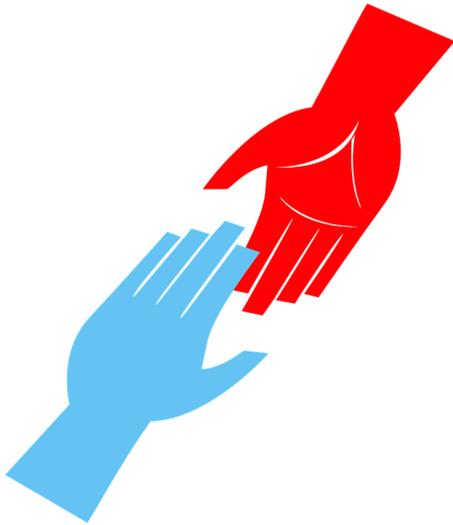


How You Can Help Puerto Rico and Las Vegas

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Reaching Out to Those in Need

In the wake of yet another brutal hurricane and another senseless shooting, the world can feel like a dark place. It's easy to feel numb or to remain motionless in the face of such tragedy, easy to feel helpless. That is why it is so important to lean on the Lord, both in difficult and painful times such as these and all the days of our lives. Jesus tells us that the greatest of the commandments is to love God with all our heart, soul, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us live into this call. Let us continue to worship God, our Father, and live out of our faith

and not our fear. Let us too reach out a hand and help our neighbors, our brothers and sisters, in their time of need. Below are the names and information of several organizations and charities to contribute to as a means of providing relief to those suffering from the devastation of Hurricane Maria and the chaos and bloodshed of the Las Vegas shootings. There are also resources listed for volunteer organizations you can empower or join and prayers of peace and healing you can offer up to God. May we strive to be like the good Samaritan and support, comfort, and love those who are grieving.

Resources to Help Puerto Rico

- How to Give:
 - Currently, donations of supplies (while extremely generous) are creating a pile-up. Getting said donations to the victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico has proved quite challenging. The fastest and most efficient way to give is monetary contribution. Here are several organizations to consider and the ways to make donations.
 - American Red Cross
 - Donate online at www.redcross.org/donate/donation
 - (\$10 minimum online contribution)
 - Select "I Want to Support Disaster Relief" or "I Want to Support Hurricane Maria" in the drop down menu.
 - Donate by phone
 - Call 1-(800)-435-7669
 - UNICEF
 - providing Emergency Relief Kits to the children of Puerto Rico
 - A donation of \$28 will provide one kit
 - Donate online at <https://www.unicefusa.org> and click "Help Children in Puerto Rico"
 - Samaritan's Purse
 - Donate online at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/donate-online/>
 - Select "Hurricane Relief" or "Where Most Needed"
 - Hispanic Federation
 - Donate online at <https://hispanicfederation.org/unidos/>
 - Donate via text
 - Text UNIDOS (space) YOUR AMOUNT (space) and YOUR NAME to 41444. (For example: Unidos 100 John Doe) Then press "send" and click on the link to complete your donation.
- Volunteer:
 - Register as a volunteer for the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD)
 - Sign up at <https://www.nvoad.org/howtohelp/volunteer/>



Resources to Help Las Vegas

- How to Give:
 - Public Good
 - Donate online at <https://publicgood.com/media/cnn/campaign/help-the-survivors-of-the-las-vegas-mass-shooting>
 - Donations will be split between The National Center for Victims of Crime and University Medical Center.
 - GoFundMe established by Steve Sisolak, Clark County Commission Chair from Las Vegas
 - Donate online at <https://www.gofundme.com/dr2ks2-las-vegas-victims-fund>
 - Share this campaign on Facebook to spread the campaign and raise more donations.
- Give Blood:
 - As of Tuesday (10/03), officials say no more blood is needed at this time following massive turnout of donors on Monday and Tuesday. However, you can contact the following organizations to see if/when more donations will be needed.
 - United Blood Services
 - Get in contact at <http://www.unitedbloodservices.org/LV/golocal.aspx>
 - American Red Cross
 - Get in contact at www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS
- Volunteer:
 - Sign up as a volunteer for Volunteers in Medicine for Southern Nevada (VMSN)
 - Get in contact at <https://www.vmsn.org>



Prayers to Lift Up

In times of tragedy and disaster we may be left speechless. It can be challenging to know how to begin to pray in such circumstances. Here are a few prayers that you can offer up when words fail. Read them as written, reflecting on the words and petitions, or simply use them as templates to guide your own prayers.

- *Gracious God, I pray for the victims of this disaster, Lord, that you would comfort the lives that were spared, and that you would take care of those who perished. Lord, please bless those who are doing everything they can to help these people and also make sure that things run smoothly in repairing the community of Puerto Rico. Please give comfort to the victims as they await help and also help reunite family members and friends. Lord, I pray that you will ensure that the victims receive access to food, clean water, proper shelter, and medical attention. Please touch the hearts of the world to continue to pray for these people, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to donate whatever they can to help rebuild this part of our country, this part of the world. Lord, only you can make miracles happen and I am asking for one now. Amen.*
 - Adapted from the "Hurricane Katrina Prayer"
- *Lord, please be with the rescue workers and volunteers. Keep them safe as they make heroic efforts in dangerous situations to rescue those in trouble. Please be with everyone waiting to be rescued, keep them safe, and bring help to them soon. God, bless each and every person affected by this storm and surround them with your love, protection, and peace. Let them know there are millions of us out here praying for them and their loved ones. We give you all the praise and glory forever and know that even in the darkest hours, you are always with us.*
 - Adapted from "Prayer for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina"



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- *Most merciful and compassionate God, Giver of Life and Love, hear our prayers and let our cries come unto you. We weep with your people. We hear the cries of orphaned children and laments of bereaved parents. We feel the desperation of those searching for loved ones. We see the devastation and the chaos and we are overwhelmed by the enormity of it all. Our hearts are hushed, our minds are numb. But let not our hands be stopped, our voices silent. Father God, open our hearts to feel your compassion. Galvanize in us the act of continued giving. Bond us to our sisters and brothers in need. Comfort and heal the injured, the bereaved, and the lost. Strengthen the aid workers, the law enforcement officials, and medical personnel. Bolster the resolve of governments and those with power to help. Give our leaders the courage to speak out for change. Through this tragedy, open pathways to partnerships and peace. In your holy and precious name we pray. Amen.*

- Adapted from a prayer for the people of Japan following the earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011.

- *Heavenly Father, once again, America, our great nation suffers the horror of a mass shooting. Once again, evil and madness seem to prevail. And once again, we come to you, God of justice, God of peace and God of all comfort, in the name of Jesus Christ. We pray for the surviving victims and their families in Las Vegas, grant them healing and recovery in the midst of their indescribable pain. We pray for those who have lost their loved ones, let them find comfort and your strength in the midst of their grief. We lift up those paralyzed by fear, give them faith to remain strong. We lift up those in authority and law enforcement, give them insight and resources to prevent any future attacks. To all of us, still in shock by this horrific act, grant us, Lord, your Peace!*

- Adapted from Rev. César Buitrago's prayer for the victims of the Orlando shooting.

