



West Virginia
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

VOAD MISSION

SEPTEMBER 1 2015

GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARD

WV VOAD SPOTLIGHT

David Myers

PREPAREDNESS TIPS

RECOVERING IN
WOOD COUNTY

Approaching Alzheimer's
First Responder Training

RESILIENTLY
BRIDGING
THE GAP IN WEST VIRGINIA



Congratulations to WV VOAD Member Agencies for receiving the 2015 Governor's Service Award! This award is presented to West Virginia organizations who exemplify the spirit of community service and volunteerism. Member agencies of WV VOAD have put in countless hours to help West Virginia families recover from violent storms. Our work is far from over, as we all know long term recovery can take years, but it is an honor to be recognized for our service to the community. Keep up the great work! Together we can make recovery for West Virginia families easier.



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Approaching Alzheimer's First Responder Training

Disasters can strike quickly and without warning. Acting fast is crucial. However, in disaster situations, it might take longer for a person with dementia to notice an emergency, which can impact our ability to move fast. These situations are stressful for everyone impacted, but they can be especially upsetting and confusing for individuals with dementia. Because of dementia, a person can misinterpret his or her surroundings or may overreact to surrounding events. With the Alzheimer's disease epidemic growing, it is increasingly important that you know how to best **respond in situations** involving persons with dementia. The Alzheimer's Association offers a free interactive, online course on their webpage: (<http://alz.org/care/alzheimers-first->

FOR ALL CASES

Use the TALK Tactics

- T**ake it slow.
- A**sk simple questions.
- L**imit reality checks.
- K**eep eye contact.

A person with dementia may be easily agitated or afraid. Tell him or her you are there to help.

[responder.asp](#)) to train first responders in approaching people with **Alzheimer's**. Learn how to identify individuals with dementia, talk tactics, access resources, and take quizzes to make your response more effective and efficient. Knowing how to adjust your approach can increase the likelihood of a more positive outcome for all. Complete the training to earn a **certificate** or focus on subjects most relevant to your role. For more information contact the Alzheimer's Association at 1-800-272-3900 or wvinfo@alz.org.

RESILIENTLY BRIDGING THE GAP IN WEST VIRGINIA



Never before has a State VOAD been able to pull together a private bridge repair project until now. Thanks to their great relationship with the state and a determined bridge committee, WV VOAD will be the first to tackle private bridge repair.

303 bridges total were damaged or destroyed in West Virginia from March, April and July events. The destruction of these private water crossings has not only caused families emotional strife, but has also disrupted and complicated many aspects of their daily lives. Families have had to adjust to crossing unsafe waterways in order to go grocery shopping, make necessary visits to the doctor, transport their children to school and go to work. Medical issues

and disabilities further stress the urgency for a solution. To begin the **2015 WV VOAD Bridge Project**, WV VOAD has reviewed and selected 20 bridges in to be part of a pilot project. VOAD member agencies, State and Federal officials and other organizations have come together to ensure the rebuilt bridges are both safe and resilient to future storms. The bridge committee met Tuesday August 18 to discuss permits, liability, engineering and designs.

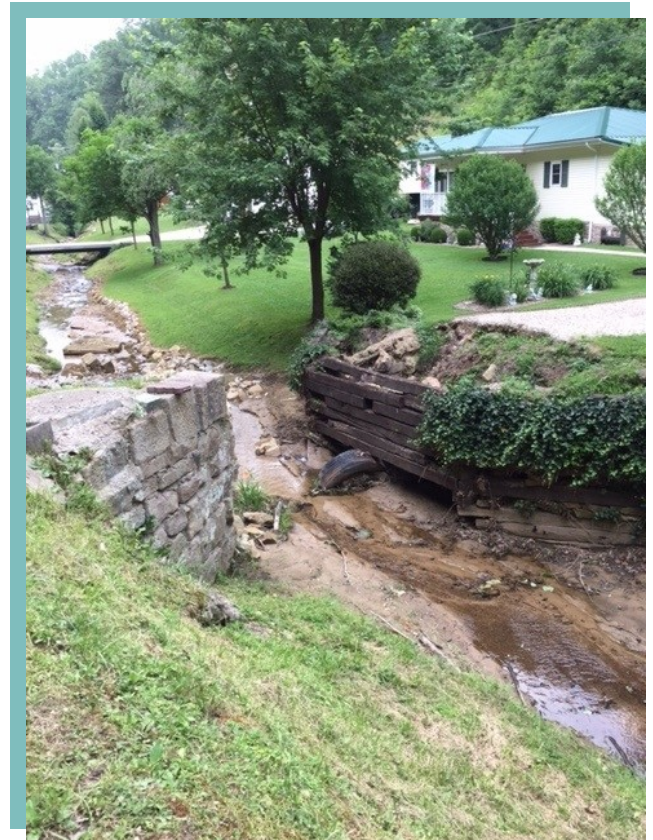
The goal for the Bridge Project is to provide **suitable and sustainable access** to the families of West Virginia. Long term recovery and repairs to home damage continue in the 17 counties impacted by Spring 2015 storms. Keep up-to-date with all recovery efforts on the WV VOAD webpage.



Help Resiliently Bridge the Gap in West Virginia!

Donate to WV VOAD Disaster Relief Fund (Specify Bridge Project on memo line of check)

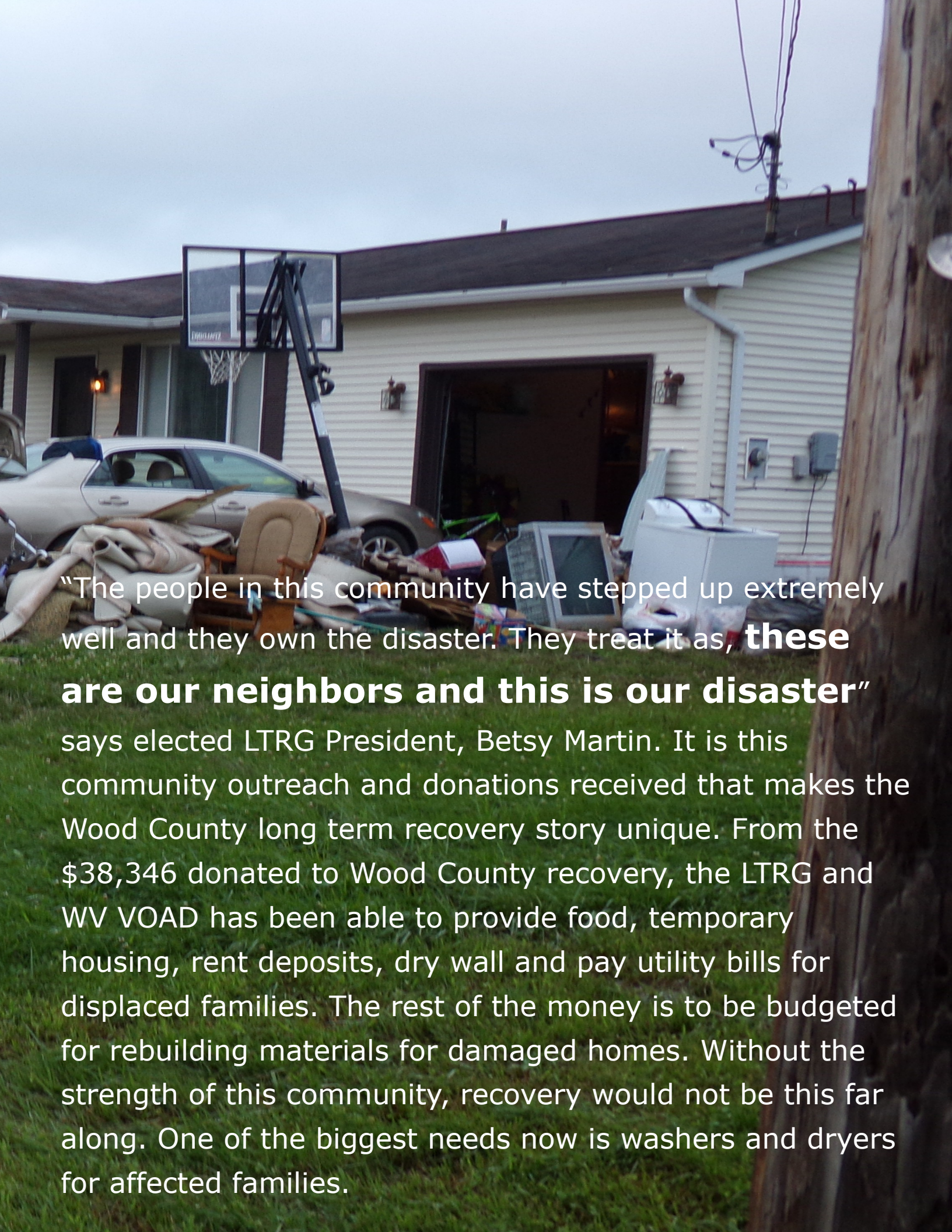
United Methodist Foundation
900 Washington Street
East Charleston, WV 25301



Recovering in Wood County



Looking at the news reports and photographs of initial storm damages leaves no question that Mineral Wells in Wood County was devastated by the July 2015 flooding. But **where does Wood County stand now?** The Wood County Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) met Friday, August 14 to address these questions and officially formalize as a group. The LTRG is composed strongly of members from local community churches who were part of the early response. Working closely with WV VOAD, the group will continue disaster case management for the 90 cases currently open.



“The people in this community have stepped up extremely well and they own the disaster. They treat it as, **these are our neighbors and this is our disaster**” says elected LTRG President, Betsy Martin. It is this community outreach and donations received that makes the Wood County long term recovery story unique. From the \$38,346 donated to Wood County recovery, the LTRG and WV VOAD has been able to provide food, temporary housing, rent deposits, dry wall and pay utility bills for displaced families. The rest of the money is to be budgeted for rebuilding materials for damaged homes. Without the strength of this community, recovery would not be this far along. One of the biggest needs now is washers and dryers for affected families.

WV VOAD SPOTLIGHT: DAVID MYERS



One of the Bridge Committee meeting attendees on Tuesday August 18 was **David Myers**, Director of the Department of Homeland Security's Center for faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Appointed to this position in 2009 by President Obama, it is David's responsibility to strengthen the

relationships between faith-based and neighborhood groups with State and Federal Emergency Managers. David's previous experiences as a Pastor and Executive Director in the Nonprofit Management field has helped him bridge the differences between the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) and those worlds. David attended the Bridge Committee meeting to learn more about the WV VOAD Bridge Project and find ways to be supportive, "This is a really great project that's going on because it involves the whole community" says David.

Fun Facts about David

- **Raised in Portland, Oregon**
- **Enjoys: Writing and golfing with friends**
- **Grandfather of two boys**

2015 Calendar

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Approaching Alzheimer's First Responder Training

Free, interactive online training: <http://alz.org/care/alzheimers-first-responder.asp>

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

Training for congregations and nonprofits

• Sept. 12 9:30am-4:30am **Presbyterian Church**

Training for Food Pantries
• Sept. 12 6:30am-9:00pm **508 Second St. SW
South Charleston WV,
25303**

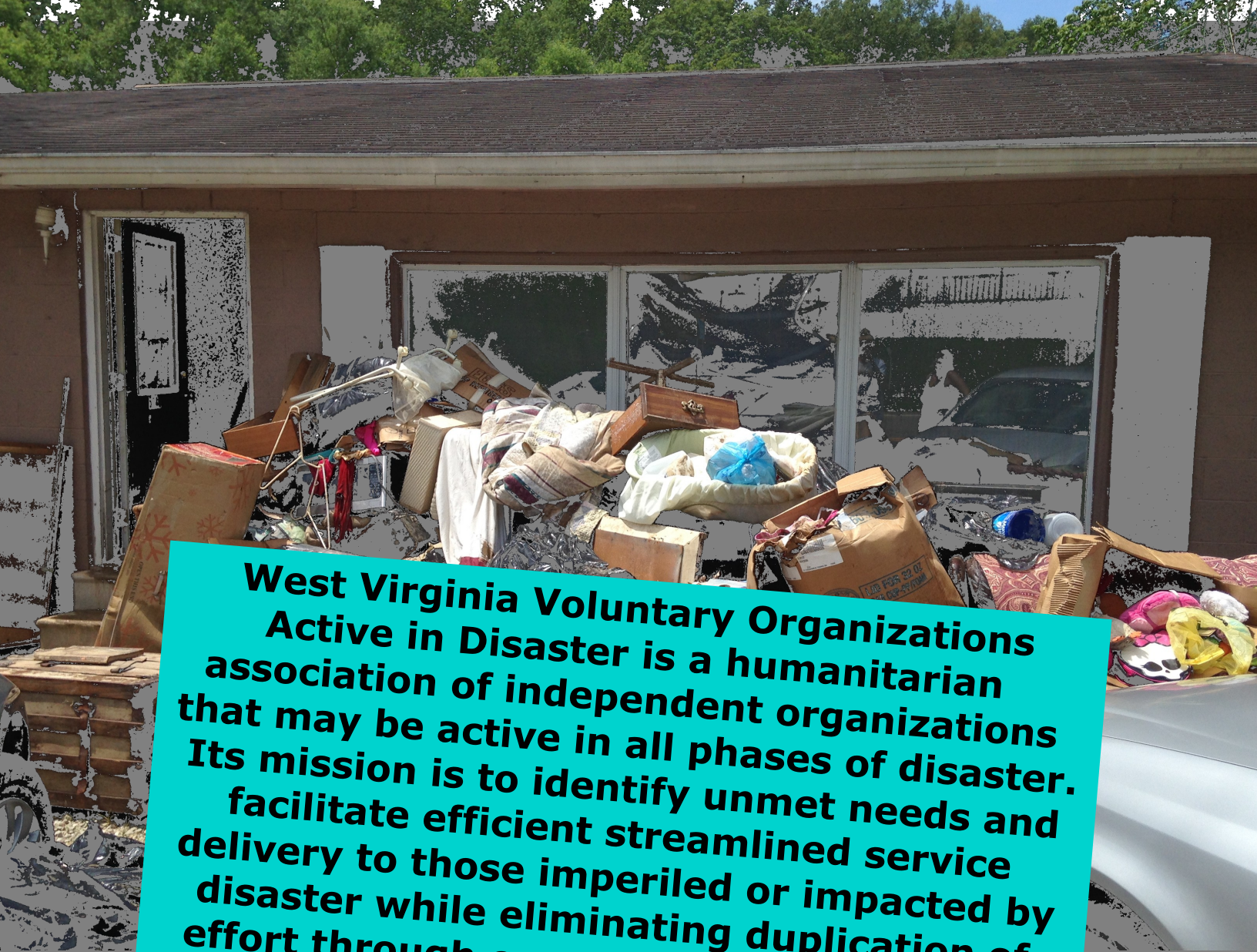
Long Term Recovery Training

• Sept. 13 2:00pm-6:00pm

Disaster Preparedness Tips

Driving in Flood Conditions

- **Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.**
- **A foot of water will float many vehicles.**
- **Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pickups.**
- **Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road. The depth of water is not always obvious. The road bed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.**
- **Be especially cautious driving at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.**



West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster is a humanitarian association of independent organizations that may be active in all phases of disaster. Its mission is to identify unmet needs and facilitate efficient streamlined service delivery to those imperiled or impacted by disaster while eliminating duplication of effort through cooperation, coordination, communication, collaboration in the four phases of disaster: preparation, response, recovery and mitigation. West Virginia VOAD is a member of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

TO SUBMIT ARTICLES AND IDEAS TO THE VOAD MISSION , PLEASE EMAIL CHRISTINE WILBERT:

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