

Brethren Disaster Ministries Carolinas Project Info Sheet

On May 5, 2018, BDM merged the volunteer housing serving the Marion, SC and the Lumberton, NC projects to respond to both states who are recovering from the effects of Hurricane Matthew in 2016. This move allows for reduced costs in housing as the host site in Lumberton is generously donated by the First Presbyterian Church as their contribution to the recovery. This facility is large and is less than an hour from the St. John AME church that had been hosting the Marion, S.C. site allowing for work in both states.

This double volunteer housing is filled with blessings on many levels but will also requires some adaption from typical single sites. We ask that you take a “servants heart” when faced with new or different requests than originally expected.

Job Sites and Scheduling:

Groups on our schedule will now be assigned to either Carolinas 1 or Carolinas 2 but will both be going to the same housing site in Lumberton, N.C. BDM is partnering with local organizations in both states to obtain vetted cases. With the double site, comes extra coordination by Disaster Project Leaders of all the work on location. In order to best serve the survivors, we need your help and cooperation to serve where your skills are best utilized that specific week. While your previous assigned project week may have listed one state, your skills may be better suited to needs in the other that week or on a team with volunteers you did not travel with. All of the work BDM is doing in both states is for Hurricane Matthew recovery. Please allow your hands and your hearts to go where you are requested to serve.

Housing:

The double housing site offers all of us the blessings of fellowship as we work beside volunteers we probably have not previously met before. We ask that you greet each other in Christian love as you work together both during the day and while sharing housing space in the evenings. This is a great time of serving and fellowshiping together as we get the opportunity to meet our brothers and sisters from across Districts and the Denomination.

Each group on the schedule needs to provide a household assistant. While this is not new, it is very important for this site as one Disaster Project Household Leader cannot do all the tasks needed alone. This will include helping with meals as well as keeping our areas of the facility cleaned throughout the week as part of our partnership with the church. If needed, we can rotate volunteers, so everyone gets a chance to go out on project for at least a day.

The sleeping areas and game room at this site are on the 3rd floor of one of the buildings. While there are no elevators, this includes only 33 shallow steps that are much less than our site in Detroit.

There are more volunteers sharing shower and bath space, bunk and fellowship areas. This includes showers in the church and the new BDM Shower Trailer is also on location. Please be mindful of the

needs of your fellow volunteers. Be patient if shower lines are a bit longer and take the opportunity to reach-out to include others in your free time.

Communication and Arrivals:

While communication with the site leaders about your group is always important, please work to contact the site early and frequently with information about your group make up and plans. Since BDM will be serving with multiple partner's in both states the Project Leaders will be very busy. There is little downtime for Leaders, so we do ask you please be mindful of arrival times. **Please do not plan to arrive any earlier than 4:00 p.m on Sunday evenings.** This will allow the leaders time for Sunday worship, a few hours of rest and any last-minute planning before a new week of volunteers arrive.

New friends, new skills and always new blessings are found in serving with BDM. BDM welcomes any thoughts/suggestions on ways to make this work better and asks for your grace and flexibility as this site brings unique blessings and changes to serve the survivors in the Carolinas.