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### **Volunteers Wanting to Aid Area Flood Victims Asked to Register on Website**

(Vestal, NY)— In order to assist in the coordination of volunteer efforts to assist those affected by last week's flood, United Way of Broome County, in partnership with the Institute for Human Services in Bath, N.Y., has made an online portal available to assist individuals interested in volunteering to connect with relief and recovery projects in the region.

Individuals interested in volunteering should visit [www.211helpline.org](http://www.211helpline.org) and click on the "Give Help" button. [The map on the site does not show Broome and Tioga Counties as part of its coverage area, as they have been added very recently.] Once registered, United Way will be able to keep individuals informed of current recovery projects in the community. For people without access to the internet, they can contact United Way's 211/First Call for Help at 1-800-901-2180 to find out about how to volunteer.

"As a regional partner with United Way of Broome County, we are very pleased to lend our support by making this online portal available to support the relief and recovery process in the Southern Tier," said Patrick J. Rogers, executive director of the Institute for Human Services.

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Volunteers  
Add one

As part of the planning process to aid those affected by the flood, Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) met this week at the United Way office in Vestal to assess the current situation and discuss the plans for disaster relief and long-term recovery. Recovery efforts are currently being planned and implemented. Local health and human service agencies are pooling their resources and are encouraging residents to get involved in the recovery efforts. Many individuals in the community are stepping forward to lend their support.

“Donations of time, talent, and resources will be critical in the coming weeks as our neighbors seek to return to their homes and repair the damage left by the raging river waters.” said Greg Jenkins, flood relief coordinator for the Conklin Presbyterian Church and co-chair of COAD. “We were able to come together as a community in 2006 to address the devastating flood then and I have no doubt the community will come together again now.”

“We know the recovery process will take many months but we also know the caring power of this community. I have no doubt the community will come together to support our neighbors in need and make our community even stronger than it was before,” Alan Hertel, executive director of United Way of Broome County, said.

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