

# ANNUAL REPORT

PROSPECTUS

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SVDP-USA

**DISASTER**



**SERVICES**

# 2024

[www.svdpdisaster.org](http://www.svdpdisaster.org)

Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

## A MESSAGE FROM ELIZABETH DISCO-SHEARER, CEO



**"Together, we turn tragedy into hope, empowering communities to rebuild and thrive in the face of disaster."**

**Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO**



Dear Friends and Supporters,

There were 11 individual billion-dollar weather and climate events across the U.S. during the first five months of 2024, each with losses exceeding \$1 billion. These disasters consisted of nine severe storm events and two winter storms. The total cost of these events exceeded \$25 billion and resulted in at least 84 fatalities.

Despite the intensity of the disasters this year, Disaster Services Corporation, Society of St Vincent de Paul USA continued to provide programs across the nation in 2024 that helped to prevent homelessness for families who fell into situational poverty. As you read through our 2024 Annual Report you will note that we worked with our Vincentian Councils and Conferences in the United States with person-to-person services to our neighbors in need who instantly had their lives changed by climate situations. DSC advocated for changes in government policies that would help disaster survivors to more quickly navigate complex state and federal processes for disaster assistance. We also worked with our National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster to enhance the delivery of direct assistance to disaster survivors. I traveled through numerous states from Texas to Maryland and met with local officials and our Society of St. Vincent de Paul Councils to review how DSC could enhance the services that we currently provide to disaster survivors. You will read about our collaborations and our innovative programs. Together we can turn tragedy into hope empowering communities to rebuild in the face of disaster.

Elizabeth Disco-Shearer CEO

Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

# Executive Summary

Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA (DSC) is a Catholic lay organization dedicated to providing person-to-person recovery services to families impacted by natural and manmade disasters across the United States and its territories. As an entity of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, DSC has a long-standing history of responding to disasters, tracing back to the U.S. Civil War era. In 2023 and 2024, DSC achieved significant milestones in disaster case management and recovery efforts. With a mission to prevent homelessness among disaster survivors, DSC has re-housed numerous families, provided essential recovery resources, and built resilient communities. Our programs include the innovative House in a Box™, which supplies new furniture and household goods to families in need, and Parish Recovery Assistance Centers (P-RACs), offering holistic support to disaster survivors.

Key achievements include:

- Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) Serving 6,628 households across various programs in 2023 and 2024. Providing services valued at \$49,182,596.53.
- House in a Box™ program serving a total of 969 families and 3,876 individuals, with services valued at \$3,334,437.50.
- Operating disaster case management programs in states like Florida, Mississippi, and Hawaii, among others.
- Launching the American Response and Resiliency Program (ARRP) to deliver rapid financial assistance through advanced technology.

DSC's comprehensive training programs empower Vincentian volunteers, ensuring they are well-prepared to lead disaster response efforts effectively. Our commitment to integrating equity into emergency management fosters the empowerment of marginalized communities, enhancing their resilience.





## Mission

**The mission of the Disaster Services Corporation is to model the charism of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul by providing quality programs and services to families and communities impacted by natural and manmade disasters across this great nation.**

Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA (DSC) facilitates change by integrating equity into all aspects of emergency management. Our focus is on humanity, and our vision supports the empowerment of marginalized communities within all phases of the disaster management cycle. We support the development and implementation of innovative community-based programs and adaptation projects to enhance resilience in diverse, vulnerable, and underserved communities.

DSC is a Catholic lay organization and non-profit that provides person-to-person recovery services to families impacted by man-made and natural disasters across the United States and US territories. Vincentians have been responding to disasters since the U.S. Civil War era, making us one of the oldest non-profit organizations focused on disaster relief in the country.

## Our Purpose

We are dedicated to guiding and supporting essential relief efforts, enabling you to make efficient and positive impacts in your communities. The better prepared Vincentians are, the quicker they can recover. Our support is vital across the United States, beginning at the local level within your community. This preparedness empowers Vincentians to lead and provide essential assistance until official help arrives.

The Disaster Services Corporation (DSC) supports Vincentian Councils and Isolated Conferences across the United States and American Territories. We provide logistical support, Rapid Response, and Long-Term Recovery Grants to Councils affected by manmade and natural disasters.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is organized into nine Regions, each represented by a Regional Disaster Representative on the National Disaster Committee. These Disaster Representatives contact DSC when Councils need grants or other support programs to aid their recovery efforts.

# Our Services



## Test, Train, Exercise

We train and deploy Vincentian volunteers. Teams are comprised of an Incident Commander, a Public Information Officer, a Resource Coordinator, and Logistics Officer.



## Grants Program

The DSC grant-making program supports Vincentian Councils and Isolated Conferences with essential funds for disaster response and recovery. Targeted grants aid logistics, rapid response, and recovery efforts, enhancing community resilience.



## Parish Recovery Assistance Center

P-RACs are located in parish community centers and provide a holistic approach to Disaster Recovery. P-RACs provide immediate casework, resources, and connect survivors to vital community services.



## House in a Box™

This program provides new furniture and furnishings to families that are reviewed and referred through the DCM process. The program is scalable to the size of the family and starts at \$3200 for a family of four.



## Disaster Case Management (DCMP)

DSC has coordinated DCMP in various forms for decades. Case managers assist survivor families in their long-term recovery by advocating for clients, appealing adverse decisions of federal, state, private insurers, and other recovery funding decision-makers. DCMP programs help to prevent homelessness by finding sustainable housing solutions.



## SVDP Council Support

We are your steadfast partner in crisis, providing essential resources, comprehensive training, and strategic connections for effective disaster response. Our skilled team offers reliable support. Join our network to empower volunteers with specialized training and build resilient communities—one crisis at a time.

Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

# Where we have Been, Where we are Operating

## Disaster Case Management

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Maui
- Texas (opening soon)

## House in a Box™

- Kentucky
- Tennessee
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Indiana

## Regional & Council Trainings

- Kentucky
- Tennessee
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Indiana
- Georgia
- Western Region
- Mid-Atlantic Region



## Training Tailored for Vincentians

Enrolling in our training program, provides you with an opportunity to become part of a passionate community dedicated to making a positive difference during challenging times. Help us build resilience and hope in disaster-affected communities.

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# By the Numbers Grant Program

DSC's Grant Program is Digitized

22



64,963



\$128,334,437

## Grants Issued

to support both Rapid Response and Long Term Recovery requests.

## Disaster Survivors

DSC and Vincentians have helped recover in the country.

## Value of Services

of services that DSC has provided to disaster survivors in their long-term recovery.

Disaster Services Corporation (DSC) is excited to announce the transition of our grant program to an online platform, moving away from the previous method of handwritten paper submissions sent by email and mail. This modernization aims to streamline the application process, making it more efficient and accessible for all prospective candidates. It is important to note that only active members of the National Society of St. Vincent de Paul, USA, affiliated with a Council or Conference in good standing with the National Council, are eligible to apply. Individuals who are not Vincentians or members of the National Society of St. Vincent de Paul are not eligible for grants. These grants are allocated to local Conferences/Councils, ensuring that the funds are disbursed to communities impacted by disasters, with decisions made by the local members.



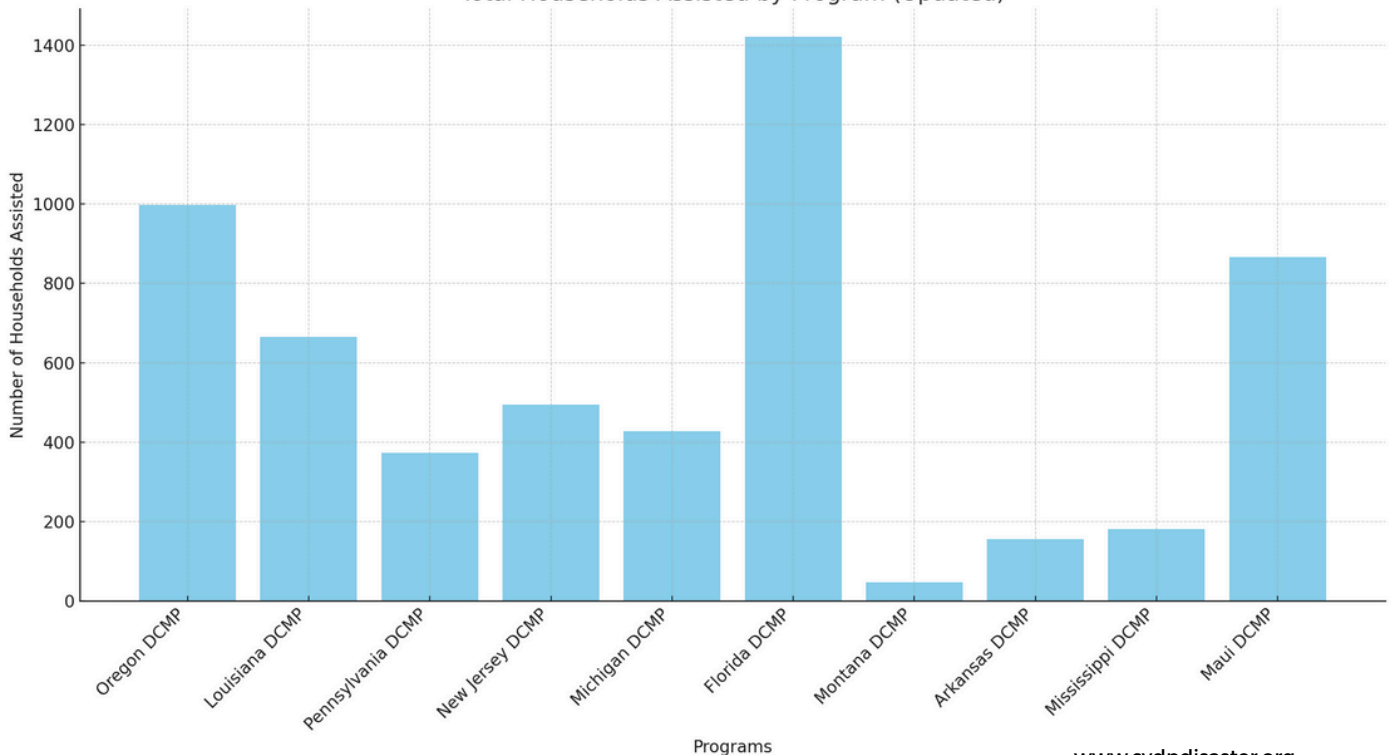
# Disaster Case Management Program Review

## Overview

In 2023, the Disaster Services Corporation (DSC), Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA achieved significant milestones in disaster case management across multiple states. The following statistics highlight our efforts in supporting disaster-impacted households and the value of services provided. Our primary focus is to assist disaster survivors, who have become homeless or displaced due to the disaster, to find sustainable housing solutions and assist them in achieving their recovery plans.



Total Households Assisted by Program (Updated)

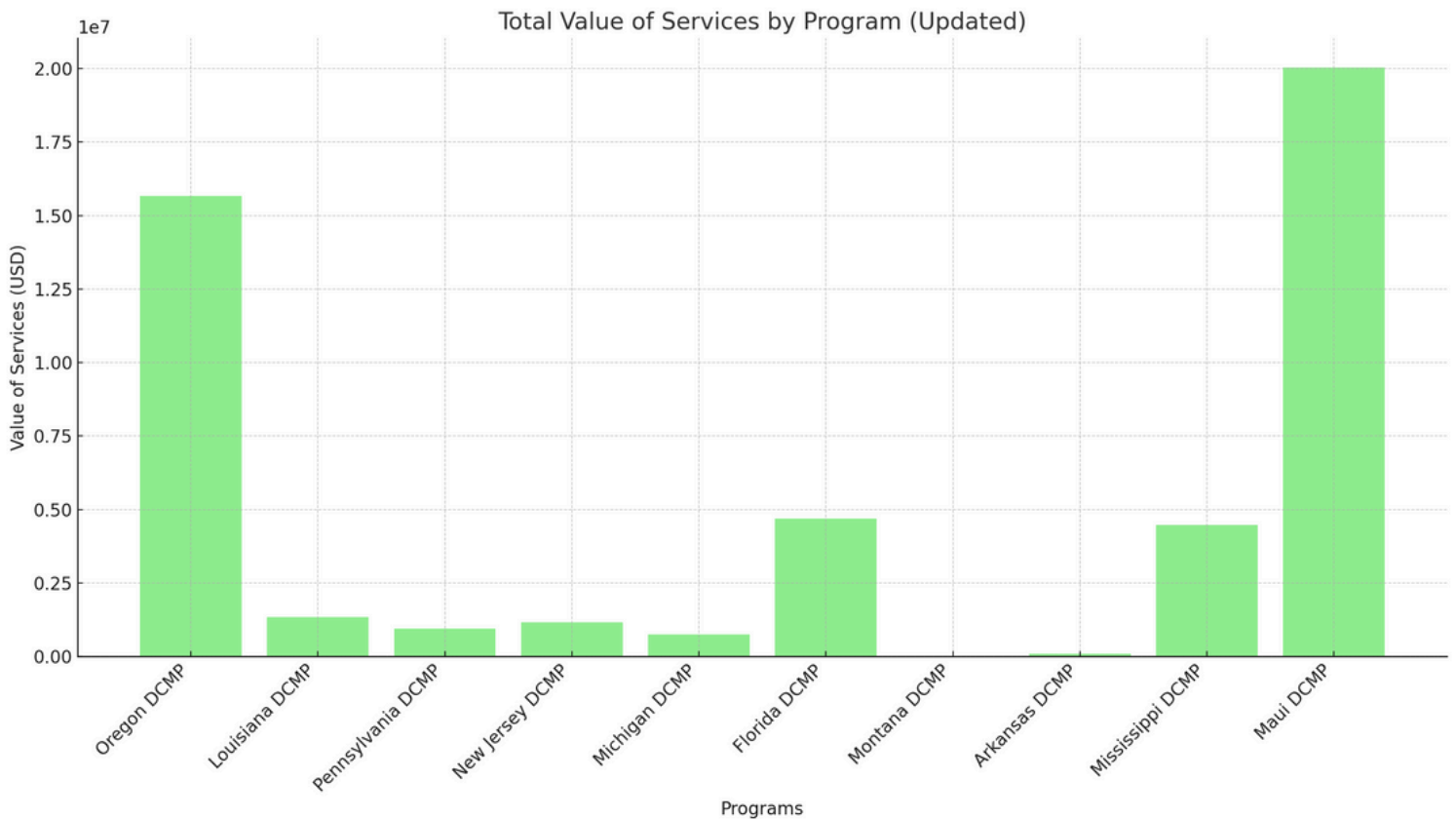




# Disaster Case Management Program Highlights

## Standout Statistics

- Total Households Served: 6,628 households across all programs in 2023 & 2024.
- Total Value of Services Provided: \$49,182,596.53 in services across all programs in 2023 and 2024 to date.
- Largest Program by Value: The Maui Disaster Case Management Program, with a total value of services provided at \$20,037,994.00.
- Largest Program by Households Served: The Florida Disaster Case Management Program (Groups 2 and 3), assisting 1,421 households.
- Top 5 Unmet Needs:
  - Household Furniture
  - Housing – Permanent – Relocation
  - Household Goods
  - Housing – Permanent – Reconstruction
  - Household – Large Appliances



Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

# By the Numbers

## 2023 - 2024 Closed Programs

### **Oregon Disaster Case Management Program**

Disaster: Wildfire

Households Closed: 998

Value of Services: \$15,661,696.03

Partnerships: Catholic Charities of Oregon, Santiam Hospital  
Integration, Glide Revitalization

### **Pennsylvania Disaster Case Management Program**

Disaster: Hurricane Ida (Opened September 2021)

Households Closed: 373

Value of Services: \$942,969.17

### **New Jersey Disaster Case Management Program**

Launched: January 2023

Closed: February 1, 2024

Households Closed: 495

Value of Services: \$1,159,549.10

### **Michigan Disaster Case Management Program**

Disaster: Severe Storms and Flooding (Opened June 2021)

Households Closed: 427

Value of Services: \$762,006.89



Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

# By the Numbers

## 2023- 2024 Open Programs

### **Florida Disaster Case Management Program (Groups 2 and 3)**

- Disaster: Hurricane Ian
- Households Assisted: 1,421
- Value of Services: \$4,687,406.01
- Counties Served: Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Sarasota, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Collier, Monroe, Hendry

### **Montana Disaster Case Management Program (DR-4655)**

- Households Assisted: 47
- Value of Services: \$7,795.00
- Counties Served: Carbon, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Park

### **Arkansas Disaster Case Management Program (DR-4698)**

- Households Assisted: 156
- Value of Services: \$98,557.45
- Counties Served: Cross, Pulaski

### **Mississippi Disaster Case Management Program (DR-4697)**

- Households Assisted: 181
- Value of Services: \$4,482,761.97
- Counties Served: Carroll, Humphreys, Montgomery, Monroe, Panola, Sharkey

### **Maui Disaster Case Management Program (DR-4724-HI)**

- Households Assisted: 866
- Value of Services: \$20,037,994.00
- Focus Area: Lahaina, Maui



Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

# Disaster Case Management Program Conclusion

Our primary focus is to assist disaster survivors who have become homeless or displaced due to the disaster, helping them find sustainable housing solutions and supporting them in achieving their recovery plans. In 2023, DSC's Disaster Case Management Programs successfully managed a wide range of disaster recovery efforts across various states, providing substantial support and services to thousands of households. Our partnerships with local organizations and effective allocation of resources have been crucial in addressing the diverse needs of disaster survivors, facilitating their recovery and rebuilding process.

Our organization is deeply committed to advocating for the unmet needs of disaster survivors that extend beyond the immediate assistance provided by FEMA. Through robust external partnerships within the community, including collaborations with local resources and participation in unmet needs tables, we strive to address and fulfill these critical needs. By addressing these needs, we aim to provide comprehensive and long-term support to disaster survivors, ensuring they have the resources and support necessary to rebuild their lives.

These statistics underscore our commitment to aiding disaster-stricken communities and our capability to deliver essential services efficiently and effectively.

## Combined 2023 and 2024 Data

- Total Households Served in 2023 & 2024 to date: 6,628
- Total Value of Services Provided in 2023 & 2024 to date: \$49,182,596.53
- Total Disaster Case Managers Deployed: 104



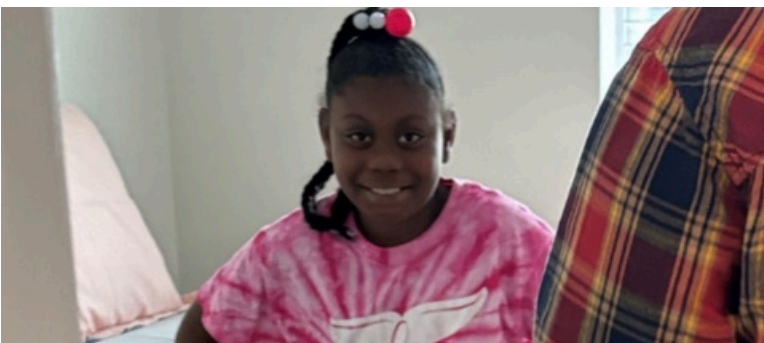
# Building Hope: Preventing Homelessness for Disaster Survivors

## The Carter Family

Every day, DSC's dedicated staff and Vincentian volunteers work together to prevent homelessness for families. In Mississippi, we were able to help the Carter family. Venisha Carter, a single parent, lost her home during the March 2023 tornado that hit Rolling Fork, MS. Her story is one of hope and resilience.

At the time of the tornado, Venisha was renting. As a single parent, managing the budget was challenging, and any unexpected expense could cause significant strain. When a St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Case Manager called to assess her situation, the Carters were living in a hotel 30 miles away, facing financial and emotional difficulties.

The Disaster Case Manager offered Venisha an opportunity to apply for homeownership. Venisha provided all necessary documents, and her needs for relocation, furniture, appliances, household goods, and counseling were noted. She was thrilled to be approved for a 3-bedroom, 2-bath home near a playground.



Now settled in their new home, the Carters are thriving. Venisha enjoys cooking meals at home and spending family time, with a mortgage less than her previous rent, including insurance and property taxes. She is committed to maintaining her new home with love. Disaster Case Managers Keke Wilson and Zori Moore volunteered to assemble furniture funded by DSC through our House in a Box™ Program. Appliances and household goods were provided by the SVDP St. Richard Conference in Jackson, MS, and the home was funded by the Rolling Fork Rising program.

# National VOAD and DSC Launch American Response and Resiliency Program Ahead of 2024 Hurricane Season



## Rapid and Equitable Financial Assistance through Advanced Technology

This innovative approach drastically reduces response times, allowing support to be delivered in hours, if not minutes.



## Strong Collaborations for Comprehensive Disaster Response

The success of the Kare Survivor Wallet is bolstered by partnerships with esteemed organizations such as the American Red Cross, Amazon Business, Catholic Charities USA, and Walmart.org.



### DISASTER PREPARATION LIST

- WATER
- NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
- BATTERY RADIO
- BATTERIES
- FIRST AID KIT
- FLASHLIGHT
- BLANKET
- CANDLES
- CAN OPENER
- PRESCRIPTION MEDS
- PET FOOD
- WARM CLOTHING
- CELL PHONE
- MATCHES
- WHISTLE
- CASH & KEYS
- HAND SANITIZER
- BASIC TOOL SET
- TRASH BAGS
- BABY SUPPLIES
- EMERGENCY CONTACTS
- PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS
- DUST MASK
- IMPORTANT DOCS

EMERGENCY INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_



## About the Program

DSC and National VOAD have launched the American Response and Resiliency Program (ARRP) to provide rapid financial assistance to disaster survivors through the Kare Survivor Wallet app. Developed with AID:Tech and the Algorand Foundation, the app ensures timely and equitable aid distribution using blockchain technology. It offers decentralized identity verification, anti-fraud measures, and partnerships with major organizations like the American Red Cross and Walmart.org, significantly reducing response times and increasing resilience for underserved communities.

# House in a Box™ Highlights

## Summary

DSC’s House in a Box™ program has made a substantial impact by serving a total of 969 families and 3,876 individuals. The total value of services provided through this program amounts to \$3,334,437.50. This demonstrates the program's effectiveness in delivering essential support and resources to families and individuals affected by disasters.



### Facts and Figures:

#### Tennessee ARC Program:

- Families Served: 264
- Individuals Served: 1,056

#### Louisiana:

- Families Served: 99
- Individuals Served: 396

#### Rolling Fork, Mississippi:

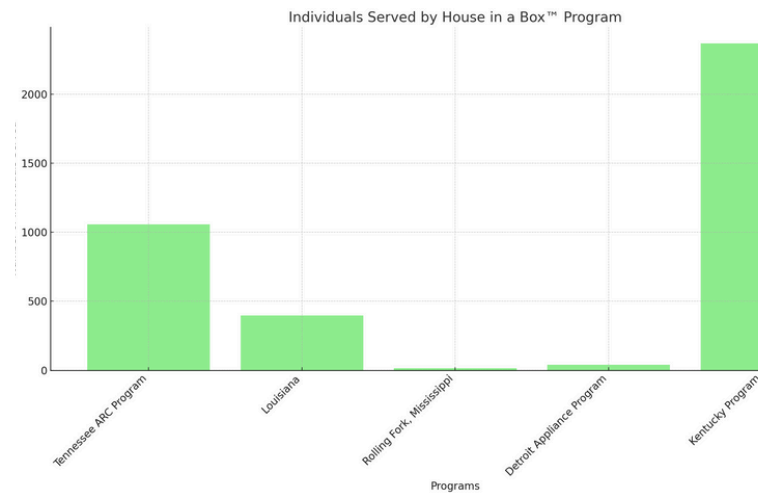
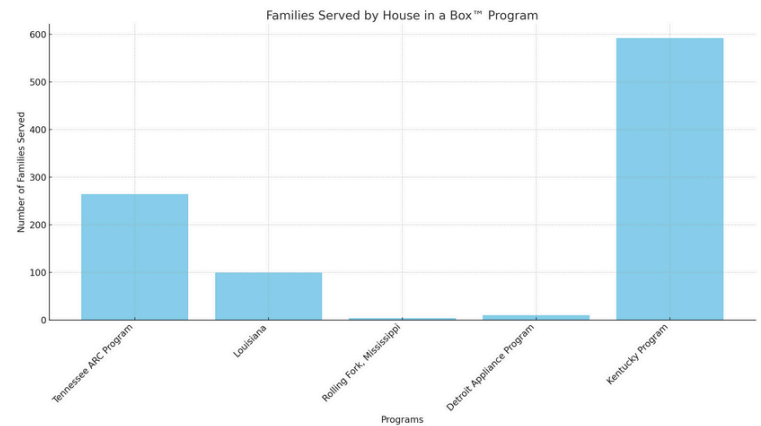
- Families Served: 4
- Individuals Served: 16

#### Detroit Appliance Program:

- Families Served: 10
- Individuals Served: 40

#### Kentucky Program:

- Families Served: 592
- Individuals Served: 2,368



Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

# Mr. Burns and DSC's House in a Box™ Program

## Mr. Burns of Western, KY

Mr. Burns, a survivor of the 2021 tornado in Western Kentucky, faced the loss of his home, belongings, and vehicle. Despite these challenges, he remained positive and grateful. This story highlights his journey of recovery, supported by the House in a Box™ Program and the community.

Living in the Barnsley area of Hopkins County, Mr. Burns' home was directly hit by the tornado, leaving him without a place to live. For the next 27 months, he lived in a camper trailer on his brother's property, navigating the difficulties of his new situation.



The furniture and household items from the House in a Box™ Program made Mr. Burns' new house feel like home. Grateful for the support, Mr. Burns appreciated the beautiful furniture, which helped him settle comfortably.



Mr. Burns' journey from losing his home to settling into a new one shows the positive impact of DSC's House in a Box™ Program and community partnerships. There are many more disaster survivors in need of a fresh start, and your support can make a significant difference in their lives.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the leadership of Richard B. Remp-Morris and Vicki Duncan of the SVDP Diocesan Council of Western Kentucky for their dedication and exemplary support.



Disaster Services Corporation, SVDP-USA

# More Inquiries And Information About Us

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## THANK YOU

“Extend your mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping. For what hope is there for us if God should withdraw His Mercy from us?”

St. Vincent de Paul

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