

Local and state businesses, groups respond to South Carolina flooding

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Local businesses and organizations are responding to the severe flooding in South Carolina.

The state received more than 2 feet of rain the first weekend of the month, resulting in rapid flooding that left houses and streets under water, and affecting 13 dams. About 270 state-maintained roads and 140 bridges have been closed. The flooding has killed at least 17 people and did an estimated \$1 billion in damage.

There's been a massive response to the flooding. Duke Energy, which had more than 1 million customers effected by the disaster, donated \$100,000 to the American Red Cross efforts in both North Carolina and South Carolina. Lowe's Foods, a grocery store chain based in Winston-Salem, donated three truckloads of bottled water to the South Carolina Emergency Management Disaster Receiving Center in Winnsboro, S.C.

Churches have also responded. Locally First Baptist Church of Stanleyville sent a team of 15 volunteers to help with



Hughes

Allison

disaster relief as part of N.C. Baptist Men, an auxiliary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. N.C. Baptist Men sent volunteers to coastal Horry County and Johnsonville, S.C., as well Brunswick County, N.C., which has also had flooding.

The state government of North Carolina sent six pallets of bottled water, 500 road barricades to block dangerous roads, three Civil Air Patrol planes, three Helicopter and Aquatic Rescue Teams and personnel to help South Carolina. There have been 545 N.C. National Guard soldiers and airmen with more than 200 vehicles deployed to help in clearing roads, reinforcing dams and removing debris.

Salvation Army units across North and South Carolina have sent mobile

feeding units, which provide water and spiritual care to residents and first responders in the hard hit areas. They had served 37,472 meals (hot and cold) to hard-hit areas of South Carolina as of Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Major James Allison, area commander of the Salvation Army of the Greater Winston-Salem Area, said people can help by giving to the Salvation Army's efforts.

"The best way to help is certainly through monetary donations, because that way we have the resources to purchase the items we actually need in the quantity that we need them and get them to where we need them," he said.

Piedmont Triad Red Cross Director John Hughes also said the best way to help with his organization's efforts was through monetary donations that'll go directly to disaster relief.

In response to the flooding, Red Cross opened 35 shelters for displaced residents. The non-profit also mobilized 700



(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

Jordan Bennett, of Rock Hill, S.C., paddles up to flooded cars on a street in Columbia, S.C., Sunday, Oct. 4, 2015. The rainstorm drenching the U.S. East Coast brought more misery Sunday to South Carolina, cutting power to thousands, forcing hundreds of water rescues and closing many roads because of floodwaters.

workers and more than 27 emergency response vehicles. As of last week, the local Red Cross has sent 10 people and an Emergency Response Vehicle, which distributes food and water, to affected areas.

Hughes said the flooding was "mammoth" in scale and Red Cross will be there in the coming weeks to help with the recovery.

"It's going to be weeks and months of recovery and the people of South Carolina need all the help they can get," he said.

To donate to the Salvation Army, visit SalvationArmyCarolina.org/flood or text STORM to 51555 to receive a link for giving on a mobile device. To donate to the Red Cross,



Photo from Salvation Army's Facebook page

The Salvation Army sent several mobile feeding units to help feed those hit by flooding in South Carolina.

visit 90999 to donate \$10 to the redcross.org/donate/donation or text redcross to

Alzheimer's walk at Tanglewood Park to raise money, provide reflection

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Locals will have a chance to support the Alzheimer's disease research and care at the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, Oct. 31.

The Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, which covers 49 counties in Western North Carolina, will be holding the walk at Tanglewood Park. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the walk starts at 10:15 a.m. Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. There're more than 5 million people living with the disease in the United States with more than 170,000 of them in North Carolina. The greatest known risk factor is aging, with the majority of those with the disease being 65 or older, but there is also a higher risk among the African-American and Hispanic populations.

The association provides educational programs, support groups and other types of help for those with Alzheimer's and their caretakers.

It also funds research for Alzheimer's. Nationally, the Alzheimer's Association has awarded more than \$350 million to more than 2,300 Alzheimer's research projects since 1982. It is the largest non-profit funder of Alzheimer's research and is the third largest funder period, with only the United States and Chinese governments spending more on Alzheimer's research.

The walk is not just a fundraiser, but also chance to reflect on Alzheimer's. Participants will be given

Promise Flowers with different colors representing their connections to Alzheimer's: orange for a supporter of the cause, purple for those who've lost a loved one to the disease, blue for those living with the disease and yellow for caregivers. Shortly before the walk, there will be a ceremony when a story from each of these perspectives will be shared. As they start the walk, participants will "plant" their flowers, which can they can inscribe messages or the name of loved ones on, in the ground as a Promise Garden. The trek will end back at the garden, where participants will gather their Promise Flowers and take them home.

"It's a really neat experience as you walk back in from the walk to have this whole garden of support and a garden of promise that's grown while you've been out on the walk," said Katherine Lambert, CEO of the Western Carolina Alzheimer's Association.

The walk is one of 16 walks the regional chapter is holding this year that are

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of the board.

"All of our contact information is listed online," said Jones. "So if anyone would like to show their support for a candidate, feel free to email us."

The new school board member will be sworn in on Oct. 27.

To make a recommendation or to show support for one of the candidates visit the school boards official website, www.wsfc.k12.us.

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