

# HURRICANE HELENE

RELIEF IN ACTION: OCTOBER 2, 2024



American  
Red Cross



STEPHAN PRUITT/AMERICAN RED CROSS

Flooding caused by Hurricane Helene devastates the River Arts District in Asheville, North Carolina.

## Red Cross Aids Helene Survivors in North Carolina and Beyond

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the American Red Cross is caring for thousands of survivors reeling from profound devastation across 10 states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana.

### Supporting Survivors Far and Wide

After making landfall in northern Florida last week as a Category 4 hurricane, Helene carved a path of destruction spanning 800 miles, upending millions of lives, with some of the most severe impacts felt in western North Carolina. Throughout the Southeast and parts of Appalachia, an **estimated 15,000 to 20,000 homes have been destroyed**. Nearly a week after landfall, millions are still without electricity, leaving them unable to charge their phones or medical devices and without a way to prepare food. Sadly, at least 160 people have lost their lives to this horrific storm.

With partners, we are serving tens of thousands of meals and snacks and provided **shelter to some 2,500 people on Tuesday night alone**. The caring volunteers at our shelters can help with medical needs, things like replacing lost prescriptions and eyeglasses — a vital service to people who escaped in a hurry or were rescued from their rooftops. This is only the beginning of a monthslong response.

### Meeting Extensive Needs in NC

Days after landfall, many counties in western North Carolina still lack electricity, wireless connectivity or water for drinking and bathing. Throughout the region, deadly floodwaters have destroyed roads and bridges, cutting off entire communities.

### Response at a Glance



About **83,800 meals and snacks** served with partners



More than **23,400 overnight shelter stays** provided with partners



More than **3,100 relief supplies** distributed to 860 households

—Cumulative figures in response to Hurricane Helene as of October 2, 2024

We are providing life-sustaining services in the hardest-hit areas, including Buncombe, Yancy, Mitchell, Avery and Watauga Counties as well as Greenville, South Carolina.

To help, the Red Cross and our partners are running **26 shelters in over a dozen North Carolina counties**, where over 1,200 Helene survivors found refuge on Tuesday night.

Alexis Serrano, who's staying at our Boone shelter, escaped Helene with only his cellphone. He described the sudden onset of the storm as "all water in the night," adding, "Thank you forever, Red Cross."

We are also driving emergency response vehicles into flood-ravaged communities, providing warm meals, bottles of water and clean-up supplies. These deliveries make it possible for people to access these essentials if they've lost vehicles or live in areas where roads and stores are destroyed or closed.

## Red Cross Supports Communities Reeling From Helene

Along with our massive operation in North Carolina, we are caring for people impacted by Helene in **Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana.**

An **estimated 10,000 homes were destroyed or suffered major damage from Helene in Florida**, displacing thousands and creating a widespread need for the sheltering, feeding and other relief support we provide. Many of these communities are reeling from their third hurricane strike in little over a year.

**Nearly 500 people found refuge at Red Cross and partner shelters in Florida** Tuesday. “I’m really glad I found this shelter because I had no place else to go,” said Gerald Tietz, who’s staying at our shelter in Clearwater. “I arrived hungry, and these volunteers fed me and have met every need I have since I’ve been here.”

In South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia — three states severely impacted by Helene — we are providing hot meals and relief supplies. This can make the difference between people having what they need and going without. With partners, the Red Cross is running **10 shelters in Georgia, nine in South Carolina and 10 in Tennessee**, which combined provided refuge to some 700 people on Tuesday.

Like Helene survivors in northern Florida, families in parts of Georgia are reeling from repeated impacts. Valdosta, Georgia, where 28.3% of residents live in poverty, was torn apart by Helene just a year after being hit hard by Idalia. For families already living on the edge, the immediate relief and ongoing support we provide plays a vital role in their ability to withstand a disaster like this.

In the aftermath or profound tragedy, Helene survivors are counting on the Red Cross for support. We can be there for them today, tomorrow and in the weeks to come, thanks to donors like you.



Joyce and Richard Parker found refuge from Helene at our Simpsonville, South Carolina, shelter.



Volunteers deliver meals on Cedar Key, Florida, which was devastated by Hurricane Helene.

### How You Can Help

Help people affected by Hurricane Helene. Your donation enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from this disaster. To donate online, visit <https://www.redcross.org/donate/mm/hurricane-helene.html/>.

To donate by check, write “Hurricane Helene” in the memo line and mail it to your local Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37839, Boone, IA 50037-0839.

