

How can I support CDS' work with children?

- Pray for this ministry
- Volunteer
- Host a training
- Organize a fund raising event
- Make a donation
 - Send a financial contribution to
Emergency Disaster Fund
Church of the Brethren
1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120
 - Donate online at
www.brethren.org/givecds



- What is happening?
- Why are Mom & Dad crying?
- Will someone I love be hurt?
- Who will take care of me?
- Where's my dog?
- Will this happen again?

These are just a few of the questions children have in the wake of a disaster. To make sense of the confusion, sadness, and fear they may feel, children instinctively seek comfort and support. At the same time, the stress of a disaster and addressing the basic necessities of life—food, clothing and shelter—can be a heavy load for parents.

CDS provides a safe and reassuring space for children with an opportunity to play. While children are thought to be resilient, they are also vulnerable. Play helps a child to naturally process the feelings, fears, confusion and stresses stirred up by the disaster.

Children's Disaster Services

601 Main Street, P. O. Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188
800-451-4407 or 410-635-8734
CDS@brethren.org
www.childrensdisasterservices.org

Children's Disaster Services is a program administered by the Church of the Brethren, Brethren Disaster Ministries.



American
Red Cross



National
VOAD

CDS is pleased to be in partnership with:

- American Red Cross
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):
Week of Compassion
- Child Life Disaster Relief

*Photos by Crystal Baker, Jenn Dorsch-Messler, Martha Farahat,
Kathy Fry-Miller, Lorna Grow, Patty Henry, Judy Kruse,
Pearl Miller, Erin Myers and courtesy of Alice Bair*

Nurturing Children

Equipping Volunteers

Supporting Families



Children's Disaster Services

Caring for children since 1980



Nurturing Children

Since 1980 Children's Disaster Services (CDS) has been meeting the needs of children by setting up child care centers in shelters and disaster assistance centers across the nation. Specially trained to respond to traumatized children, volunteers provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence in the midst of chaos.

Arriving with a "Kit of Comfort" – carefully selected toys that promote imaginative play – volunteers encourage children to express themselves, thereby starting the healing process.

"When I see Children's Disaster Services here, I know everything is going to be alright."

FEMA employee — New Orleans, LA



Supporting Families & Communities

CDS works with parents, community agencies, schools, and others, through consultations or workshops specifically tailored to each situation, to help them understand and meet the special needs of children during or after a disaster.

CDS also provides respite, education, and individualized consultation for parents about their child's unique emotional needs after a disaster.

Partner agencies report that CDS creates an environment that makes it easier to give aid to those in need.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."

—Jesus in Matthew 18:5

Equipping Volunteers

Volunteers from across the country

- Participate in a specialized experiential training
- Undergo a rigorous screening process
- Learn to work with children after a disaster
- Are capable of mobilizing rapidly
- Respond both locally and nationally

Although many volunteers are motivated by faith, CDS trainings are open to anyone aged 18 and over.

Critical Response Childcare

CDS has been providing Critical Response Childcare (CRC) since 1997 in partnership with Red Cross, National Transportation Safety Board, and local governments. CRC volunteers receive additional training in responding to the needs of children after a terrorism or mass casualty event.

CDS is able to deploy volunteers within hours of an event to provide respite and support to children and families.

