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Give Wisely: Ensuring Your Disaster Donations Make a Real Difference

Joint Base ELMENDORF Richardson, Alaska – In the wake of the recent Alaska West Coast Storm, many people feel the urgent desire to help those affected. Financial donations are often the most effective way to support disaster response and recovery—but only when given to legitimate organizations. Unfortunately, scam operations often appear during times of crisis, preying on the generosity of well-intentioned donors.

To ensure your donation truly helps those in need, follow these tips for giving safely and effectively:

1. Donate to Established, Recognized Organizations

Choose reputable disaster relief organizations with a proven track record, such as:

- [The American Red Cross](#)
- [The Salvation Army](#)
- [Food Bank of Alaska](#)
- [World Central Kitchen](#)
- Faith-based organizations known for disaster response efforts such as Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

Team Rubicon continues to manage donations. Priority items remain the following:

Used items are not requested at this time

- Winter Coats: adults and children, all sizes
- Winter Boots: adults and children, all sizes
- Camping mattress pads
- Sleeping bags
- Blankets – twin, full and queen sizes
- Luggage including duffle bags

- New, with tags clothing for adults (XS – 5XL)
- New, with tags clothing for children (all sizes)
- New shoes (including slip-ons and slides)
- New winter hats and gloves
- Personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, lotion, hairbrushes/combs, hair ties, nail clippers, lip balm, etc.)

A Team Rubicon distribution center is at 1120 East 1st Avenue. Goods are being moved in and out daily to support survivors staying in shelters and those visiting shelters for assistance. Donations can be dropped off 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

To donate financial support to Team Rubicon, go to <https://teamrubiconusa.org/>

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) is accepting subsistence and traditional food donations to provide nourishing meals for the families displaced to Anchorage. Bring donations to ANTHC Lodging at Tudor Centre, 4001 Tudor Centre Drive, Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm. <https://anthc.org/>

Several local community organizations and regional partners have come together to establish the Western Alaska Disaster Relief Fund through the Alaska Community Foundation. Donate to the fund through the Alaska Community Foundation website at <https://alaskacf.org/>

The American Red Cross of Alaska, Salvation Army Alaska Division, World Central Kitchen, Alaska Food Bank, and other Alaska VOADS are all contributing to the disaster response and are accepting donations which can be used for storm response.

2. Verify Before You Give

Before donating, verify that the charity is legitimate by visiting trusted sources such as:

- [Charity Navigator](#)
- [Give.org](#)

Resource Links

- [Alaska VOAD](#)
- [Donation Video](#)
- [FEMA Donation Video](#)

3. Be Cautious with Online Campaigns

Crowdfunding and social media fundraisers can be powerful tools—but not all are verified. Before contributing:

- Confirm that the campaign lists a specific organization or individual you can identify.
- Look for transparency about how funds will be used.
- Be wary of urgent or emotional appeals that lack clear details.

4. Don't Give to Unsolicited Requests

Be skeptical of unexpected emails, texts, or phone calls asking for donations. Scammers often use fake names or create look-alike websites. Always go directly to an organization's official website rather than following links in messages or posts.

5. Give Money, Not Supplies—Unless Requested

For information on how to donate or for survivors to access donations, please see the resource flyer available on our website: [Resource Flyer](#)

6. Report Fraud to the Disaster Fraud Hotline If you have knowledge of fraud, waste, abuse, or allegations of mismanagement involving disaster relief operations. Call the Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721, or go to [Justice.gov/DisasterComplaintForm](https://www.justice.gov/DisasterComplaintForm), Or write: National Center for Disaster Fraud, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909 Calls can be made anonymously and confidentially

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