



2021 Partnership Month

July 2021



FEMA

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1. Partnership Month Overview

Partnership Month 2021 marks the 6th annual event co-hosted by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Partnership Month celebrates the strong partnerships that have been developed between volunteer organizations and FEMA. This year, FEMA Headquarters collaborated with FEMA Region 7 to coordinate events throughout the month.

Much like 2020, Partnership Month provided an opportunity to host events virtually. This year's celebration began on July 6, 2021 with opening remarks from **Chris Smith**, FEMA's Division Director of Individual Assistance, **Kathy Fields**, FEMA Region 7 Administrator (Acting), and **April Wood**, President and CEO of National VOAD. In addition, we launched the [Virtual Exhibit Hall](#) showcasing volunteer organizations in FEMA Region 7 and around the country.

A series of panel discussions followed throughout the month, with partnerships throughout Region 7 taking an opportunity to share how they have made strong connections with federal, state, and local partners to address the needs of their residents before, during, and after a disaster. Partnership Month closed with a discussion from National VOAD on COVID-19 vaccine equity.

2. Events

July 6, 2021: Virtual Exhibit Hall goes live

July 6, 2021: 11:00 – 11:30 am CDT: [Opening Remarks](#) with Chris Smith, FEMA, Kathy Fields, FEMA, and April Wood, National VOAD

July 6, 2021: 12:00 – 1:00 pm CDT: [Partnership Conversation: Supporting Whole Community Preparedness: Refugee Emergency Preparedness Training Pilot Program](#)

Join us to learn more about the Refugee Emergency Preparedness Training pilot project. The project's goal is to increase local resiliency by engaging refugee community leaders in preparedness training to become "Preparedness Champions." These Preparedness Champions can help connect the basic social services nodes of more difficult-to-reach and vulnerable communities with disaster preparedness resources before an event occurs, so their stakeholders' needs are more easily met before, during, and after a disaster. Additionally, they can work in partnership to ensure an equitable recovery for the whole community. This training pilot is designed to be replicated across regions and adapted to different populations using ready-made templates and materials - all in partnership with local community leaders, refugee agencies, and emergency management organizations. We welcome feedback from attendees of this Partnership Conversation as we continue to develop this important training.

July 13, 2021: 12:00 – 1:00 pm CDT: [Partnership Conversation: Feeding Iowans Task Force](#)

In response to the growing food and supply chain concerns at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Iowa's Governor Kim Reynolds formed the Feeding Iowans Task Force (Task Force) to assist Iowans impacted by food insecurity during the pandemic. Task Force members collaborated with partners at the local, state, and federal level to raise awareness of hunger, identify potential gaps in Iowa's food system, support the food supply chain, and connect Iowans with food resources. When a massive windstorm with winds up to 140mph called a derecho impacted multiple counties across Iowa on August 10, 2020, the Task Force leveraged existing partnerships developed through the pandemic to collaborate and address the emergency feeding needs of those impacted.

July 20, 2021: 12:00 – 1:00 pm CDT: [Partnership Conversation: Managing Rural & Low-Attention Disasters](#)

Missouri State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, The Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery and Missouri State Emergency Management Agency are proud to co-host a panel discussion centered on the partner collaboration needed to successfully manage rural and low-attention disasters. These disasters typically do not attract significant media coverage, financial assistance, or volunteers to help communities more effectively navigate through the recovery process. In Missouri and much of the Midwest, low-attention disasters occur with regularity and include flooding, hail, tornadoes/wind events, winter storms, wildfire and more. We will be reviewing past flooding events in the communities of St. Joseph, Van Buren and Pinhook to discuss how Missouri's local leaders and strong network of community and faith-based partners relied on their trusted relationships, strong communication networks, and creative coordination to meet survivor needs.

July 27, 2021: 12:00 – 1:00 pm CDT: [Partnership Conversation: Affordable, Sustainable Housing: Addressing a National Crisis at a State Level](#)





You are invited to participate in a conversation around housing – specifically affordable, sustainable housing in our local communities – a topic with short- and long-term effects on us all. Join partners from across Federal, State, and Local levels, including the Nebraska Organizations Active in Disaster, the Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery, and many more, to discuss issues, opportunities, struggles, and successes, through the lenses of recent natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as community- and resilience-

building. We will unpack and examine what “affordable, sustainable housing” means, what has led to it becoming a nationwide crisis in recent years, and what we can do now, together, to continue working toward immediate, permanent solutions for our families, neighbors, and communities in need.

July 30, 2021: 12:00 – 12:30 pm CDT: [Closing Remarks](#): COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Stakeholder Roundtable

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, please join the discussion on COVID-19 Vaccine Equity. Representatives from National VOAD, Federal, State, and private sector partners will discuss vaccination needs in underserved communities.

3. Virtual Exhibitors

Partner	Mission & Services
	<p>Adventist Community Disaster Services</p> <p>Mission: Serve communities in Christ's name.</p> <p>Website</p>
	<p>Amazon</p> <p>Mission: To be Earth's most customer-centric company.</p> <p>Website</p>
	<p>American College of Surgeons/Stop the Bleed Program</p> <p>Mission: The purpose of the STOP THE BLEED® campaign is to make our nation more resilient by better preparing the public to save lives if people nearby are severely bleeding.</p> <p>Website</p>
 American Red Cross	<p>American Red Cross</p> <p>Mission: Prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.</p> <p>Website</p>

Partner

Mission & Services



AmeriCorps St. Louis

Mission: To enhance the professional skills and life-long service ethic of those who serve; to respond to critical unmet needs in the areas of emergency response and environmental conservation; to leverage service of volunteers; and to build the capacity of our partnering agencies and communities we serve.

[Website](#)



Convoy of Hope

Mission: Convoy of Hope is a faith-based, nonprofit organization with a driving passion to feed the world through children’s feeding initiatives, community outreaches, and disaster response.

[Website](#)



COSSAO

Mission: Community initiative that works to support development and transformation. Promote a more equitable and sustainable community by building and providing services to people.

[Website](#)



Dentistas Misioneros De PR (DMDPR)/Missionary Dentists

Mission: Improve the oral health of underserved communities in and outside of PR, giving emphasis on children and elderly population.

[Website](#)

Partner

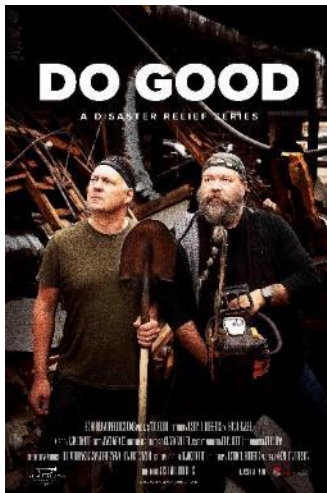
Mission & Services



Disaster Distress Helpline/Vibrant Emotional Health

Mission: National hotline dedicated to providing year-round crisis counseling & emotional support for anyone in the U.S./territories experiencing distress or other mental health concerns related to natural or human-caused disasters.

[Website](#)



Do Good

Mission: Do Good is a YouTube series created by two Army Veterans that covers the inspirational recovery after disasters and raises direct support for the non-profits making a difference. In short, we are a storytelling engine that does good for those who do good!

[Website](#)



Elevated Studio

Mission: A nonprofit architectural firm promoting social equality by expanding access to values-driven design that helps individuals and communities achieve economic and physical resilience and sustainability.

[Website](#)



EQUIProject

Mission: Provide compassionate humanitarian relief through food, water purification and solar power.

[Website](#)

Partner

Mission & Services



Focus Humanitarian Assistance USA

Mission: Our mission is: to save lives, reduce suffering and create resilience in communities prone to man-made or natural disasters.

[Website](#)



Foundation for Advancement in Conservation

Mission: Promote the preservation and protection of cultural heritage for future generations, protecting it from decay and destruction. Advance research and education, lead treatment and collection care initiatives, and deploy conservation expertise to where it is most urgently needed.

[Website](#)



Google

Mission: Accelerate every organization's ability to transform through data powered innovation with the best infrastructure, platform, industry solutions, and expertise for digital transformation.

[Website](#)



Great Plains United Methodist Conference, Disaster Response

Mission: The Great Plains Disaster Response is a Ministry of Care that has theological, material, mental health, advocacy, and social services components designed to provide for the spiritual, emotional, and physical recovery of disaster survivors.

[Website](#)

Partner

Mission & Services



HEART 9/11 (Healing Emergency Aid Response Team 9/11)

Mission: HEART 9/11's (Healing Emergency Aid Response Team) mission is to Respond immediately to natural and man-made disasters; Rebuild community centers in hard-hit areas to meet grassroots needs; Recover by building resiliency for individuals, families, and communities.

[Website](#)



Heart to Heart International

Mission: Heart to Heart International improves healthcare access in the U.S. and around the world. We achieve this mission by distributing resources, conducting training, engaging volunteers, and responding to disasters.

[Website](#)



Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Sewa

Mission: To organize a diverse and vibrant Hindu American society that can collectively address its challenges and contribute to the welfare of the world.

[Website](#)



The Home Depot Foundation

Mission: The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap and support communities impacted by natural disasters.

[Website](#)

Partner

Mission & Services



International Orthodox Christian Charities

Mission: IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.

[Website](#)



Islamic Medical Association of North America

Mission: IMANA fosters health promotion, disease prevention, and health maintenance in communities around the world through direct patient care, health programs, and advocacy.

[Website](#)



Islamic Relief USA

Mission: Provide relief and development in a dignified manner regardless of gender, race, or religion, and empower individuals in their communities to give them a voice in the world.

[Website](#)



Information Technology Disaster Resource Center

Mission: Harness the collective resources of the technology community to provide no cost Information, Communications, and Technology (ICT) solutions that connect survivors and responders in crisis.

[Website](#)



Lions Club International

Mission: To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

[Website](#)

Partner

Mission & Services



Lutheran Disaster Response

Mission: Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.

[Website](#)



Matthew 25: Ministries

Mission: Help the poorest of the poor and disaster victims throughout the United States and around the world.

[Website](#)



Mennonite Disaster Services

Mission: Volunteer network of Anabaptist churches responding in Christian love to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States.

[Website](#)



Merit

Mission: Create a verified identity ecosystem to allow entire industries to operate programmatically.

[Website](#)



Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief

Mission: All MBC staff members are missionaries, cooperating with Missouri Baptists to make disciples, multiply churches, and develop leaders.

[Website](#)

Partner

Mission & Services



Nebraska Preparedness Partnership

Mission: Building the readiness of private stakeholders in Nebraska to prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from disaster through advocacy, training, and public partnerships.

[Website](#)



NeedsList

Mission: NeedsList creates tech-enabled solutions to make crisis response more collaborative, efficient, and equitable.

[Website](#)



Operation BBQ Relief

Mission: Provide comfort to those in need by connecting, inspiring, serving, and educating in communities far and wide.

[Website](#)



Operation Blessing, U.S. Disaster Relief

Mission: Demonstrate God's love by alleviating human need and suffering in the United State and around the world.

[Website](#)



Procter and Gamble

Mission: Provide branded products and services of superior quality and value that improve the lives of the world's consumers, now and for generations to come.

[Website](#)

Partner

Mission & Services



Rajant Corporation

Mission: Provide of the world's most efficient and reliable private wireless networks, powered by the patented Kinetic Mesh® network, BreadCrumb® wireless nodes, and InstaMesh® networking software.

[Website](#)



Remote Area Medical

Mission: To prevent pain and alleviate suffering by providing free quality healthcare to those in need.

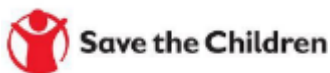
[Website](#)



Salvation Army

Mission: The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

[Website](#)



Save the Children

Mission: As the world's leading expert on childhood, Save the Children believes that every child deserves a future. For more than 100 years, Save the Children has been giving children in the U.S. and around the world a health start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm.

[Website](#)

Partner

Mission & Services



Send Relief/Southern Baptist Disaster Relief

Mission: Send Relief/ Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is a Christ centered partnership of National, State and Associational ministries serving through the local Church to bring Help, Hope and Healing to individuals and communities affected by disasters.

[Website](#)



Sewa International

Mission: Serve humanity in distress, aid local communities, run developmental projects for the underserved, and assist people in transformational change through the power of innovation by mobilizing partners, donors, and volunteers.

[Website](#)



Team Rubicon

Mission: Unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly provide relief to communities in need be they domestic or international.

[Website](#)

Partner

Mission & Services



United Methodist Committee on Relief

Mission: As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR is dedicated to alleviating human suffering. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. Our efforts target places where natural disasters, war or conflict have done so much damage that communities are unable to recover on their own. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until they are well on their way to establishing a “new normal” after a crisis.

[Website](#)



University of Missouri Extension

Mission: Our distinct land-grant mission is to improve lives, communities, and economies by producing relevant, reliable, and responsive educational strategies that enhance access to the resources and research of the University of Missouri.

[Website](#)

4. Special Thanks

A special thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their efforts in planning and hosting the 2021 Partnership Month activities.

- **National VOAD staff** for contributing to Partnership Month events throughout the month.
- **Region 7 Partners** for participating in the Partnership Conversations and helping to bring awareness to the great work being done in the region to help people recover from disasters.
- **FEMA Regional and HQ staff in Recovery, Individual and Community Preparedness, and External Affairs** for coordinating efforts to plan the 2021 Partnership Month activities.



We are particularly grateful for the expertise and support provided by **Chris Hillis**, Co-Founder, Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC). ITDRC's assistance with compiling the partnership videos and creating the [Partnership Month Virtual Exhibitor Hall](#) are an integral part of the Partnership Month experience.

5. Invitation to External Partners



Partnership Month 2021



FEMA



**National
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster**

COORDINATION | COMMUNICATION | COOPERATION | COLLABORATION

Join Us for Partnership Month 2021!

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD) invite you to our 6th Annual Partnership Month. This year's event will be a month-long celebration of the work done by our voluntary agency partners.

We are kicking off the celebration of partnerships starting on July 6th with opening remarks from **Chris Smith**, FEMA's Division Director of Individual Assistance, **Kathy Fields**, FEMA Region 7 Administrator (Acting), and **April Wood**, President and CEO of National VOAD. We will also be launching the link for the [Virtual Exhibit Hall](#) showcasing volunteer organizations in FEMA Region 7 and around the country.

Stay tuned all month at [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov), the FEMA [YouTube](#) channel, and the [Virtual Exhibit Hall](#) for new content starting on July 6, 2021! You can also join several live **Partnership Conversations** throughout the month. These virtual panel discussions will highlight some of the partnerships between local, state, and federal partners. Information on joining these events is below.

Partnership Month Schedule of Events*

Opening Remarks: Chris Smith, FEMA's Division Director of Individual Assistance, Kathy Fields, FEMA Region 7 Administrator (Acting), and April Wood, President and CEO of National VOAD will welcome volunteer partners to Partnership Month and highlight the importance of working together before, during, and after disasters.

Date/Time: July 6, 2021 11:00-11:30 CDT

Location: [Zoom](#) | **Passcode:** 464581

Click [HERE](#) to download an Outlook calendar invite

Partnership Conversation: Supporting Whole Community Preparedness: Refugee Emergency Preparedness Training Pilot Project

Join us to learn more about the Refugee Emergency Preparedness Training pilot project. The project's goal is to increase local resiliency by engaging refugee community leaders in preparedness training to become "Preparedness Champions." These Preparedness Champions can help connect the basic social services nodes of more difficult-to-reach and vulnerable communities with disaster preparedness resources before an event occurs, so their stakeholders' needs are more easily met before, during, and after a disaster. Additionally, they can work in partnership to ensure an equitable recovery for the whole community. This training pilot is designed to be replicated across regions and adapted to different populations using ready-made templates and materials - all in partnership with local community leaders, refugee agencies, and emergency management organizations. We welcome feedback from attendees of this Partnership Conversation as we continue to develop this important training.

Date/Time: July 6, 2021 11:30-12:30 CDT

Location: [Zoom](#) | **Passcode:** 464581

Click [HERE](#) to download an Outlook calendar invite

* Please note, these events are open to all on a first-come, first-served basis. There may be limited availability to attend.

Partnership Conversation: Feeding Iowans - Food Security

In response to the growing food and supply chain concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic, Iowa's Governor Kim Reynolds established the Feeding Iowans Task Force (Task Force) to assist Iowans impacted by food insecurity during the pandemic. Task Force members collaborated with partners at the local, state, and federal level to raise awareness of hunger, identify potential gaps in Iowa's food system, support the food supply chain, and connect Iowans with food resources. In response to Derecho windstorms with winds up to 140mph that impacted multiple counties across the State of Iowa on August 10, 2020, the Task Force leveraged existing partnerships developed through the pandemic to collaborate and address the emergency feeding needs of those impacted. Members of the Iowa Task Force will share lessons learned, discuss partnership development, Derecho response and how newly formed relationships continuing to be utilized to address food insecurity needs for future disasters and emergency events.

Date/Time: July 13, 2021 12:00-1:00 CDT

Location: [Zoom](#) | **Passcode:** 133824

Click [HERE](#) to download an Outlook calendar invite

Partnership Conversation: Managing Rural and Low-Attention

Disasters: Missouri Partners Set the Standard for Collaboration in Response and Recovery

Missouri State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, The Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery and Missouri State Emergency Management Agency are proud to co-host a Partnership Conversation on the partner collaboration needed to successfully manage rural and low-attention disasters. Rural and low-attention disasters do not attract significant media coverage, financial assistance, or volunteers to help communities more effectively navigate through the recovery process. In Missouri and the Midwest, low-attention disasters occur with regularity and include flooding, hail, tornadoes/wind events, winter storms, wildfire and more. The panel of experts will discuss past flooding events in the communities of St. Joseph, Van Buren, and Pinhook. Panelists will share lessons learned on Missouri's local leaders and strong network of community and faith-based partners that utilized trusted relationships, strong communication networks, and creative coordination to meet survivor needs.

Date/Time: July 20, 2021 12:00-1:00 CDT

Location: [Zoom](#) | **Passcode:** 104511

Click [HERE](#) to download an Outlook calendar invite

Partnership Conversation: Affordable, Sustainable Housing: Addressing a National Crisis at a Local Level

On behalf of Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, you are invited to participate in a conversation that explores affordable and sustainable housing in the context of post disaster recovery in local communities. Subject matter experts from Federal, State, and Local levels, including the Nebraska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster and the Governor’s Task Force for Disaster Recovery will discuss challenges, opportunities, and successes during recent disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. The conversation will examine affordable and sustainable housing as a growing nationwide crisis, possible immediate and long-term solutions, and partnerships.

Date/Time: July 27, 2021 12:00-1:00 CDT

Location: [Webex](#) | **Passcode:** jrBbJ3Kfy36

Click [HERE](#) to download an Outlook calendar invite

Closing Remarks: COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Stakeholder Roundtable

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, please join the discussion on COVID-19 Vaccine Equity. Representatives from National VOAD, Federal, State, and private sector partners will discuss vaccination needs in underserved communities.

Date/Time: July 30, 2021 12:00-12:30 CDT

Location: [Zoom](#) | **Passcode:** 756904

Click [HERE](#) to download an Outlook calendar invite

6. Partnership Day Integrated Planning Team

- Chris Hillis, Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC)
- Katherine Boatwright, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters
- De'An Bass, Voluntary Agency Liaison, FEMA Region 7
- Collette Linder, Community Planning & Capacity Building Coordinator, FEMA Region 7
- Jonathan Gelletta, Voluntary Agency Liaison, FEMA Region 7
- Mike Pickerel, Voluntary Agency Liaison, FEMA Region 7
- Kristiana Sanford, Public Affairs Specialist, FEMA Region 7
- Linda Davis, Community Preparedness Officer, FEMA Region 7
- Ryan Lowry-Lee (CTR), Regional Preparedness Liaison, FEMA Region 7
- Raymond Piper, Visual Imagery Specialist, FEMA Headquarters
- Dinusha Weerakkody, Voluntary Agency Liaison, FEMA Headquarters
- Allison Carlock, Voluntary Agency Liaison Section Chief, FEMA Headquarters