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The experience gained through the Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery phases prepared HOPE *worldwide* for future U.S. hurricanes. In the fall of 2008, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike greatly impacted Louisiana and Texas. More than 35,000 volunteer hours were served in shelters and removing debris following these deadly storms.

Building on experience

In 2012, Hurricane Sandy became one of HOPE *worldwide*'s largest volunteer efforts since Hurricane Katrina as we deployed more than 2,200 volunteers in New Jersey and New York. Based on the success of Operation Safe Place, SPARK (Sandy Program in Arts Resiliency for Kids) Academy was launched in the Jersey Shore area after Hurricane Sandy. The program ran for more than a year and provided a healing caring environment to help restore normalcy to children impacted by Hurricane Sandy through Saturday and Summer programs featuring a fun, character-building curriculum of visual arts, environmental education, writing, performing arts and sports.

Since Hurricane Katrina, our volunteers and supporters have made it possible for HOPE *worldwide* to respond to 58 man-made and natural disasters around the world including building collapses, civil wars, earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, tornadoes, tropical storms and volcanic eruptions.

Preparing for the future: U.S. Disaster Corps

HOPE *worldwide* continues to grow and adapt in our response to disasters, as well as our commitment to helping people be prepared for future disasters. Our U.S. Disaster Services team actively communicates how to respond to disasters, including communication about this upcoming hurricane season. To learn more important tips about how to be prepared for this hurricane season, click here.

We are also excited to announce the re-launch of our U.S. Disaster Corps. Preparedness before an emergency is vital, which includes having trained volunteers ready to respond in the wake of a disaster. Disaster Corps members can have varying levels of disaster service experience but above all, a compassion, dedication and willingness to serve others in need. To learn more about the U.S. Disaster Corps, please contact Angelo Damiano, National Director of Disaster Services, at angelo.damiano@hopeww.org, or fill out the form on the website.

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- **Hampton Roads Invites All to First Singles Fest**
Anthony Stapleton, Hampton Roads, VA — Thursday, 27 August 2015

The Hampton Roads Church singles ministry would like to invite you to our first ever Singles Fest, September 11-13, 2015! This incredible weekend will be filled with great fellowship and festivities. We will...

- **Remembering 30 Years since Toronto Church Planting**
Mark Mancini, Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX — Tuesday, 25 August 2015

Today, on this, the 30th anniversary of the first service of the Toronto Church of Christ, I find myself flooded with so many memories of the Toronto work. I remember our 24-member mission team, made up...

- **Nigeria Campus Student Recognized for Academic Excellence**

Wale Aderibigbe, Lagos, Nigeria — Monday, 24 August 2015
Born in Ojota, Lagos State on April 25, 1992 to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Udemé and Ufon Akpan, was a baby girl whose academic journey began as a two-year-old at Mictec International School, Ogudu Road, Ojota, Lagos. In 1997 she proceeded to Tender Care Nursery...

- **13 "Back-to-School" Scriptures for Kids**

Elizabeth Laing Thompson — Monday, 24 August 2015
If your family is like ours, right now you're scrambling to fill out 3,476 back-to-school forms, just as you realize that every kid's shoes are too tight and their...

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS BULLETIN

To Inspire, Inform, Unify and Grow the International Churches of Christ

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Hurricane Katrina: 10 Years Later

Written by HOPE *worldwide*

August marked the 10-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which has been labeled as single most catastrophic natural disaster and costliest hurricane in U.S. history. The unprecedented devastation and loss that was experienced across the Gulf Coast region was overwhelming. HOPE *worldwide* volunteers moved into action immediately and through the long-term recovery process, set a new precedent to how our organization responds to disasters.



Immediately following the storm, HOPE *worldwide* established "Operation Safe Place," a program for children of families evacuated from their homes. Volunteers, primarily from the International Church of Christ, provided a safe place for children to come and play games, sing songs and create arts and crafts projects while their parents met with FEMA counselors for assistance. More than 480 children were served over nine months in sites throughout the Gulf Coast.

Leading up to the year anniversary of the storm, HOPE *worldwide* continued to assist with recovery efforts in and around New Orleans. From 2006 to 2009, teams of volunteers assisted with gutting homes and rebuilding efforts throughout St. Bernard's Parish, one of the most devastated areas in Louisiana. In July 2006, more than 1,050 campus students from the ICMC (International Campus Ministry Conference) cleared lots in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. Other rebuilding projects included a partnership with the National Wildlife Federation to clean-up New Orleans City Park.

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CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN
CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD

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