



Hope through hospitality

WHAT IS PDA?

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that focuses on long-term recovery of communities that have been devastated by catastrophic events.

WHAT IS A PDA VOLUNTEER VILLAGE?

PDA Villages provide a safe and sanitary environment for volunteer groups where they can live in community while serving others. Each of our Villages can house about 60 volunteers at a time, who come from churches all around the country to help with recovery work.

The site of one Village is on the grounds of First Presbyterian in Texas City, serving the Galveston area. The other is located in Port Neches, serving the Golden Triangle area.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS IN A VILLAGE?

The Village facilities are basic – having cots, portable toilets, showers, kitchen, cooling and heating units, and laundry facilities. That means air-conditioned sleeping quarters! A truck and tool trailers equipped with construction tools are available at each village.

WHAT IS A DAY LIKE IN THE LIFE OF A VILLAGE?

Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. followed by devotions at 8:00. Volunteers leave by 8:30 a.m. for work sites and do not return until 5 p.m. Supper, is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by evening devotions at 7:30.

Teams in the village take turns leading devotions and cooking for the camp. Time is set aside each evening to allow team members to reflect on their experiences. Lights out at 10:00 p.m.

ARE THE VILLAGES ONLY FOR PRESBYTERIANS?

No, there are a variety of faith groups that have been hosted in the villages. However, preference is given to Presbyterians in the schedule, as the demand for bed space in the Gulf Coast area is high.

WHO PAYS FOR A PDA VILLAGE?

The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing. Financial needs are still great.

WHO DETERMINES WHAT WORK WILL BE DONE BY A TEAM?

Local case management teams receive requests for assistance, assess the needs of the sites, and then refer them to construction groups. Visiting work teams are assigned to work sites on the basis of the skills they have: basic clean-up, bricklaying, carpentry, drywall, electrical, flooring, masonry, painting, plumbing, roofing, welding, etc.

When housing is needed for a work team, Presbyterians are called on, because of our PDA Villages. Our Village managers and supervisors are responsible for overseeing the work and obtaining the necessary building supplies for each project.

HOW DOES A TEAM MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO STAY AT A VILLAGE?

Teams interested in staying at one of our villages may register online at www.pcusa.org/pda/register/team.jsp or call 866-732-6121. You will be contacted by the PDA Call Center.

IS THERE A COST TO STAY IN THE VILLAGE?

There is a \$20 per day per person lodging charge for the village. This covers lodging and food. These funds only subsidize the cost of running a village.

MUST I BE PART OF A GROUP TO COME?

Yes. The villages are organized around the concept of building community, and this is done through organized groups taking responsibility for particular sets of village chores. If you are interested in coming, but you cannot put a group together at your particular church, consider calling other churches in your area to create an area team, or perhaps organize a presbytery-wide team.

ARE THERE AGE REQUIREMENTS? WHY?

Yes — for Volunteer Villages the minimum age requirement is usually 18 but has been changed to age 16 for the Texas Villages only. These minimums have been established because of safety and liability issues, as well as possible deep emotional impact on young people.

HOW CAN I, OR MY CHURCH, HELP FINANCIALLY?

Your faithful giving will assist in the recovery effort of rebuilding communities affected by Hurricane Ike. Suggested ways to give:

Send a check, made out to Presbytery of New Covenant, marked for "Ike Recovery Fund" to:
The Presbytery of New Covenant
Ike Recovery Fund
1110 Lovett Blvd
Houston, TX 77006

Checks may also be sent to PDA, designated for 2008 Hurricane Relief. Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), marked with the account number "DR000184 2008 Hurricane Relief." This designated account supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to enable a significant, ongoing response to the major hurricanes and tropical storms in 2008, including Dolly, Fay, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike and the countries of Cuba and Haiti.

For more information about making a donation, see <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/donate/accounts.htm> and <http://www.pcusa.org/pda/faq/donate.htm>.