

A brief history of the origin of the HPC “DiRT Ministry”

In 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, primarily Louisiana and Mississippi. Our Fred and Ruth Siegenthaler, after volunteering with American Red Cross, came back to recruit volunteers to return to help. As a result HPC sent 15 one-week teams to “mud out” and rebuild homes under the auspices of Samaritan’s Purse (SP).

The ministry became known as DiRT for Disaster Response Team. After Hurricane Katrina, DiRT responded to hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Colorado, Missouri, Alabama, Florida, New York, and Taiwan. We also worked with Southern Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, and secular disaster relief agencies.

When the Covid lockdowns and testing protocols came along then DiRT ceased to function. That was “then,” now ...

A humorous call to go!

Everybody sees the need to help after Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Somebody should help.

Anybody can help.

So .. will **Nobody** help?

How about you?

Why do we go?

- i. To help people recover “physically” from a disaster
- ii. (more importantly) To demonstrate the love of Christ for them in the midst of a terrible situation

Two good ways to help specific to High Point Church?

1. Contribute money to The HPC Benevolence Fund
 - A. Don’t bankrupt yourself or your family
 - B. Be generous (not at expense of regular giving or year-end gift)
2. Consider volunteering to go on a DiRT trip to a (usually) SP or other site
 - A. Evaluate yourself: body and soul (don’t break either!)
 - i. Mud-out is heavy, dirty, exhausting work (occasionally fun)
 - ii. Emphasis is on showing the love of Christ, not amount done
 - iii. Alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, illicit drugs, foul language should stay home (or be abandoned!)

- B. Evaluate your time and schedule
 - i. Such trips to “far away” are usually for 5 work days + travel
 - ii. Flexibility in when you could go is a major virtue, but if you are available for only one specific week in the near future, it is still a valuable virtue
 - iii. Really “far away” trips involve overnight hotel stays
 - C. Navigate the initial paperwork
 - i. Sign DiRT trip release of Liability for High Point
 - ii. Provide proof of health insurance as first coverage for you
 - iii. **If** you wish to drive on a DiRT trip
 - a. Provide proof of car insurance as first coverage for you
 - b. Request DMV background check (use Initial DiRT Paperwork form)
 - iv. Similar paperwork with, e.g., SP
 - D. Note minimal financial cost to you on a DiRT trip!
 - i. Car rental and fuel cost to/from borne by High Point
 - ii. Lodging cost to/from (if any) borne by High Point
 - iii. Meals to/from largely (?) borne by **you**
 - iv. SP with local facility (usually a church) supplies lodging, meals, snacks, protective clothing, tools as needed
 - v. Often t-shirts are given to volunteers!
 - E. Sex and age guidelines
 - i. Women are welcome on DiRT trips, but preferably two or more at a time
 - ii. Teens are welcome on DiRT trips, but preferably with parent going, too, and following SP (or other umbrella agency) guidelines
3. Volunteer to go
- A. Choose a week or weeks that you could go (choosing multiple weeks makes it more likely that a “match” can be found)
 - B. Notify the DiRT CLoD of your avail times
 - C. When enough (usually four or more) volunteers volunteer for the same week, then the CLoD will organize the trip, from volunteers, to transportation, to overnight lodging, to coordination with SP or other umbrella organization
 - D. There are other areas less far away that need help, so shorter than a week trips can be arranged: talk to the DiRT CLoD if you are interested

DiRT administrative details that volunteers do not need to know

4. Submit estimate of trip expense to Benevolence Fund (same info as on reimbursement form)
5. Possible advertising locations
 - A1. Sunday Serve Booth (Rickey DeYoung)
 - A2. Platform announcements (Preston Bousley)
 - A3. Wall slides before/after services (Preston Bousley)
 - A3. Send-offs (Preston Bousley)
 - B. Men's monthly breakfast (2nd Saturday of month, Craig Fonzen)
 - C. Men's Monday night basketball at High Point (Nellie Cejpek)
 - D. Young Adult Ministry (Nellie Cejpek)
 - E. Cru International Ministry when school out (Dean Waldenmaier)
6. Trip Leader: Take copy of tax-exempt certificate for hotels (check in advance for acceptance)
7. Accounting expenses (Ideal, not mandatory)
 - A: Use CLoD credit card (authorization for trip leader use) on trip
 - B. Keep receipts "as you go" so nothing is forgotten
 - C. CLoD files reimbursement form with Benevolence Fund (**name of BF administrator**) within a week of return