

Dear Teachers, Students, Friends, Community Members, and Businesses:

Thank you so much for your interest in helping the communities in South Georgia affected by Hurricane Michael. Your consideration of this community service project is appreciated, and we hope that you and your group/club will consider joining the endeavour at some level. As you know, many people are still without basic services such as power, water, and access to needed supplies. We are hoping that through our efforts, no matter how great or small, we will be able to help our fellow Georgians. This action is not done for publicity but simply to help out neighbors to the South. They would do the same for us. We know you share our genuine intentions. Many thanks from the very bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

Janet Robbins, NHS FFA Chapter
Northwest Whitfield High School
Tunnel Hill, Georgia
706-296-4510 (Cell)
Janet.robbins@wcsga.net

GENERAL DETAILS:

The counties hardest hit seem to be Baker, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Miller, Seminole, Crisp, Grady, Lee, Mitchell, Terrell, Thomas and Worth counties. There may be others, but I am unsure of the full extent and the depth of need. Basic living items as well as agricultural supports such as fencing help and overall clean up are needed.

Our General Plan:

We hope to support others with basic living items as well as supplies and services that our farmer friends need such as fencing supplies and rebuilding assistance. We have reached out to tons of people over the past week and compiled a general list of needs and contact information. More information will be coming in by Tuesday afternoon, but this will help to get you and your FFA Chapter, group, school, congregation, or colleagues started. The list is intended to allow you to choose how your group can best serve. Some may be interested in a trip South where they can donate labor and time, while others may be able to help by collecting items. Anyway you choose... it's all for the benefit and others!

A group from the Northwest Whitfield FFA Chapter will be driving down the first weekend of November with a trailer (or more). Other trips may be taken as well. Volunteers are always welcome! Any supplies gathered can be taken on this load or others if you cannot make the trip yourself. NWHS FFA would be glad to help arrange pick up of your items. Also, all NRCS Offices are collecting items, too. We learned the other day that the Dalton Office would be delivering on October 27th. We are not sure if all offices are on the same schedule, but a quick call to them couldn't hurt! Here is a link to the NRCS office: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ga/contact/local/> In addition to NRCS, all Farm Bureau offices across Georgia are taking donations. You can access them at <https://www.gfb.org/stormrelief.cms> Red Cross can be accessed by going to

https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-michael-donations.html/?cid=fy19hurmichael&med=cpc&source=google&scode=rsg00000e017&gclid=EAlaQobChMIu42A6J-Y3gIVhJ-fCh01RQXpEAAYASAAEgl6AvD_BwE&gclid=CM-ft-qfmN4CFY0ONwodZScNyw

Working with proven relief groups is always a safe bet. There are scams and frauds everywhere. **We have been asked to make sure you have communicated with a group in advance before heading South.** Housing is limited and roads are still a mess. Some people got power restored on Friday; others are still without. If your group plans to go and help, make sure to plan with a group down there in advance. They are incredibly sweet, accommodating, and appreciative! If you are unsure of who to work with, do some research or feel free to contact Janet Robbins and she will try to help you find the perfect match!

Possible Contacts: A Brief and Limited List...but a list nonetheless!

Ag Teachers and Extension Agents: They are great resources, know lots of people, and are aware of the current situations. This is NOT a complete list.

Here are some Ag Teachers that we have spoken with and are ready and willing to discuss how your group can help.

1. Wes Pace- Seminole County Ag Teacher- wpace@seminole.k12.ga.us
We spoke with him several times. He is in a very hard hit area! He will have a detailed list of items needed and people who have specific needs by tuesday morning. If you are wanting to help with their needs, contact Wes OR janet.robbs@wcs.ga.net for assistance.
2. Lisa Murphree- Early County Ag Teacher- lmurphree@early.k12.ga.us
3. Aan Collins- Grady County Ag Teacher- a.collins@grady.k12.ga.us
4. Tyler Reeves- Mitchell County Ag Teacher- Tyler_reeves@mitchell.k12.ga.us

Horse Farm in need of hay near Panama City, Florida

Want to help? Contact: Shannon Moore at Apexhorses@gmail.com or at 850-867-9498

Georgia Farm Bureau:

The Georgia Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is accepting tax-deductible donations to aid in the relief effort following the devastation from Hurricane Michael. This fund will collect and distribute monetary contributions only.

One hundred percent of the donations to this fund will be dispersed to Georgians, farmers and ranchers across the state that have been affected by the devastation.

Your tax-deductible credit card donation can be made online here <https://www.gfb.org/stormrelief.cms>

USDA/ NRCS Offices:

All offices are collecting.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ga/home>

Red Cross:

INFORMATION FROM RED CROSS:

How to Help

In the aftermath of the storm, neighbors helping neighbors is a crucial step in the recovery process.

- Cash donations to trusted organizations like those working through Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster is the most effective way to provide assistance to those in need. Find a list of responding organizations that would greatly appreciate your donation at <https://gavoad.communityos.org>.
- Do not send or deliver donations unless they were explicitly requested by responding organizations. Offer donated goods at <https://www.nvoad.org/> or by emailing offersdesk@redcross.org.
- If you would like to volunteer, do not self-deploy. Visit <https://www.nvoad.org/> or contact an organization directly to offer your service.
- If you work for a statewide nonprofit organization that has a focus on disaster relief, we invite you to become a part of Georgia VOAD. Email gastatevoad@gmail.com with a description of your services to get involved.

Disaster Recovery Centers

Disaster Recovery Centers are opening Saturday, Oct. 20, in Dougherty, Early, Miller and Seminole counties to help residents through the assistance process.

Hours of operation for all centers

Mon. – Sat.: **8 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Sun.: **1 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Dougherty County

Dougherty County Schools Technology Office
300 Cason St.
Albany, GA 31705

Early County

Early County Alternative School
544 Howell St.
Blakely, GA 39823

Miller County

First Baptist Church
351 E. Pine St.
Colquitt, GA 39837

Seminole County

Spring Creek Baptist Church
2635 Hwy. 253
Donalsonville, GA 39845

List of things you can donate to help (as of right now):

- Money
- Non-perishable Food
- water, gatorade type drinks, mixes.
- Coolers
- Plastic Tubs/ totes
- batteries
- paper goods, disposable cutlery
- toiletries, hygiene products
- Diapers, baby wipes, baby formula, etc
- Cleaning supplies, bleach, towels, etc
- Some clothing- brand new socks, undergarments, t-shirts
- Tarps
- work gloves
- generators
- chainsaws, chains, bar oil, 2 cycle oil, etc.
- tools, straps, rope
- animal feed, hay, buckets
- sump pumps, hoses, extension cords, etc.
- insect repellent
- Fencing supplies such as barbed wire, electric wire, fence clips, staples, insulators, fence tools, t- posts, wooden posts, gates, panels, etc.

