



DISASTER RESILIENCY

Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How.

Adverse weather conditions, such as floods, tornadoes, and earthquakes remind us that natural, technological and human-caused hazards can take a high toll on communities. The impact can last long past the event. Better resilience planning can improve a community's quality of life, its ability to recover rapidly, and make the community more attractive to residents and businesses.

A community's resilience hinges on two critical factors: How the disaster is framed by the community and its leaders, and how cooperative the community is in dealing with challenges.

The most resilient communities appear to be those with a wide variety of deeply rooted cooperative organizations, often made up of volunteers such as healthcare providers, educators, and religious leaders (and their congregations). Hayagreeva Rao, professor of organizational behavior at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business says "The better the infrastructure, the better the recovery. A disaster is a shock. Think of those organizations and their volunteers as shock absorbers. You can inject resources, but if the organizational infrastructure is weak or destroyed, it's a bigger problem, because then communities can't help themselves."

The power of volunteering has been documented for the last 2,500+ years, but recent research is shedding even more light onto its surprising benefits. Science now proves what great leaders and philosophers have known for years: "One of the great ironies of life is this: He or she who serves almost always benefits more than he or she who is served." - *Gordon Hinckle*

For more Preparedness Information, please visit:
[MACUCC.org/DisasterResource](https://www.MACUCC.org/DisasterResource)
[Ready.gov/September](https://www.Ready.gov/September)



Here are five surprising benefits of volunteering:

1. Volunteering time makes you feel like you have more time.
2. Volunteering your skills helps you develop new skills.
3. Volunteering with your whole body helps you have a healthier body.
4. Volunteering your experience helps build your experience.
5. Volunteering with your heart makes you feel more love.

(Adapted from Mark Horoszowski, Forbes.com)

Volunteer Organizations-Disaster Response and Resource

- ◆ The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their community and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, checking damage homes and first aid. www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team
- ◆ The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program coordinates the skills of practicing and retired physicians, nurses and other health professionals as well as other citizens interested in health issues, who are eager to volunteer to address their community's ongoing public health needs and to help their community during large-scale emergency situations. <https://mrc.hhs.gov/HomePage>
- ◆ State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team (SMART) is a network of organizations, agencies, and individuals committed to responding to the needs of the animal population in disaster situations throughout Massachusetts. Volunteers assist with animal sheltering, veterinary care, animal search and rescue, animal control as well as administrative duties during and after severe weather emergencies or any disaster situation where animal care is needed. <http://smartma.org/>
- ◆ UCC Disaster Ministries focuses on disaster preparedness and long-term recovery efforts. Locally, the Mass Conference United Church of Christ Disaster Resource and Response Team (DRRT) is made up of clergy and laity from all over the state. Our website is a rich repository of preparedness resources for churches, individuals/families, and pastors. The DRRT meets monthly, posts frequent blogs through the Weekly Emailing, and sponsors at least two trainings annually. <https://www.MACUCC.org/DisasterResource>

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