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**Funds to Aid Local Flood Victims Being Distributed Through BCCOAD**

Now that the deadline has passed for Broome County residents who were severely affected by the September flood to register for help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program, the flow of locally donated funds to assist flood victims will increase.

Most local funds for assistance to flood victims are being coordinated through a local organization known as BCCOAD (Broome County Community Organizations Active in Disaster). This not-for-profit organization includes among its members the local chapter of the American Red Cross, Broome County Council of Churches, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, United Way of Broome County, and many other local organizations. Its goal is to foster efficient, accountable, and streamlined services which support households recovering from disaster.

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Funds to Aid Local Flood Victims  
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All of the flood relief funds which have been donated to United Way of Broome County (which totals about \$575,000 currently, with \$300,000 more coming from a Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation grant in 2012) are being distributed through BCCOAD. The primary focus in the distribution of these funds will be supporting Broome County households exhibiting unmet needs in the long-term recovery from the September flood.

No administrative overhead is being deducted, so 100 percent of the funds donated will be used to directly support flood-affected households. To date, \$100,000 of the donated funds have been allocated to Broome County flood survivors. Some specific examples of assistance provided included funding for dehumidifiers, fans, beds, sump pumps, and building supplies.

To be eligible for the funds being distributed through BCCOAD, a household must be registered with FEMA and also register with the local Disaster Case Management program (see accompanying flyer for details), which will perform a complete financial and needs assessment that may require certain documentation. Home owners may receive overall support of no more than \$20,000. Renters are eligible to receive a maximum of \$3,000 per household for personal property losses.

The goal of the use of the funds administered by BCCOAD is to help as many households as possible to return to a sanitary, safe, and secure living situation based on demonstrated need after resources from private insurance, FEMA, SBA, and other sources are exhausted. Both contracted and volunteer labor will be used for rebuilding homes damaged by the flood. BCCOAD will work with existing qualified agencies to oversee repair and reconstruction work.

The distribution of BCCOAD funds is underway.

Accompaniment - 1

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