

# Collaborative Approaches



## Who are We?

Headwaters Relief Organization is an international, non-profit that works in the field of disaster relief where our mission is to bring hope and build resiliency.

- We work to promote public health through education, medical and psychosocial support
- We support communities in clean-up and rebuilding through partnerships
- We seek to inspire passion to serve others and forge connections between volunteers and the community at large





## Where we began?

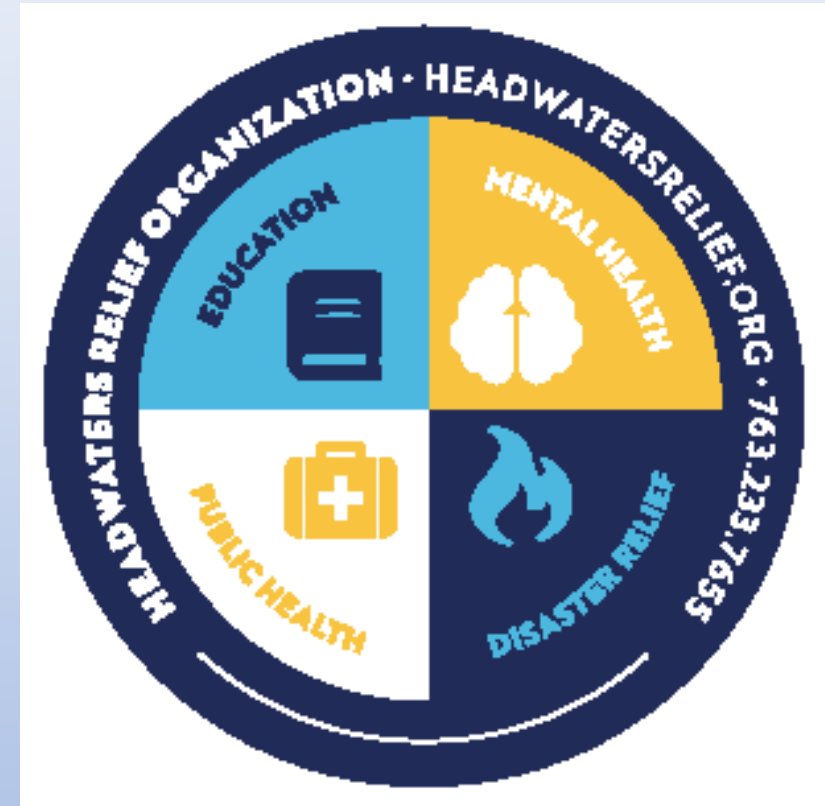
- Our national presence began as a grassroots volunteer effort, providing disaster relief in response to Hurricane Katrina in Ninth Ward of New Orleans [**River of Hope**], 2005
- Our long term engagements started with the opening up of a walk-in mental health resource health center in New Orleans, 2007
- Our international relief works began after the Haiti earthquake in 2010

Since then, we have been actively engaged in multiple local, national and international disasters.



## What do we do?

- Public Health Initiatives
- Mental Health Initiatives
- Our work with Children
- Education and research
- Cleanup, Rebuilding (in partnerships)
- Medical Support



## **Public Health Initiatives**

We believe that greater attention and resources must be devoted to promoting a safer environment, healthy lifestyles, prevention of illnesses, early detection and treatment, as well as dealing with the underlying determinants of health

- Gaps in healthcare provision are significant everywhere
- Disaster situations, economic crisis and rural and remote settings compound the disadvantages

**Therefore, we work in these disadvantageous settings, to strategically identify the public health needs, establish strategies to support and mitigate their public health issues.**

## Mental Health Initiatives

We understand that it is natural to experience different and strong emotions during and after a disaster. Coping with these experiences and getting support helps a community recover from a disaster. Therefore, our mental health initiatives are aimed to provide mental health support in disaster response.

- Our “on the ground support” includes providing support to first responders, training care givers, educating and supporting students, volunteers and those directly impacted by the disaster
- We provide trainings and certifications on Psychosocial Response after disaster, Psychological First Aid (PFA)
- We have also developed a curriculum to train NGO teams working in camps for refugees on compassion fatigue, and grief and loss and other topics



## **Our work with Children**

Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in disasters, however the pivotal role they can play in supporting the development of resiliency is yet to be fully recognized. We have been working globally with children and their communities in disaster, helping them understand and cope with their experiences and helping their societies recover.

- Six children's books have been developed in response to disasters in Haiti, the Philippines, West Africa, Nepal, Puerto Rico, as well as a book for refugee children. These books combine the art of story telling and role of children in supporting the development of community resiliency. They address normal emotional responses to disaster while building coping skills.
- Each book is accompanied by a caregiver guide that provides instruction on how to use the books with children
- Educational Sponsorship



## Education and research

- We have published three research studies related to our work in New Orleans, two in partnership with Lesley University and one with Georgetown University.
- We conducted a research study in partnership with Georgetown University on children and trauma in Haiti. The findings were published in the Journal of Traumatology and we recently completed the data collection phase for a follow up study.
- We also performed a feasibility study of a Blood Bank in Liberia.
- We are designing a study for assessment of long term physical and psychological affects of a disaster affected community in New Orleans.
- A study on the outcome/impact assessment of our refugee book to be undertaken in refugee camps in Jordan is underway.







## **Cleanup and Rebuilding (in partnership)**

- Our volunteers have been helping with cleanup and removal of debris post disaster
- In partnership with various construction and trade organizations we assist in rebuilding



## **Medical Support**

- We have provided medical assistance in disaster affected communities. Conduct free medical camps  
provide medical supplies
- We also provide consultation on improving medical services



## Our Volunteers

Headwaters is based on the concept that Volunteerism is a basic expression of human relationships. Through volunteerism we express our values of justice, equality and dreams of a healthy society. We have provided opportunities for all volunteers to come and realize their social moral self, make contributions to the well-being of people and communities.

We have welcomed people with a variety of background, culture, religion and experiences, to be a part of our team.

**Our volunteers donated over 35,000 hours with us in 2018!**

- Whether you are on the ground or behind-the-scenes, by becoming a Headwaters volunteer you will be making a difference in the lives of other people
- Our volunteerism experience is infused with values of solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust, belonging and empowerment





## Upcoming schedules/Future Plans

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## Partnerships

At Headwaters we recognize that we need partnerships and collaborative approaches that address the full array of factors impacting our health and wellbeing . To effectively design, implement, and sustain a comprehensive approach to promoting the overall health of communities, we need a meaningful collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

- These partnerships should be focused on improving community health built on a foundation of trust
- The capabilities of partners and resource constraints need to be fully understood and respected
- New partnerships should adopt a statement of understanding that focuses on clearly-defined, high priority needs and inspire community-wide interest, engagement, and support
- For long-term success, partnerships need to have deep dedication to the partnership's mission and commitment



- Partnership should be evidence-based, should include evaluation of the partnership's progress in achieving its mission and goals and fulfill its accountability
- All partnerships should place priority on developing and disseminating impact statements that present an evidence-based picture of the effects of the partnership's efforts
- Partnerships should have a designated individual/s that set policies and provide strategic leadership for the partnership

## **The leadership:**

- should strive to build a clear, mutual understanding of concepts, definitions, and principles among the partners and participants
- must specify the community health measures they want to address, particular objectives and targets they intend to achieve, and the metrics they will use to track and monitor progress
- establish standing committees with oversight responsibility for their organization's engagement, establishing priorities and developing strategies for addressing them including multi-sector collaboration





## How does the partnership work

Partnership possibilities are discussed to determine what might be the best way to mutually support your organizations and Headwaters in disaster relief work.

Types of partnership opportunities:

- **Volunteering opportunities** : Is it providing volunteering opportunities for the staff: in-house, locally, nationally or internationally?
- **Training and Education**: Headwaters can provide your staff trainings on disaster relief response, training and educational materials. Psychological First Aid trainings .
- **Tailored opportunities**: We can also provide specific tailored volunteering opportunities as per your organizational need
- **What you have**: we can help/ assist with your ongoing projects





## How does the partnership work?

- Signing of MOU between organizations
- The terms and conditions will be decided with mutual understandings.
- Our partnership could have into Gold, Platinum or Silver Models ( **this is just an idea!**)

By signing this MOU each party agrees to abide by Headwaters policies and guidelines, where applicable.

**Your IDEAS???**





## What is the payoff to your organization?

- This will provide you opportunities for improving your **public relations**,
- Education and training, development of leadership skills among your employees
- Employee retention, satisfaction, Team Building
- Visibility on our website, brochures and publication (Books)
- Expansion of your volunteer program
- Commitment to social good
- Tax Benefits
- Expansion of your market
- Opportunities to create new partnerships





## How does Headwaters Benefit?

- Through you commitments to annual fundraising
- Commitment of a certain donation amount
- Possible payroll deduction
- Increase of our volunteer pool
- Social service
- Increase in number of partners





**Thank you**

