



Building Resilient Communities

March 2021

Issue No. 108

Answering the Call

Nine short years ago after hearing a pastor speak about emergency preparedness, I was inspired to send out a personal camping supplies list as a resource to my prayer partners.



Deeply impacted by the realization that there was a critical, unmet need in our communities and for our most vulnerable populations, I was determined to educate and empower others and began speaking at churches about disaster preparedness. From this modest but determined beginning, the seeds of Building Resilient Communities were planted.

Today, we answer another call. Beyond the many extraordinary accomplishments of BRC's founding years, we realized that when we continue to focus on bringing purpose to our work, we bring healing and meaning to our relationships, our communities, and our world. As the impact of our work resonates, we are called upon to do even more for our communities. And, that there is no greater time than now to deepen and expand our vision and mission.

BRC's reason for existence is to fulfill our foundational scriptures of Isaiah 58:12 and Isaiah 61:1 and 3. In order to address these, we have identified that systemic problems cause communities to be disadvantaged and vulnerable in times of disaster.

WHAT'S INSIDE

New Website!	Page 2
March Training	Page 2
Called to Action	Page 3
Partner Highlight	Page 3
Partnering for Safety	Page 4
Shop for a Cause	Page 4
BRC Team Member Highlight	Page 5
Resource Center: Flood Safety	Page 5

Acknowledging this, we vow to strive to mitigate systemic disparities in environment, racial bias, and economic conditions. We are committed to working with partners with a shared interest to mitigate these systemic problems.

We envision a world where communities are filled with hope, overcome adverse conditions, are prepared for disasters, and recover from disruptive experiences.

Over the next few months, I will be sharing with you, our dearest friends and supporters, BRC's new strategic plan. As we expand our hearts and vision, you will also be introduced to new Learning Center programs on our updated website design, expanded resources, and additional ways to be prepared!

Together with your support we continue this fervent journey of vital, lifesaving service to our communities.

*Yours in service,
Debra*



BRC's New Website is Here!

Have you seen it yet? We have been hard at work on our new [website](#) and couldn't be prouder of the outcome – appealing to look at and simple to navigate while placing BRC's impact and programs front and center.

The site was designed with you in mind and is chock-full of several useful features. It is now easier than ever to prepare your family, business, community and faith-based organizations with the tools and resources it needs!

Head over to check out our new [Learning Center](#) where you will find a calendar of upcoming trainings, links to important [resources](#), and view Ark of Safety program educational videos and BRC webinars. Or take a look at our [Prep Supply store](#) with all the emergency supplies you and your pet could need!

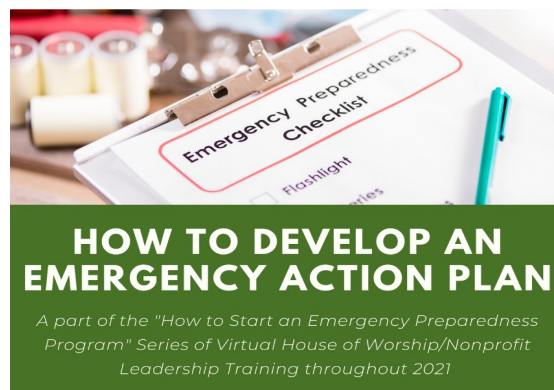
We hope you enjoy using the new website and look forward to having you learn about the wide range of programs and opportunities available to get involved with through BRC.

March Training - Sign Up Today!

We may not be able to control all that comes our way, but we can control how we respond. Sign up today for our "**How to Develop an Emergency Action Plan**" virtual training!

Our BRC team will take you through each step of preparing your staff, volunteers, and congregation to overcome many forms of disasters such as earthquakes, fires, COVID-19 and more.

Register today for the March 17th Training at <https://bit.ly/2MWradJ> Email for additional information: dan@brcus.org.



3.17.2021 | 12-1 PM Pacific Time | Zoom Webinar \$20 per person

Why Should I Attend?
By the end of this webinar, you will have learned the importance of preparing your House of Worship/Nonprofit and how to identify potential hazards to your organization.

Who Should Attend?
House of Worship/ Nonprofit leaders and leadership teams, clergy, emergency preparedness teams, volunteers in leadership positions (facilities, safety, security, worship, deacons, ushers, elders, board members, etc)

Register here: <https://bit.ly/2MWradJ>
Questions? Contact dan@brcus.org



Called to Action

BRC cares deeply about those who are most vulnerable, who do not have access to disaster alerts, and low-income people who cannot afford disaster supplies.

While disaster preparedness and saving lives is the heart of the mission, **BRC is committed to broadening its service to society to include all vulnerable people** from low income to senior citizens. Having people prepared in order to save lives in disasters is critical.

Equally important is how to care for their mental and spiritual needs when there is a disaster.



Building Resilient Communities is rooted in and committed to the communities we serve. One foundational principle of BRC’s core values is anchored in service to society by working for the well-being of the people in the communities we serve, ensuring they experience dignity and respect.

Recently BRC partnered with the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches (IECAAC) and Congregations Organized in Prophetic Engagement (COPE). The purpose of the IECAAC is to unify the African American church, the community's voice and resources effecting improvement and keep resources within our communities.

Believing the best way to do this is through unified collaborative efforts of the churches within those communities, BRC joined IECAAC and COPE’s first vaccination site providing 500 COVID vaccinations of which almost all were provided to African American community members in need.

As lifesaving vaccinations were administered, BRC provided preparedness information and distributed 430 Grab and Go emergency preparedness bags. Each Grab and Go bag contained 5 face masks, 5 pair of gloves, hand sanitizer, and wildfire and earthquake guides from FEMA and Southern California Edison. Bishop Phillip and First Lady Denise, The Centre at Highland Church



BRC’s core value of service to society is directly rooted in the scripture “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39 NKJV). BRC continues to pave the way to victory through direct action honoring this priority aspiration.

If you are interested in our Community Outreach efforts to help prepare your community for disaster, please contact Norma Spencer at norma@brcus.org



Partnering to Build Hope and Preparedness

Building strong, resilient communities takes robust collaborations with dedicated partners who share the same interests.

Building Resilient Communities (BRC) is proud to announce its partnership with **Giving Children Hope**. Giving Children Hope is a faith-based affiliate providing sustainable hope through wellness programs and disaster response in collaboration with local and global communities.

Partnering with community resources like Giving Children Hope of Orange, CA, **is one example of action steps BRC is taking to address disparity in underserved communities.** BRC is thankful to Giving Children Hope as a critical partner in times of crisis for the Inland Empire’s children and their families supporting our shared investment of the health, safety, and well being of our community.

Continue To Mask Up!

When we all do our part, we keep more people safe. Remember, people can spread the virus even if they never have symptoms.

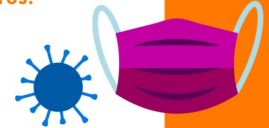
We remind you to wear a mask even after you have been vaccinated! If each of us wears a mask, everyone is protected. If your organization, house of worship or business is in need of PPE, contact [Community Outreach Coordinator, Norma Spencer](#).

For the latest guidance from public health officials go to: www.covid19.ca.gov and www.cdph.ca.gov



MASKS HELP EVERYONE AROUND YOU.

Cloth face coverings can help slow the spread, including from people who may not know they have the virus.



covid19.ca.gov

Partnering for Safety

Dear BRC Team,

I am the Security and Safety Coordinator for the Church on the Hill in Redlands. I have 5 fellow members that are a part of my team.

Receiving the Face Shields from you and Building Resilient Communities gives our congregation an additional tool or option in the battle against Covid-19.

We still haven't found all the information to combat this virus. While people around the world are re-searching 24 hours a day to hold the line and keep more and more people from succumbing to the effects of the virus. Any and all options that people have to stop the spread means one less person or family that has to endure this sometimes-deadly virus.

When all is said and done, and we as a nation have put this virus in the rear-view mirror, it is people like you, Debra, and organizations such as Building Resilient Communities that we will be thanking for standing in the gap, ministering, working together, that made the difference and saved many lives. Again, Thank You & God Bless...

Mel Van Meter, Safety & Security Coordinator, Church on the Hill, Redlands



Do you shop on Amazon? Experience feel-good shopping and support BRC by using Amazon Smile! When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to BRC.

How do I shop at Amazon Smile?

Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Select BRC as your charitable organization to receive donations from

eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Get shopping and make a difference today!

Meet BRC Team Member



Charis Alexander’s thoughtful, giving personality shines in all she does. In fact, her first name, pronounced "Care-Us", says it all.

When Founder and Executive Officer Debra Williams needed

help with BRC’s social media platforms she reached out to Charis. A full-time college student majoring in History, Charis eagerly answered the call. Prior to joining the BRC team as the Online Presence and Social Media Coordinator, she volunteered with Operation Grace, a nonprofit organization serving the needs of homeless persons.

Of BRC’s core values service to society stands out to Charis. “Now that things are online, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that real people’s lives are touched by the work that we do, so understanding that fact really keeps things in perspective. So much thought

goes into everything we put out to make sure we are helping people to the best of our ability. And I love to read how people have benefitted from all of that! The response we have been getting is absolutely incredible, and I’m just glad to be a part of this mission.”

Charis plans to pursue Medicine and Neurology and use those skills to start a health-based nonprofit to serve underprivileged communities.

Thank you, Charis, for supporting BRC’s effort to keep our communities informed, connected, and engaged.

Prepare Your Community

March Disaster Awareness Call to Action: “It’s Not Luck” Campaign - Flood Safety

Flooding resulting from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges and overflows of dams and other water systems like desert washes are prevalent in spring. While most flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry, floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Devastatingly, failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death.

It is important to be prepared as flooding may develop quickly and can come without warning causing

outages, disrupting transportation, damaging buildings, and creating potential landslides.

IF YOU ARE UNDER A FLOOD WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY! Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around, Don’t Drown!

For more information on more guides to Flood Safety as well as California Wildfire Safety, check here: Wildfires – SCE Community Outreach Campaign and <https://www.ready.gov/floods>



Take Action NOW

Plan for your household, including your pets. Let your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves from flooding and COVID-19.

Build a “Go Kit” of the supplies. You will need a “Go Kit” if you have to quickly evacuate your home.

Know types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA’s Flood Map

Service Center for information.

Sign up for your community’s warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) provides emergency alerts.

Sign up for email updates and follow the latest guidelines about coronavirus from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and your local authorities to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash

flood response if flash flooding is a risk in your location monitor potential signs, such as heavy rain.

Gather supplies, including non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, and water for several days. You can order emergency supplies from the BRC store.

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Include password-protected digital copies.