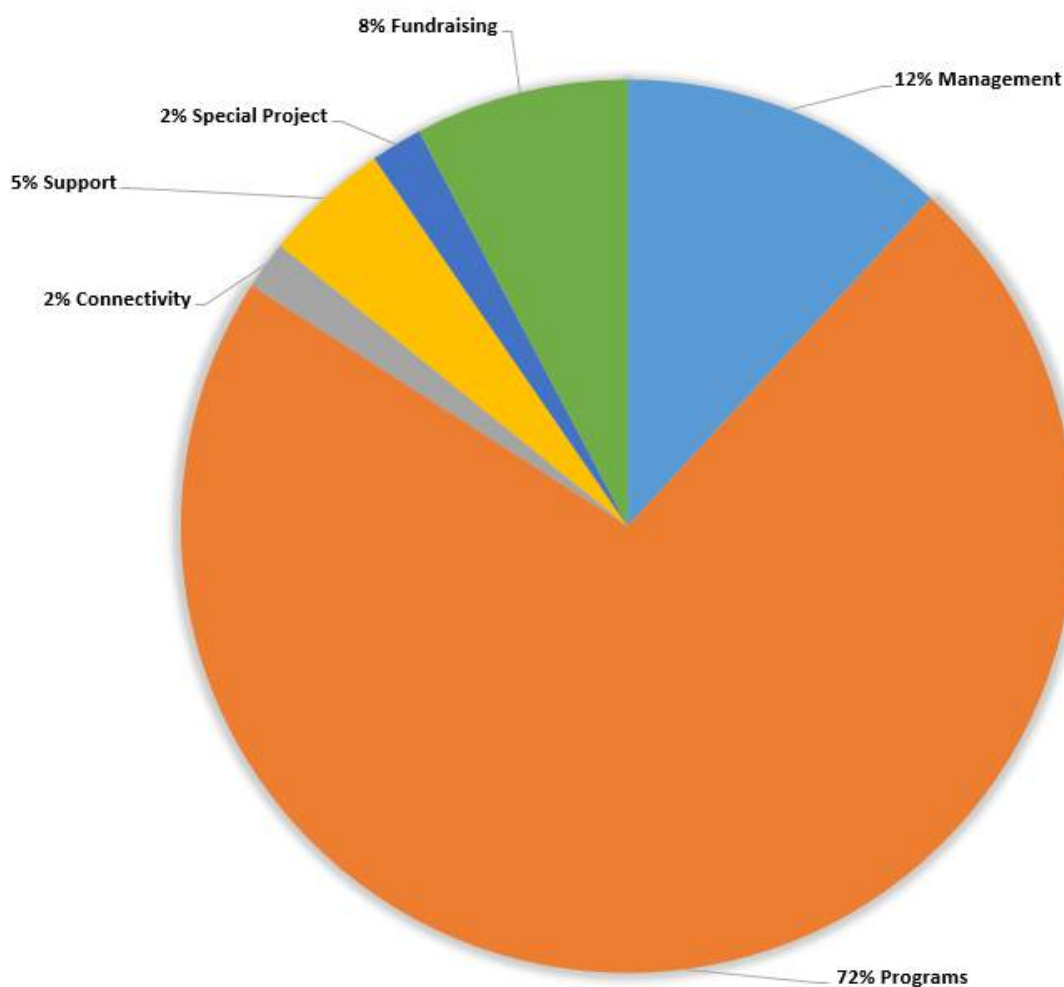
FUNDERS

The Brooklyn Borough President
Rutgers University
NIEHS
Con Edison
UPS Foundation
Council member Crowley
Turner Construction
Avern by the Sea

THOSE WE HELP WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Asian American Seniors, BuildingWorks, The Hope Program, Homecrest Community Services
Bensonhurst Senior Center, The Met Council for Jewish Poverty , The Annual Conference on
Aging ,Ridgewood Older Adult Center , Queens High School For Information, Research, And
Technology (QIRT), First Congregational Church, Seaside Senior Center, ReadyRockaway, St
Johns Episcopal Hospital, Fed Cap, Armenian Church, NECHAMA Flood Response, Latin,
African American Chaplains Association, Staten Island COAD, Morris County VOAD, NJ
Citizen Corp: CERT, United Way of Greater Westchester, Ledlight American Red Cross, Long
Island University, Pratt University, Girl Scouts.

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The following is an overview of World Cares Center's financial activities for 2016. Support was received from corporations, foundations, individuals, and government grants for the continuation of WCC's programs.

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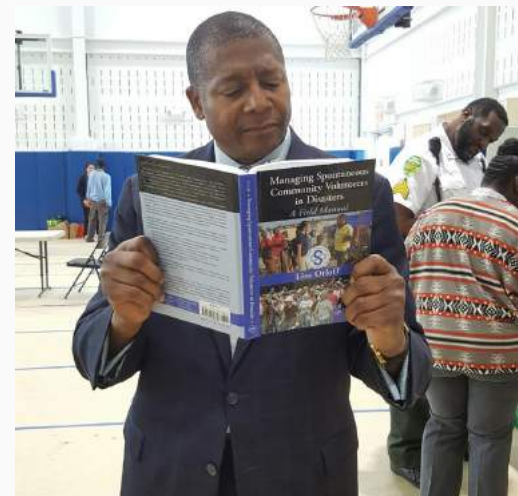


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