



FROM NATURAL DISASTERS TO FAMILY EMERGENCIES

YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES RELIEF TO SEA SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SAILORS, MARINES, AND THEIR FAMILIES



by Thelisha A. Woods

Eagle Hammock RV Park is used by both active duty families and retirees at Navy Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia. On July 7, 2021, those families were faced with terror and destruction when a tornado, caused by Tropical Storm Elsa, struck the RV Park. During this severe weather event, approximately 40 families were impacted, faced with physical injuries as well as their homes being severely damaged or completely destroyed.

Our Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Kings Bay Office quickly began assisting clients by providing \$600 immediate-need grants as covered by the Society's Disaster Relief program. The Society provided 34 clients with over \$21,612 in assistance. Victims of this storm were able to use their grants for housing at local hotels, food, clothing and toiletries.

Later in July, when a terrible fire struck an apartment complex in Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island, families who lost everything, were able to find relief thanks to the support of NMCRS. Our NMCRS Whidbey Island Office provided these families with \$3,600 in disaster assistance, to help them recover from this tragic event. Uniforms and household items were donated from our thrift shop to the clients who were displaced by this fire.

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"We were so grateful to be able to help our Sailors with an immediate \$600 individual disaster grant. This timely assistance really puts our promise to help into an uncomplicated and specific quantifiable action." said Jennifer Richards, Director at NMCRS Whidbey Island. "Upon hearing of the fire, our concerned thrift shop volunteers began to set aside items and we were able to offer free access to essentials ranging from towels and blankets to clothing and uniforms to backpacks and suitcases and so much more." Jennifer continued.

Thanks to your thoughtful donations, NMCRS can quickly and directly support families facing these types of devastating events. This September during National Preparedness Month, and every month, NMCRS is here to provide relief to families. Whether an unexpected natural event like Tropical Storm Elsa, or personal catastrophic event like an apartment fire, the Disaster Relief program at NMCRS is available for families in their time of need. In addition to immediate assistance, NMCRS stands by ready to provide for longer term needs as well.



National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. The 2021 theme is "Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love."

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