

**Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disasters
Volunteers and Donations Strike Team
Meeting Summary**

March 12, 2009

Present: Bob Berns, Volunteer
James DuPlantier, Friendship Volunteer Center
Kathy LaPietra, American Red Cross
Jamie Mahadeo, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Jon McKenzie, Sarasota County Government
Lois Natiello, DCF
Jennifer Ourednik, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
John Phillips, Goodwill
Dennis Stover, Senior Friendship Centers
Pauline Tracy, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Gary Valinski, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Justin Vibbard, Adventist Community Services
Sunie Wood, Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Adventist Community Services (ACS)

Justin Vibbard, Adventist Community Services, informed the group that the purpose of ACS is donations management. They manage large multi-agency warehouses which sort donations of goods into groups to be disseminated to distribution sites. Their purpose is to get donated goods to survivors. Their biggest problem is dealing with the 'stuff' that people clean out of their closets and donate. These donations require much more manpower to handle and sort than the benefit received by the recipient.

Right now they track their goods on paper. They also use Aid Matrix to gather and track goods electronically from the donor to the recipient. They do not use CAN/Tapestry.

Go to communityservices.org for more information.

Training

There will be training conducted on May 19 from 3:30 to 5:00 in the EOC for neighborhoods and faith-based organizations.

A VRC refresher course will be held on June 9 from 6:00 to 7:30 at a location yet to be determined. (Perhaps Bee Ridge Park)

A Community Education Meeting will be held at the Nonprofit Resource Center on June 19 from 1:00 to 5:00.

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VRC Sites

Jennifer mentioned that we are seeking a mid-county location for a VRC. Bee Ridge Park is being considered. She is attempting to contact the coordinator for the park for a site visit to determine if it is a viable location for a VRC. She will arrange for a site visit (including Jamie and James) as soon as possible.

Dennis mentioned that the North Port Library is not the ideal site for a VRC due to its size and set up. We need to find a more viable location in South County.

Jamie suggested that we ask Ed McCrane to put out an e-mail to the Executive Directors to pass on to their managers requesting a list of sites that would be vacant during post-disaster and meet certain criteria (square footage, internet, phones, office machines, parking, etc.). Dennis offered the VRC manual maintained by FVC which has site specific needs identified.

Next Meeting

The next bi-monthly meeting of the Volunteer and Donations Strike Team will be held on May 14 at 9:00 a.m. at the Salvation Army on 10th Street.