

Media contact: Malika White, [mwhite@unitedwayatlanta.org](mailto:mwhite@unitedwayatlanta.org), 404.527.7206

## STATEMENT

September 23, 2009

### United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta response to the floods

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those affected by the recent floods in metro Atlanta. United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta is working with a disaster network of more than 560 partners to support the community's first-responders, and to begin planning for the short and long-term recovery of those affected.

As a part of our mission, United Way strives to address urgent and basic human care. Through your donations, we currently support relief organizations such as the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. In times of disaster, our first priority is to support relief organizations and other local emergency management agencies in connecting and providing services to people in need. We are in constant communication with these organizations, and are providing assistance and coordination as needed.

United Way is working with its disaster network to assess the full scope of damages caused by the flood, and expects to have a more complete assessment within the next few days.

From previous experiences with disaster relief efforts such as Hurricane Katrina and the 2008 Atlanta tornadoes, we know that it often takes people up to a year to fully recover from a disaster. Many families will be financially devastated and will need immediate and long-term support.

Here's how you can help. We are accepting donations to our Disaster Relief Fund, which will provide short and long-term recovery services to victims of the flood across the region. Funds raised will be distributed across the affected areas according to community needs. To make a donation, call United Way 2-1-1 by dialing 2.1.1 or 404.614.1000. You can also donate online at [unitedwayatlanta.org](http://unitedwayatlanta.org). Checks should be sent to United Way Disaster Relief, 100 Edgewood Avenue, Atlanta 30303

In addition to raising funds, United Way is currently assessing the volunteer needs of more than 1,900 nonprofits within our network. We are encouraging people to contact United Way 2-1-1 for volunteer opportunities. Companies who want to volunteer now can hold food and/or paper drives (e.g., paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, etc). United Way will provide the location of a food pantry close to their business that is able to distribute the resources.

For more information, visit [unitedwayatlanta.org](http://unitedwayatlanta.org).

