

# America in Crisis



**F**or the past eighteen months the United States and the global community has faced an unprecedented recession. There are many reasons for this economic downturn as it is called by many. However, the fact remains that regardless what it is called, there are millions of people affected by the changing events in the global economy.

In the midst of all this human suffering, faith based charities are being called upon to assist these families in addition to the needs that were present prior to this economic crisis. The task has been overwhelming; not because of the numbers but because the charities themselves are also facing this recession. Product donations are being cut back or lost all together. In tough economic times, financial donations are no longer a priority. Corporations are facing difficult decisions for survival. The poor are being forgotten!

However, Operation Compassion will continue to work through these tough times and will respond to the needs of countless families in the United States and around the world. We operate 18 satellite warehouses in strategic locations in the U.S. Our Cleveland, TN warehouse receives more than 100 semi trucks each month loaded with goods. Operation Compassion sends multiple containers of goods to help children and widows survive. We are responding to each disaster without any delays or reduction of services.

The determination of Operation Compassion to meet the needs of the poor does not happen by accident but through donors who will partner to make a difference. Become a partner with Operation Compassion today!

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# There is Hope in Appalachia



The people of Appalachia are preparing for tough times. The coal mining industry has always experienced ups and downs as the economy ebbs and flows. Since 2001, Operation Compassion through its Appalachian Distribution Network of distribution centers and the Appalachian Dream Center provided thousands of families throughout the region assistance with food, supplies and other items of necessity. The Appalachian Distribution Network has contributed millions of pounds of goods and numerous services over the years that have made an impact on the lives of people who work very hard and live in a hard environment.

Mike Hartwell, coordinator of the ADC, believes “the Center is strategically located to make a significant impact on the region. The problem is that the need for products and services are increasing in the communities. This creates a greater demand on us for more products and more services which translates into the need for more financial and product support.”

*“While funds and donated goods are decreasing, the needs of the poor are increasing!”*

Operation Compassion has seven warehouses and 1,500 partnering locations intentionally situated across Appalachia providing valuable services and delivering necessary goods. Appalachia is still a challenge. Amid trucks delivering to remote sites, food pantries, feeding centers, nursing homes and volunteer tech schools participating in the network, there is much to accomplish. Each month 30 semi trucks roll into Appalachia delivering millions of dollars in food and supplies to the Appalachia Distribution Network.

ADC actually rebuilds and repairs homes for widows struggling to make ends meet. In addition, ADC sponsors medical, dental and vision mobile clinics to assist families with children throughout the year.

During these difficult and uncertain economic times Appalachia needs all the assistance we can give. Operation Compassion, long ago, pledged its continued support. Will you join us in helping our Appalachian neighbors?





# There is Help through the Storms



*“You guys don’t realize how important the work you do is.”*  
 —Sue Lawrence Mena, Ark

Since its inception, Operation Compassion has been a disaster relief agency. We have added many other programs and projects to our ‘to do list’ but our primary reason for ministry is disaster relief. Over the years, Operation Compassion has responded to more than one hundred natural disasters around the world. It does not matter if it is a hurricane, tornado, flood, earthquake, tsunami, snow or mudslides; Operation Compassion pulls together a vast network of partners and volunteers to respond.

Such was the case during the tornado outbreaks of April 2009. During a two week period lines of severe thunderstorms from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas swept east spawning 84 tornadoes rated from EF0 to EF4. In its wake was devastation and destruction. A total of eight people died as a result of the storms, three in Texas, three in Arkansas and two in Tennessee. Operation Compassion responded to these outbreaks through its network of partners in various locations.

In Mena, AR an EF3 tornado struck this rural community and brought devastation and destruction. More than 1,000 homes and businesses were destroyed or heavily damaged, more than 30 persons were injured and three people were killed. Yet, through all this destruction Operation Compassion and its partners responded with the first 24 hours bringing truckloads of food, supplies and equipment.

One of our first partners to respond was God’s Pit Crew. They have distributed more than six semi loads of food and supplies plus removed debris and cleaned up around several homes. Their volunteers have also gutted several homes, tarped many roofs and replaced windows, doors and repaired roofs.

One woman approached GPC about repairing her home had a son with cerebral palsy. All the windows in her home had been blown out and there was no electricity. The strange thing about this woman was her continued apology for wearing two different colored shoes. The truth was that the tornado not only blew out all the windows but had also sucked out almost all her clothes. Those two different colored shoes were all she could find.

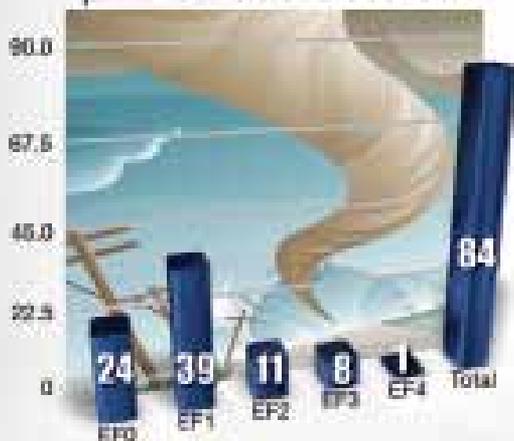
One of our volunteers approached a man carrying a little boy. The volunteer wanted to give the boy a stuffed animal to comfort him. The father said it was okay. The volunteer reached out with the toy but the boy made no move to receive the gift. When the volunteer asked why, the father said the boy was blind and he would need to let the boy feel it first. So the volunteer placed the toy next to his hand so he could feel it. As the boy touch the toy all over, the volunteer noticed a little tear running down the little boy’s face.

These two stories stress the importance of responding to disasters. A toy for a boy and two colored shoes do not appear to be that much. However, when it is all you have, it means everything. Help Operation Compassion continue to be a disaster relief responder!



Survivors talk with staff of God’s Pit Crew about one of the tornadoes that came through Mena.

## April Tornado Outbreak



**Total 84 Confirmed Tornadoes**  
 Damages: \$48.1 million plus estimated  
 Duration: 31 hours, 37 minutes  
 Fatalities: 5 + 4 non-tornadoic



# There is Healing in the cities through Compassion



**U**rban America is facing one of its most difficult times during this economic crisis. City dwellers are losing jobs that are not being readily replaced and many city services are being cut back or closing all together. In the midst of all the shy-high building, Operation Compassion carefully began a network that works in this urban environment, Compassion America Urban Network.

Compassion America is still in its infancy stages, in terms of locations, but is delivering an impact that is literally rescuing children, widows and distressed families for dire circumstances. Operation Compassion uses all of its resources available to assist these urban centers with various goods that are of necessary value.

For example, Compassion Atlanta has a local network of more than 100 charities and agencies that pick up goods from their warehouse. In addition, Compassion Atlanta has developed programs to assist children in after school enrichment and tutoring, houses for men and women adjusting from jail life, job re-education and so many others; the main campus is located on in downtown Atlanta on 6 acres of donated prime real estate.

Compassion Cincinnati has a comparable network of local charities and agencies that receive products from their warehouse. However, Compassion Cincinnati has decided to attack one area of greatest concern – homelessness in the city. Many of the homeless have been caught in catastrophic circumstances without any place to turn. Most of them do not want to be homeless. Compassion Cincinnati created a network of shelters throughout the metroplex supplying food and other life sustaining goods and services. These shelters assist these men and women and sometimes families with children survive. In time, they are able to help them recover the life that was lost.

These are just two examples of the impact Operation Compassion is making throughout our cities across the U.S. We did not do it alone and we cannot continue alone. Will you partner with us to help urban America?



**Compassion America Urban Network** : Cincinnati, Ohio; Norfolk, Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; New York, New York; Lakeland, Florida; Tampa, Florida; Miami, Florida; Houston, Texas; Flagstaff, Arizona; Minneapolis, Minnesota.



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