

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Rising Up. Lifting Us All.

Building Resilient Communities has an unwavering vision. A world where communities adapt to changing conditions, are prepared for disasters, and recover from disruptive experiences. And while we equip our communities with resources, tools, and education to prepare for and overcome disasters, we cannot help but take pause this month and give space to recognizing, honoring, and lifting up the diverse communities we serve.



Black History month honors African American people's rich range of experiences, struggles, and achievements throughout history and into today. **While we lift those up in remembrance, we cannot ignore the disparities that continue to exist today for communities of color.** Disparities of access, resources, and support. Most recently and disheartening, a light has been shined on the disproportionate number of people of color impacted by COVID-19 due to health inequities.

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.", Dr. Martin Luther King. Working toward health equity is a moral concern and we have a social responsibility to raise the conscience of our entire nation.

BRC stands on the foundation to love your neighbor as yourself. This fundamental scripture guides and shapes us. Our core values reflect our commitment to action beyond words including Service to Society as we work for the well-being of all people in the communities we serve.

We are a mosaic of hope and aspirations. Together, we stand in unity, equity, access, and inclusion as we are resilient. We have faith in a better, brighter more equitable future ahead.

BRC's foundational scripture has and continues to lead us faithfully. *"Those from among you shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In."* (Isaiah 58:12 NKJV).

As we reflect upon the magnificent achievements of African Americans during Black History month, may we also acknowledge the work is not done. Join us in honoring past achievements, uniting in the present and inspiring everyone to believe in the power of a dream for we know and believe that lifting up one another is our path to ensuring all are resilient. Together we will shape a future of equity, access, and inclusion. Join us in our commitment to raise up the foundations of many generations!

In Faith and Unity, Debra

WHAT'S INSIDE

February Training:

- **Emergency Preparedness for Houses of Worship**
- **Strengthening Your Agency's Disaster Resilience**

Building Bridges for Families in Need

Funder: 4imprints

Mask Up!

SCE: Prepare Your Community—Resource Center

Give While You Shop

Training Schedule

Emergency Preparedness for Houses of Worship Webinar Series

Date: February 3, 2021—June 16, 2021

Time: 12:00—1:00 pst

Location: Virtual

Cost: Series \$159, Series & Toolkit \$249

We may not be able to control all that comes our way, but we can control how we respond. If you are a leader, clergy member, employee, or volunteer at a house of worship looking to thrive in 2021, sign up for our **"How to Start An Emergency Preparedness Ministry"** virtual training series! 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:** <https://bit.ly/howtoepm>

Not a house of worship? We have several training resources planned for personal/business/nonprofit preparedness. Email dan@brcus.org for more information.



Virtual Training for Houses of Worship throughout 2021 | Series alone: \$150.00/person | Series + Preparing for a Disaster Toolkit: \$249/per person

SESSION DATES: 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5, 5/19, 6/2, 6/16 | 12-1 PM Pacific Time

Who Should Attend?
Clergy, leadership teams, emergency preparedness teams, volunteers in leadership positions (facilities, safety, security, worship, deacons, ushers, elders, board members, etc)

Why Should I Attend?
By the end of this course, you will have all the tools you need to form an emergency preparedness team capable of assessing and addressing the needs, hazards, and vulnerabilities of your organization.

Zoom Webinars | Register here: <http://bit.ly/howtoepm>
Questions? Contact dan@brcus.org



Strengthening Your Agency's Disaster Resilience

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 12—1:00pst

Location: Virtual

Cost: FREE!

Are you an organization looking to succeed through the craziness of 2021? This webinar is designed to help community agencies understand the key steps in developing an emergency and disaster program. You will walk away with a variety of resources to begin the planning process within your agency.

STRENGTHENING YOUR AGENCY'S DISASTER RESILIENCE

FREE VIRTUAL TRAINING EVENT

Are you an organization looking to succeed through the craziness of 2021? This webinar is designed to help community agencies understand the key steps in developing an emergency and disaster program. You will walk away with a variety of resources to begin the planning process within your agency.

February 11, 2021
12 - 1 PM Pacific Time
Register today at bit.ly/2XFdc1J
Questions? Email dan@brcus.org

Taught by Dan Coleman

Since retiring after 33 years in local government, Dan volunteered for six years with the American Red Cross where he served as the Emergency Management Agency Regional Program Lead for Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Dan holds 75 certificates in emergency management and disaster response. For the past six years, he has been serving as a leader with the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). Dan is currently the Training Coordinator for Building Resilient Communities.

Building Bridges for Families in Need

“On behalf of Rosa Hernandez and her entire family I would like to say thank you for your tremendous gift of love to this family in the most unique and unprecedented Christmas ever. I am a Student Success Coordinator with REAL Journey Academies. It is my job to identify families within our school community that may be experiencing a lack of resources and support as well as food insecurity and diminished quality of life. I have worked with this family in the past so when the opportunity to bless a family for Christmas was presented to me by **Debra Williams and Norma Spencer of Building Resilient Communities** I knew exactly how to help.

BRC wasted no time gathering vital information about the children and ascertained the need quickly. Within a few days I provided them with the age and gender of each child; along with shoe sizes and other important information. I must also say this all took place in a very short period of time but that did not deter our efforts. About two weeks later I was able to deliver six pairs of shoes, and 3 toys each for Rosa's children (5 boys and 1 girl) all under the age of 18. When I showed up at the apartment, mom was not there because she had to work, so grandma greeted me with a warm smile.

As we emptied the toys and shoes from the bags I carried, grandma could not hold back the tears that kept coming. Grandma spoke very little English, but she spoke clearly when she said, "thank you Mr. Powell, you are our angel." I am just the messenger was my response, but in truth **BRC and your partners are the real angels for this grateful family.**

Let me close this letter by saying we had one final act we accomplished for this family by the grace of God. The day after Thanksgiving the family's fully stocked refrigerator broke down so by the time, I came to the house it had been a couple weeks since they had a working refrigerator. I looked at it and determined that we would find one to replace the broken appliance. As God would have it, we were able to purchase a refurbished refrigerator less than a week after Christmas. Mom and the Children were overwhelmed that someone would do this for them. **I am grateful for the partnership with BRC.”**

Blessings, Bishop Philip Powell



Prepare Your Community — Resource Center



Evolving climate conditions throughout California have made wildfires a year-round concern to many communities. With about a quarter of Southern California Edison (SCE) customers residing in high-risk fire areas, addressing the prevention and mitigation of wildfires is a top priority. SCE has invested in a variety of improvements and innovations to help prevent wildfires and act quickly when they occur.

What is a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event and how can we stay prepared?

During high-risk conditions for a wildfire, SCE may temporarily shut off power to your neighborhood. This can prevent an electric system from becoming a source of ignition. Proactive shutoffs are temporary and meant to keep you and your community safe. Learn more about PSPS and sign up for alerts [here](#).

SCE Customer Resources During a PSPS

SCE Community Crew Vehicles and Community Resource Centers are available to support customers during Public Safety Power Shutoffs. SCE observes physical distancing practices and provide Customer Resiliency Kits, which include PSPS information, light snacks, water, small resiliency devices, and personal protection equipment. SCE asks that customers wear masks and practice physical distancing. For details about our programs and resources to help you prepare for emergencies or outages, click [here](#).

Start Preparing for a PSPS Events Today

Find out how to set up an outage supply kit, prepare your home for future outages, and stay safe when an outage occurs.

[Get Emergency Preparedness Tips](#)

[Explore Customer Resources & Support](#)

Experiencing a Public Safety Power Shutoff?

View the live map and other helpful resources for customers who may be experiencing a Public Safety Power Shutoff [here](#).



BRC thanks **4imprint** for their generous support of our community outreach efforts. **4imprint** partnered with BRC to provide a \$500 In kind grant which was used to help support our efforts in supplying the community with Personal Protection Equipment. Thank you for your support of our lifesaving efforts to combat the impact of COVID-19!

Mask Up!

Listos California and BRC helps individuals, families and communities prepare for disasters but also helps Californians respond to COVID-19. When we all do our part, we keep more people safe. People can spread the virus even if they never have symptoms. Stay home except for essential needs. If you go out, wear a mask and keep at least 6 feet of distance from other people.

BRC reminds us to wear a mask! 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

www.cdph.ca.gov



Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that every time you shop through Amazon you can support BRC by using Amazon Smile?

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support BRC every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that 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. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return.

Get shopping and make a difference today at smile.amazon.com/gp/ch/list/46-2844712.

Building Resilient Communities is a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on the support of its donors to provide service to the community. Your gift can make a difference to a lifesaving opportunity for another.

Donate to Save Lives