



Life is Not a Dress Rehearsal

If we forget the lessons we have acquired from this past year, they would have been learned in vain. Our experiences, good or bad and in some cases, included tremendous loss, have transformed us. We cannot diminish what we experienced both as a community and as individuals. We will never be the same. Yet, if we take nothing away from this last year, we will have missed a tremendous growth opportunity

As we slowly recover from the pandemic, we see promising change. Businesses are reopening, jobs are returning, children are preparing for school, and more people are receiving their lifesaving vaccinations. And, beyond these visible changes are undetectable, internal shifts.

We discovered how resilient we can be. The compassion we so easily and readily give to others provided a new path for ourselves. We learned to practice self-compassion and mindfulness that strengthened our inner spirit and provided hope. In this self-practice of flexing our resiliency muscle we gathered inner strength and emotional agility allowing us to reconnect to our common humanity with even greater force and purpose.

At BRC our service is our true purpose. *Raising up the foundations of many generations (Isaiah 58:12).* This is our steadfast belief - caring for and lifting up communities in times of challenge and disaster. The global pandemic made many communities feel woefully under-prepared. BRC works daily to ensure that generations to come are prepared to respond to disasters with a spirit of wisdom and resilience. Together, let's remember the lessons learned from this past year, prepare, and point each other towards a better, brighter, and safer future.

May we continue to work together to fill our future with compassion, generosity, and prosperity - emerging together as a better, stronger community, Debra

WHAT'S INSIDE

Back to School	Page 2
Resource & Vaccination Fair Success	Page 2
Prepared Early! BRC Resource	Page 3
PSPS Program	Page 3
BRC Team Member Highlight	Page 4
Summer Heat	Page 4
Medial Baseline Program	Page 5
Shop for a Cause	Page 5



A Little Preparation Now Can Make A Big Difference Later

Did you know that in the United States, about 69 million children are separated from their parents or caregivers every workday to attend school or childcare?

Even when you are not with them you can help prepare your children for when disaster strikes.

Help protect your child when they are away from home:

- Every school, childcare center and house of worship should have a written emergency plan with information such as how to contact parents in an emergency and where children will go if evacuated.

Make sure you know about the emergency plan at these sites.

- Ask the school, childcare center or children's ministry how you can contact them during an emergency and how parents and caregivers will reunite with their children when deemed safe.
- Update your emergency contact information. Make sure they have up-to-date emergency contact information for your child. Notify them every time your address or phone number changes.
- Keeping a backpack emergency card with your child is one way to make sure that important information such as emergency contact, medications and allergies is at the ready. Make sure to provide a copy to your child's school, childcare center, and house of worship.

Safe Schools Parent Page

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued new guidance for K-12 schools, incorporating recommendations from the CDC to help local schools develop and implement plans for in-person instruction during the 2021-2022 school year.

The Safe Schools Parent Page explains the steps that schools are taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This page provides parents with information about the

school safety measures that protect the health and wellbeing of students while they are on campus, and the valuable role that in-person learning plays for children's social and emotional development. You can find out more here: <https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/pages/parent-page>



Creating Pathways to Prevention & Wellness

BRC is dedicated to bringing lifesaving resources directly to those who can benefit most. This past Saturday, BRC, Riverside County Public Health and many other CBOs provided a free vaccine clinic and resource fair at CalBaptist University (CBU). Along with free COVID-19 vaccinations, participants received emergency preparedness information, giveaways and, in keeping with a fun and

supportive environment to all ages, music and shaved ices for everyone!

BRC would like to thank CBU's leadership for opening their beautiful campus to the community by hosting the vaccine clinic and resource fair. We give special thanks to the event's lead coordinator Amanda Pitchford-Madrid, MSN RN, PHN - Board Certified Public Health, Lead Faculty - Community & Public Health, College of Nursing. Professor Amanda worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this event!

A round of applause to everyone who gave their time and efforts to making this free vaccine clinic a grand success. Participating CBOs included El Sol Neighborhood Education Center, MALO- Motivating Action Leadership Opportunity, Path of Life

Ministries, Reach Out, Riverside County Black Chamber of Commerce, Riverside NAACP, SBC Youth and Family Service Center, TODEC Legal Center Perris and Vision & Compromiso.

More importantly, thank you to those who received the vaccine. By getting your vaccination you are caring for yourself and, consequently, caring for your community. You are keeping the risk of infection low by contributing to the population of those immunized and thus protecting all, even those who have yet to be vaccinated.

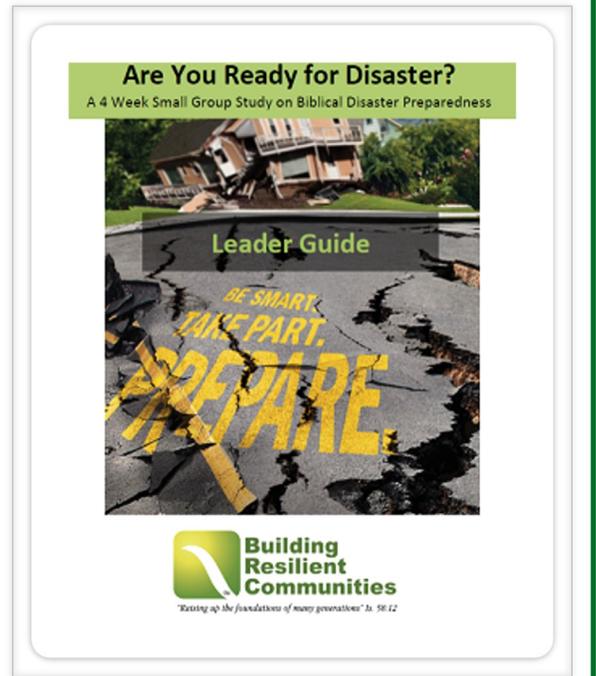
Thank you!

New Resource—Prepare Now for National Preparedness Month!

Our communities of faith are our steadfast partners in this vision. BRC is proud to provide a free disaster preparedness guide.

Are You Ready for Disaster? is a free Bible study designed by Building Resilient Communities to prepare church families to respond and recover from major emergencies and disasters. We invite church bible studies or small groups to devote the four weeks of **National Preparedness Month** in September to studying God’s word on preparedness using our free Bible Study Guide. The Study can also be broken into shorter segments spread out over months.

Go to the BRC website to download your free copy!



Every day we hear how evolving climate conditions throughout California have made wildfires a year-round concern to many communities.

During high-risk conditions for a wildfire, your local utility company may temporarily shut off power to your neighborhood. This can prevent our electric system from becoming a source of ignition. **Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)** are proactive shutoffs which are temporary and meant to keep you and your community safe. Learn more about **PSPS** and sign up for alerts here:



<https://www.sce.com/wildfire/psps>

Safe, free, and effective COVID-19 vaccines are now available to everyone age 12 and up.

Let’s end this pandemic.

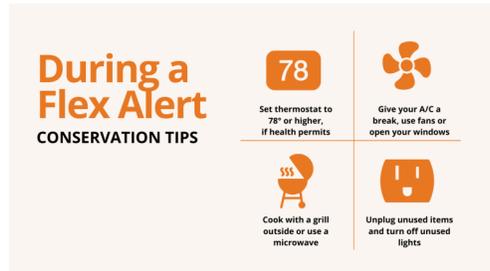
If you have not received your vaccine, make a vaccine appointment today
myturn.ca.gov

Summer Heat is Far From Over!

Each year approximately 175 Americans die from extreme heat. Extreme heat is a period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two to three days. In extreme heat your body works extra hard to maintain a normal temperature, which can lead to death. This is especially important to older adults, children and sick or overweight individuals who are at a greater risk from extreme heat.

- Prepare, be safe and know the signs of heat related illness and heat stroke.
- Do not rely on a fan as your primary cooling device. Fans create air flow and a false sense of comfort, but do not reduce body temperature or prevent heat-related illnesses.

- Identify places in your community where you can go to get cool such as libraries and shopping malls or contact your local health department to find a cooling center in your area. For a list of Inland Empire cooling centers visit <https://www.riversideca.gov/press/cool-center-information> <https://www.capsbc.org/>



Meet BRC Team Member

Dr. Queen Hamilton

When personal core values align with those of an organization, there is no limit to what can be achieved. Throughout her life servant leadership and service to society, two deeply rooted values, have served as intuitive guideposts for Dr. Queen Hamilton.

Following a successful career of forty years in higher education, retirement was never an option for Queen. Not one to be idle, she joined the BRC team as the Business Operations & Human Resources Manager assisting the organization in broadening its scope and aspirations.

Queen's academic accolades are numerous. She earned a Doctorate of Education degree with an emphasis in Higher Education (Curriculum & Planning) and a Community College Leadership Certificate from the University of Southern California. Additionally, she holds a Master's of Art Degree in Business Education from California State University, Los Angeles; and a Bachelor's of Science Degree from South Carolina State University.

Beyond her many educational attainments, Queen had numerous management and leadership positions in her exemplary career in higher education. Holding close to her heart was the notion that supporting the success of her staff was, at its very essence, the definition of servant leadership. To Queen, BRC, its god centered team and mission demonstrate the essence of service.

"We (BRC) are a faith-based organization, and we practice our faith as we work with each other. As an example, we pray when opening our meetings; and the first thing on our agenda is sharing our mental health praise reports or challenges. Everyone on staff is given an opportunity to volunteer to share, which is quite personal yet healing to each of us.", she shared.

Queen steadfastly believes that BRC's work is essential to her community, county and even the nation. "The communities' survival depends on their level of knowledge and training when impacted by a disaster. BRC plays a significant role in enabling the communities to maintain their dignity and respect as well as being able to survive and thrive after the disaster."

Queen, thank you for your faith and dedication to lifting up others in service. Your heart centered leadership and support inspire us!

If you or someone in your household requires the regular use of electrically-powered medical equipment or device, you may be eligible for **MBL**. The program provides additional electricity at the lowest baseline rate to help offset the cost of operating medical equipment. Go to www.sce.com/medicalbaseline

CRITICAL CARE BACKUP BATTERY PROGRAM

Be prepared in the event of an unexpected power outage.

You could be eligible for a **free**, clean-energy backup battery to operate your medical device during an outage.



WHAT'S IN YOUR GO BAG?

Flashlight, batteries, and matches



Resolve to be **Ready.**

Shop BRC's easy online store!

Disaster preparedness kits and supplies for every size household or business.

Shopping for back to school items on Amazon? Experience feel-good shopping and support BRC by using Amazon Smile! 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. Get shopping and make a difference today!

Support Building Resilient Communities.
 When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.
[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile



Building Resilient Communities
 Preparing for Disaster | Strengthening Communities | Training Leaders

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.

Business Address: 301 N. 9th St., Ste. 312, Entrance Reception 200, Redlands, CA 92374

Website: BRCUS.org