

Recognizing the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation contributors

The wildfire that destroyed a large part of Lahaina on the island of Maui in Hawaii on Aug. 8, killing nearly a hundred people—and destroying a post office and the homes of three letter carriers—is just one reminder from 2023 why the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation (DRF) was created.

NALC founded the DRF in 2018 to ease the process of getting help to members affected by disasters. Numerous branches had asked NALC to establish a mechanism that would facilitate getting direct assistance to carriers.

When a disaster strikes, DRF officers and directors quickly identify carriers who are affected and give them aid as soon as possible. The aid might include supplies such as water, food, clothing and postal uniform items. Working closely with local branch leaders, the DRF helps members whose homes are uninhabitable find temporary housing and transportation, as well as apply for DRF grants.

and phone numbers to help with emergency funds for members in need and to check on all of the members.

The fires in Lahaina and several other parts of Hawaii spread out of control due to drought conditions combined with high winds from a nearby hurricane, as well as potential human error. Fortunately, no postal employees lost their lives in the fire, but several carriers narrowly escaped the flames. The Downtown Post Office in Lahaina was destroyed.

In addition to the Hawaii fires, this year the DRF provided assistance to letter carriers affected by floods in Illinois, Michigan and West Virginia; by Hurricane Idalia when it struck Florida and Georgia; by tornadoes in Georgia; and by Hurricane Hilary in California, which coincided with an earthquake.

As the year's end approaches, letter carriers might consider donating to DRF, NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said.

"The foundation is ready to provide rapid help for our affected brothers and sisters," Renfroe said. "But it can't do its job without our support." To recognize the generous donors to DRF, *The Postal Record* has printed a list below.

The foundation provides aid in the form of supplies or grants, and in-person assistance when needed. Grants are provided for property damage sustained to a primary residence, automobile or personal property from causes such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes or severe storms, and are provided only to NALC members.

Donations can be sent to: NALC Re-



Lahaina fire

gion 9, Attn: NALC DRF/Christina Vela Davidson, 1101 Northchase Parkway SE, Ste. 3, Marietta, GA 30067, or made by credit card by going to nalc.org/nrdfdonate or using the QR code below (you must enter your member number to donate). The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization; contributions to the DRF may be tax-deductible. It is recommended that you consult your tax advisor.

Donations go directly to individual carriers or to branches needing assistance—no administrative costs are deducted.

Members affected by a disaster do not have to wait for emergency relief or insurance claims to be settled to apply for help. Applications must be received within 120 days from the date of the natural disaster, unless the applicant can provide sufficient reasons for a delay. The application for a relief grant is on the foundation's website, nalc.org/disaster.

"If you have not donated yet, please help your fellow letter carriers affected by a natural disaster," Renfroe said. "Let's all donate to the Disaster Relief Foundation now so that it can be ready when disaster strikes."

On the following pages are this year's donors to DRF. Please donate now to be recognized in the December 2024 issue. **PR**



**NALC
Disaster
Relief
Foundation**

Make a donation by sending a check or money order to NALC:

**Disaster Relief Foundation
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144**

Before the smoke had cleared, DRF was on the phone with Lahaina Branch 5306 President **Josh Doher**, Honolulu Branch 860 President **Howard Komine** and Hawaii State Association President **Alvin Matsumura**, collecting names

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