



# Goodwill Guide

## How you can help after a disaster

This guide is for students, staff, and faculty who want to help after a disaster, at home or abroad. It will help you determine what will be the most effective action you can take, and will outline steps to follow and provide useful resources for further action.

### How can I help?

**Should I travel to an affected area?** A common complaint about disaster response is that too many goodhearted but inexperienced people come to help, but just end up getting in the way and taking up valuable local resources. Before deciding to travel to a disaster-affected area, ask yourself if you have skills that are valuable after a disaster:

- **Emergency Response and Systems:** This is a wide category that could include search and rescue, flood muck outs, establishment of shelters or supply distribution centers, and more.
- **Carpentry/Construction:** You may have this skill if you have studied architecture, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, or do carpentry as a hobby.
- **Psychology/Trauma:** If you have real world experience in counseling or handling emotional crises, you could be helpful in assisting those affected by a disaster.
- **CPR/First Aid/Medical:** First aid is often useful, but volunteers should never be involved in search and rescue missions for the safety of themselves and those affected.

If your skills don't match up with these, you'll probably be more effective by helping from afar.

*Thinking about getting trained to be disaster-ready? Check out these options:*

- > **Red Cross Disaster Training:** [www.redcross.org/take-a-class/disaster-training](http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/disaster-training)
- > **FEMA CERT:** [www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams](http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams)
- > **OSHA Emergency Preparedness:** [www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html)

**Fundraising:** Disaster response costs money, and aid organizations often struggle to raise funds to respond as soon as possible and to as many people as possible. Raising money may not feel like you are making a difference, but it has a huge impact on those it reaches. Donating money to a responsible aid agency is usually the most effective way to help after a disaster abroad.

**Donations Drive:** If fundraising isn't an option, you can hold a donations drive. However, the influx of donations to disaster areas often creates more work for staff and costs more money to transport. The money spent to ship, sort, and transport a can of food could be used to buy 5 more cans! Always contact organizations before donating to find out what their needs are.

#### Some examples of past Brandeis events:

- 1) Collection of Clothes for Chile
- 2) Hoops for Haiti fundraiser Basketball game
- 3) Donation of event ticket sales to Haiti
- 4) Chums performance night fundraiser

## How can I get support on campus?

### Find an affiliate

If you aren't already affiliated with a club or department, it may be helpful to find support. If you are already affiliated, your initiative could be more effective by partnering with another club or department doing similar work! Meet with the Department of Community Service for help finding a club or department affiliate, and visit [www.brandeis.edu/clubs](http://www.brandeis.edu/clubs) for a list of clubs. This is a must for holding on-campus events!

### Plan a trip

1. Find a local disaster response organization who needs your help
2. Recruit skilled volunteers
3. Make a budget, and secure housing and transportation
4. Follow Alternative Break guidelines, available through the Department of Community Service

### Organize an event

1. Find an affiliate (*see above*)
2. Choose a beneficiary agency
  - Some of the most effective international humanitarian aid organizations are Oxfam, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, the Red Cross (IFRC), and the World Food Programme
  - Consider local organizations, as they are often the most effective in disaster response - see Step 4 of Root Cause's Guide to Giving (*see the resources section below*)
  - For help choosing an organization, ask the Department of Community Service!
3. Book a space
  - Most spaces: [www.brandeis.edu/ces](http://www.brandeis.edu/ces) (Space Request Form)
  - SCC: [www.brandeis.edu/activities](http://www.brandeis.edu/activities) (Forms)
  - ICC: [www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/icc](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/icc) (Space Request Form)
  - Residence halls: [www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/dcl](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/dcl) (Reserve a Common Space)
  - Spingold: Contact Leslie at [lchiu@brandeis.edu](mailto:lchiu@brandeis.edu)
  - Slosberg Music Hall: Contact Deborah at [deborahr@brandeis.edu](mailto:deborahr@brandeis.edu)
  - Rapaporte: Contact Martha at [barry@brandeis.edu](mailto:barry@brandeis.edu)
4. Make a budget
  - Consider costs such as space reservations, equipment rental, permits, & performers
  - Secure funding through Brandeis at [www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/activities/leadership/handbook\\_chapters/funding\\_resources.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/activities/leadership/handbook_chapters/funding_resources.html)
5. Market
  - Add your event to the calendar at [www.brandeis.edu/events/index.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/events/index.html)
  - Print flyers and posters to put up around campus
  - Utilize listservs, faculty, and staff who may want to help spread the word

Find more resources for clubs at [www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/activities/leadership/club\\_resources.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/activities/leadership/club_resources.html) or attend a Jump Start - Mondays at 3pm in SCC 315 ([www.brandeis.edu/ces/studentevents/jumpstart](http://www.brandeis.edu/ces/studentevents/jumpstart)).

### Resources on Humanitarian Aid

- > Root Cause's Guide to Giving for International Disaster Response: <http://www.rootcause.org/docs/Resources/Research/International-Disaster-Response/International%20Disaster%20Response-%20Guide%20to%20Giving.pdf>
- > USAID's 6 Ways to Make a Difference: <http://www.cidi.org/6-ways-you-can-make-a-difference-after-a-disaster/#.VkpgJ7-UKDk>