

Samaritan's Purse helping Windsor flood victims

Christian disaster relief organization sending Disaster Relief Unit and recruiting clean-up volunteers

CALGARY, AB – Sept. 6, 2017 — Samaritan's Purse Canada is helping flood victims in Windsor by sending one of its specially equipped Disaster Relief Units to the southwestern Ontario city and recruiting volunteers to clean up water-damaged homes. The City of Windsor has welcomed the assistance.

"This is a very difficult and stressful situation for the flooded homeowners, and we're ready to do all we can to help them clean up," said Brent Davis, Samaritan's Purse Canada's response director. "We're assessing the damage, and asking local churches and other non-government partners to join with us as we provide compassionate, coordinated assistance."

Almost a meter of rain fell in the Windsor-Essex region during a 20-hour period on August 28-29, or more than three times the amount that usually falls there in all of August. Thousands of homes are flooded.

Samaritan's Purse Canada's Ontario-based Disaster Relief Unit is now in Windsor. The unit is a tractor trailer outfitted with essential disaster recovery equipment including generators, pumps, hand tools, and safety gear for volunteers. It also serves as a volunteer coordination center, and is equipped with a self-contained office, communications system, and other supplies.

Anyone who needs help to clean up a flooded home can call 1-844-547-2664.

Volunteers in the Region Needed: To volunteer, please go to SamaritansPurse.ca/Windsor.

Samaritan's Purse has similar Disaster Relief Units based in Moncton, New Brunswick and Calgary, Alberta. The Moncton unit is traveling to Samaritan's Purse's international headquarters in North Carolina in preparation for helping with clean-up after Hurricane Irma, now battering the Caribbean islands and expected to strike Florida next.

In recent years, the non-profit Christian relief and development organization has helped victims of a wide variety of natural disasters including this summer's floods and fires in British Columbia; the catastrophic 2016 wildfire in Fort McMurray; and the 2015 floods in Calgary and other parts of southern Alberta.

Samaritan's Purse's "sister" organization, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada, often helps by providing specially trained chaplains to comfort and pray with disaster victims. Billy Graham Rapid Response Team volunteer chaplains will be in the Windsor region.

Samaritan's Purse also responds to international disasters including the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the 2011 earthquake/tsunami in Japan, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, and the recent Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

Donations Needed: To support Samaritan's Purse's disaster relief efforts, please visit SamaritansPurse.ca (click on "Donate") or call **1-800-663-6500**.

About Samaritan's Purse Canada: Samaritan's Purse is a Christian relief and development organization that takes its name from Jesus Christ's biblical story of the Good Samaritan. Like that Good Samaritan, who found a beaten man and helped restore him, we aid victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution. Besides disaster relief, our work includes collecting and distributing gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, providing safe water, teaching vocational skills, and providing agricultural supplies and training to families in the developing world. Learn more at SamaritansPurse.ca.

Media Inquiries: Frank King, News Media Relations Manager, Samaritan's Purse Canada
403-990-0161 (mobile) or fking@samaritan.ca