

You're Invited to Serve

A Volunteer Group Guide to Serving with CCDRA

*Because recovery doesn't end
when the headlines do.*



CCDRA

Rebuilding Lives, Restoring Hope

Thank you for considering CCDRA

Thank you for considering CCDRA and New Hope Volunteer Village.

There are countless places across the country where your group could choose to serve, and we're truly honored that you're considering spending your time and talents with us here in eastern North Carolina.

Every volunteer who comes through our doors becomes part of something much bigger than a construction project. Together, we're helping families rebuild homes, regain stability, and move one step closer to a future that feels safe again.

You won't find brand-new subdivisions here, and you won't be building houses from the ground up. The homes you'll work in are lived-in homes where families are still doing the best they can while waiting for repairs they haven't been able to complete on their own.

Some of our homeowners are elderly and living on fixed incomes. Some are veterans. Some are raising grandchildren. Others are living with disabilities or financial hardships that made recovering on their own impossible. Many have spent years living with damaged floors, unfinished walls, leaking roofs, or rooms they simply couldn't use.

During your time with CCDRA, you may install flooring, hang drywall, paint, repair siding, or build a wheelchair ramp. But the work is about more than what you accomplish with a toolbox. Sometimes just showing up reminds a homeowner that they haven't been forgotten.

When Hurricane Florence struck in 2018, it changed thousands of lives overnight. While much of the country moved on, many families here couldn't.

That's why we're still here.

And that's why your team matters.

Kristy, Jeremy, Darrin, Evelyn, Danielle, and Anne

Why are we still recovering?

When Hurricane Florence struck eastern North Carolina in September 2018, it left behind more than flooded streets and damaged homes. It changed lives overnight.

Thousands of families were affected, and an incredible network of churches, nonprofits, volunteers, and community partners came together to help. Because of their generosity, countless families were able to begin rebuilding. But recovery doesn't happen at the same pace for everyone.

Many homeowners were uninsured or underinsured. Others were elderly, living with disabilities, or surviving on fixed incomes. For them, rebuilding wasn't simply difficult—it was impossible without help.

Then COVID-19 brought much of the recovery effort to a standstill. Volunteer housing closed, mission teams had to cancel trips, and many of the organizations helping with long-term recovery left our area. Most never returned. The need didn't leave with them.

Today, families are still waiting for help finishing what Hurricane Florence started. With new disasters drawing attention across the country and Baptists on Mission concluding its long-term recovery operations in Craven and Jones Counties in April 2026, CCDRA is now the only organization continuing Hurricane Florence home repairs in Craven and Jones Counties.

That's why CCDRA is still here.

Who is CCDRA?

Coastal Carolina Disaster Resiliency Agency (CCDRA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving eastern North Carolina, primarily Craven and Jones Counties.

CCDRA grew from the Craven County Disaster Recovery Alliance, a Long-Term Recovery Group formed after Hurricane Matthew in 2016. What began as churches, agencies, organizations, and volunteers coming together after a disaster grew into a long-term commitment to helping families recover and making our communities more resilient.

Today, CCDRA focuses on disaster recovery, preparedness, resiliency, and safe housing. Our work includes home repairs, disaster case management, volunteer and construction coordination, resource advocacy, preparedness and resiliency efforts, and emotional and spiritual support.

We work alongside homeowners, volunteers, churches, businesses, and community partners to help families remain safely in their homes and prepare our communities for whatever comes next.

Our goal is simple: help families recover from disaster and prepare for whatever comes next.

What makes CCDRA different?

When you come to New Hope Volunteer Village, we hope it feels less like checking into a facility and more like coming to stay with friends.

Kristy, our Executive Director, and Jeremy, our Construction Director, aren't just disaster recovery professionals—we're Hurricane Florence survivors too. In September 2018, we lost our home to six feet of floodwater. We know the uncertainty, frustration, and long road to recovery because we've lived it.

That experience has shaped how we approach the families we serve and the volunteers who come to help them. Recovery is about more than repairing a house. It's about restoring stability, preserving dignity, and sometimes simply reminding someone that they haven't been forgotten.

We're a small team, so you won't spend your week with people you never really get to know. We'll work alongside you, help you through the unexpected things that inevitably come up, share some laughs, and probably point you toward our favorite places in New Bern before the week is over.

If your group chooses to serve with us, we hope you leave with more than sore muscles and pictures of the work you accomplished. We hope you leave knowing the people you helped, knowing us a little better, and already thinking about coming back.

That's what makes CCDRA a little different.



Meet Mrs. Helen

When Hurricane Florence flooded Mrs. Helen's home in September 2018, it changed her life forever. Already grieving the loss of her husband, Buddy, just a few years earlier, she now faced the possibility of losing the home they had built together and where they raised their eight children.

For years, recovery seemed out of reach.

When COVID brought volunteer efforts to a halt and organizations began leaving the area, Mrs. Helen believed her chance had passed.

Then one volunteer team came. Then another. And another.

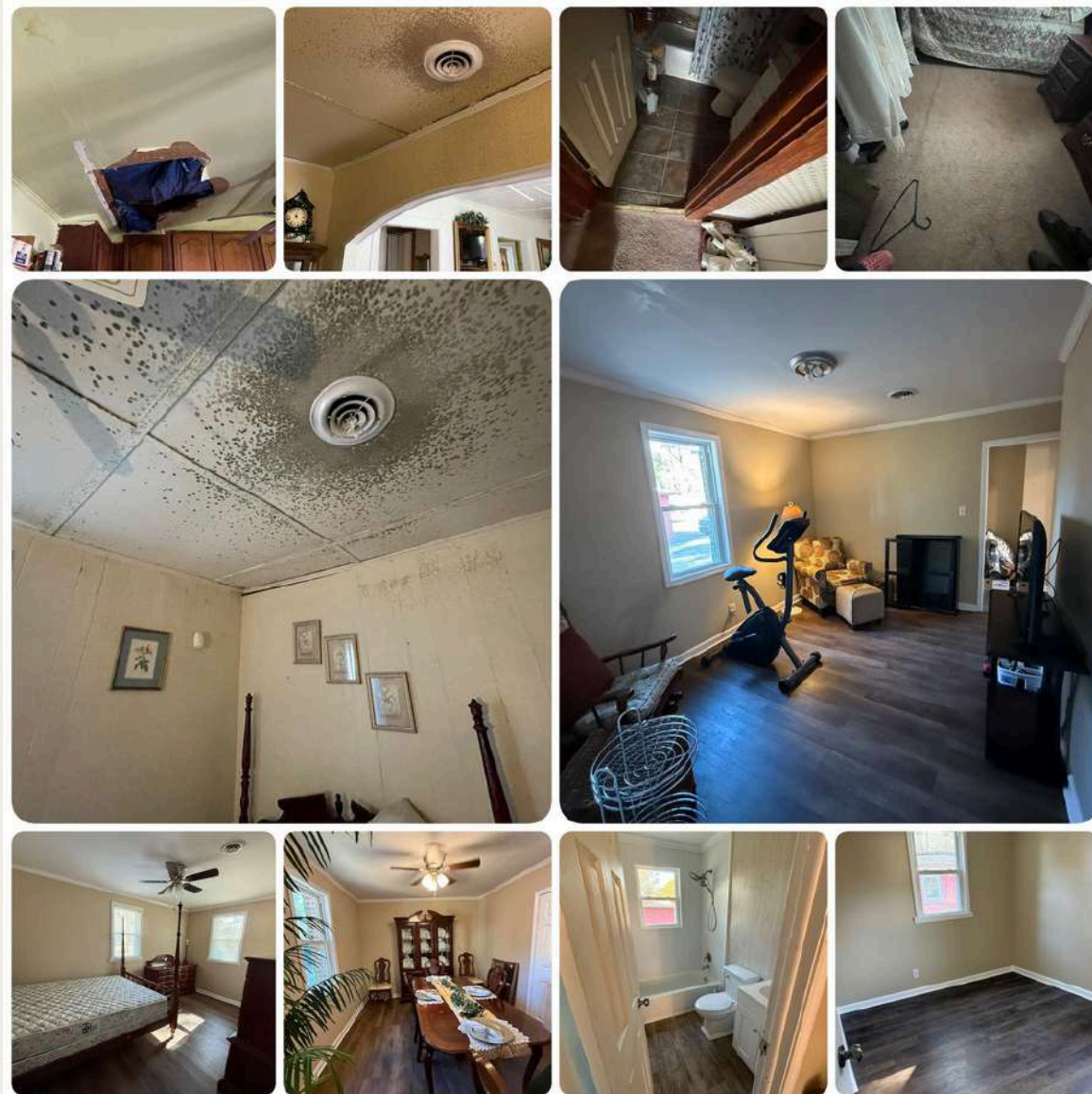
Not for a weekend.

Not for a photo.

But for seven months, serving alongside CCDRA to help restore her home and preserve a lifetime of memories.

Mrs. Helen said it best:

"I thought God had ended this chapter. I thought our home and our memories were gone. Until people came in from all over this country for seven months to allow me to keep writing it. My Buddy would be so happy to know people cared about me this much."



Your team could become part of someone else's story, too

What Your Week of Service May Look Like

No two volunteer weeks are exactly the same, and that's part of disaster recovery.

Depending on the projects underway when your group comes, you may repair floors, hang drywall, paint, replace siding, build a wheelchair ramp, make accessibility improvements, or tackle other repairs that help make a home safe, sanitary, and secure.

Some groups may spend most of their time on one home, while others may work on several projects. It really depends on the needs of our homeowners, what projects are ready, the size of your group, and the experience and abilities of your volunteers.

You don't have to be an experienced construction team to serve with us. We welcome all skill levels and do our best to match groups with work they can safely and successfully complete. Our Construction Team provides the tools, materials, guidance, and support you'll need along the way.

And because these are real homes—not controlled construction sites—sometimes plans change. We may uncover hidden damage, weather may interfere, or a material delivery may be delayed. Flexibility is just part of the work.

No matter what your group ends up doing, we'll work with you to make sure your time here is productive, safe, and meaningful.

You bring the willing hands. We'll help take care of the rest.



The Village

After a full day of serving, New Hope Volunteer Village is a place to slow down, share a meal, spend time together, and recharge for another day.

The Village was created specifically for volunteer teams. It's simple, comfortable, and designed to give your group a place to rest, reconnect, and enjoy time together after a day of serving. The cost to stay at the Village is \$25 per person, per night, which helps cover facility costs, utilities, and supplies.

Whether you're cooking dinner together, playing cards around the table, sharing stories from the worksite, or just enjoying a quiet cup of coffee before the day begins, we hope you'll feel at home here.

Over the years, New Hope Volunteer Village has welcomed thousands of volunteers from across the country. Many arrive as strangers, but it's not uncommon for them to leave feeling like part of our CCDRA family.



New Hope Volunteer Village Includes

- Comfortable bunk-style lodging for up to 60 volunteers
- 12" Twin XL Tempur-Pedic mattresses
- Fully equipped kitchens and dining areas (food not included)
- 9 showers, laundry facilities, and Wi-Fi
- Fellowship spaces to relax, play games, or gather as a team
- Convenient access to worksites throughout Craven and Jones Counties



Our hope is that by the end of the week, New Hope Volunteer Village won't just be where you stayed—it will be a place you'll look forward to coming back to.

While You're Here...

Nestled where the Neuse and Trent Rivers meet, New Bern is North Carolina's second-oldest city and a place rich in history, charm, and southern hospitality.

While your week may be centered around serving, we also hope you'll take time to enjoy the community you've come to help. Wander the historic downtown, enjoy dinner along the waterfront, visit a local coffee shop, or take an afternoon trip to the Crystal Coast. Some of our favorite conversations happen after the workday is over, exploring this beautiful corner of eastern North Carolina together.

Our staff is always happy to recommend local restaurants, ice cream shops, family activities, and hidden gems that many visitors never find.

We hope you leave with more than memories of the work you accomplished. We hope you leave with memories of the community that welcomed you.

A Few Local Favorites

Historic Downtown New Bern • Tryon Palace Gardens • Bear Plaza • Fort Macon State Park • Atlantic Beach & Emerald Isle • Croatan National Forest • The Riverwalk • Birthplace of Pepsi Museum

WHAT WE PROVIDE:

Tools and Equipment

- Construction tools, materials, tool and dump trailers, and cleaning supplies.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Many choose to bring their own for proper fit)

- Gloves, safety glasses, masks, and other necessary protective gear.

Training and Guidance

- Instruction and guidance on safety, construction techniques, and the work your group is assigned.

Water and Ice

- Water coolers are available for worksites, with an ice machine and water bottle filler at the Village to keep them filled.

Support and Coordination

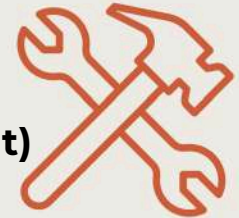
- Staff and project leads to train, provide support, and answer questions.

First Aid Supplies

- Basic first aid kits for minor injuries.

Volunteer Village

- Blankets, pillowcases, and sheets are provided in the village
- Games and a flat screen TV
- On-Site showers and laundry
- Wi-Fi throughout



WHAT YOUR GROUP PROVIDES

Meals

Groups are responsible for providing and preparing their own meals during the week. New Hope Volunteer Village offers fully equipped kitchens, dining areas, refrigerators, and cookware to make meal preparation easy.

Transportation

Groups should have their own transportation to travel between the Village, worksites, and any evening activities. Most worksites are within a reasonable driving distance.

Personal Items

Bring comfortable work clothes, closed-toe shoes or boots, towels, pillows, toiletries, medications, and any personal items you'll need throughout the week. (We'll send a complete packing list before your arrival.)

A Flexible Spirit

Disaster recovery doesn't always go according to plan. Weather changes, material deliveries get delayed, and sometimes we uncover unexpected repairs. A little flexibility goes a long way and helps make the week enjoyable for everyone.

A Heart to Serve

Construction experience isn't required. Some volunteers swing a hammer. Others paint, organize, clean, encourage, or simply listen. Every person on your team has something valuable to offer.

The most important thing you can bring isn't found in your suitcase—it's a willingness to serve others with kindness, compassion, and an open heart.

The Story Behind The Village

New Hope Volunteer Village has its own connection to Hurricane Florence.

The building originally served as the Education Building of Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church, a congregation with a long history of serving its community. When Hurricane Florence struck in 2018, the building sustained significant damage.

As eastern NC faced years of recovery ahead, Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church and New Hope Presbytery made the decision to turn the damaged building into something that could help the community recover—a dedicated place for volunteer teams from across the country to stay while helping local families rebuild.

That building became New Hope Volunteer Village. Having dedicated volunteer housing gives teams a place to stay, serve for more than just a day or two, and return year after year as the work continues. The Village doesn't just house volunteers—it helps make their service here possible.

Since then, thousands of volunteers have stayed here while serving families throughout our community. Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church and CCDRA have continued working together to keep the Village available for the teams who make long-term recovery possible.

As the congregation has grown smaller, Neuse Forest has committed to donating the property to CCDRA so the Village can continue serving volunteers and our community for years to come.

A building damaged by Hurricane Florence became a home away from home for the volunteers helping others recover from it.

Interested in Bringing a Team?

We'd love to talk with you about bringing your group to eastern North Carolina to serve with CCDRA and stay at New Hope Volunteer Village.

You don't need to have everything figured out before reaching out. If you have an idea of when you'd like to come and about how many people may be in your group, that's enough to get the conversation started.

When you contact us, it helps to know your possible dates, approximate group size, age groups of your volunteers, where you're traveling from, and your group's general construction experience. Don't worry if you don't have construction experience—it's not required!

We'll talk with you about Village availability, answer your questions, and help you determine whether serving with CCDRA is a good fit for your group.

Every group starts with a conversation. We'd love to have one with you.

We'd love to hear from you!

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