

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Headwaters
RELIEF ORGANIZATION

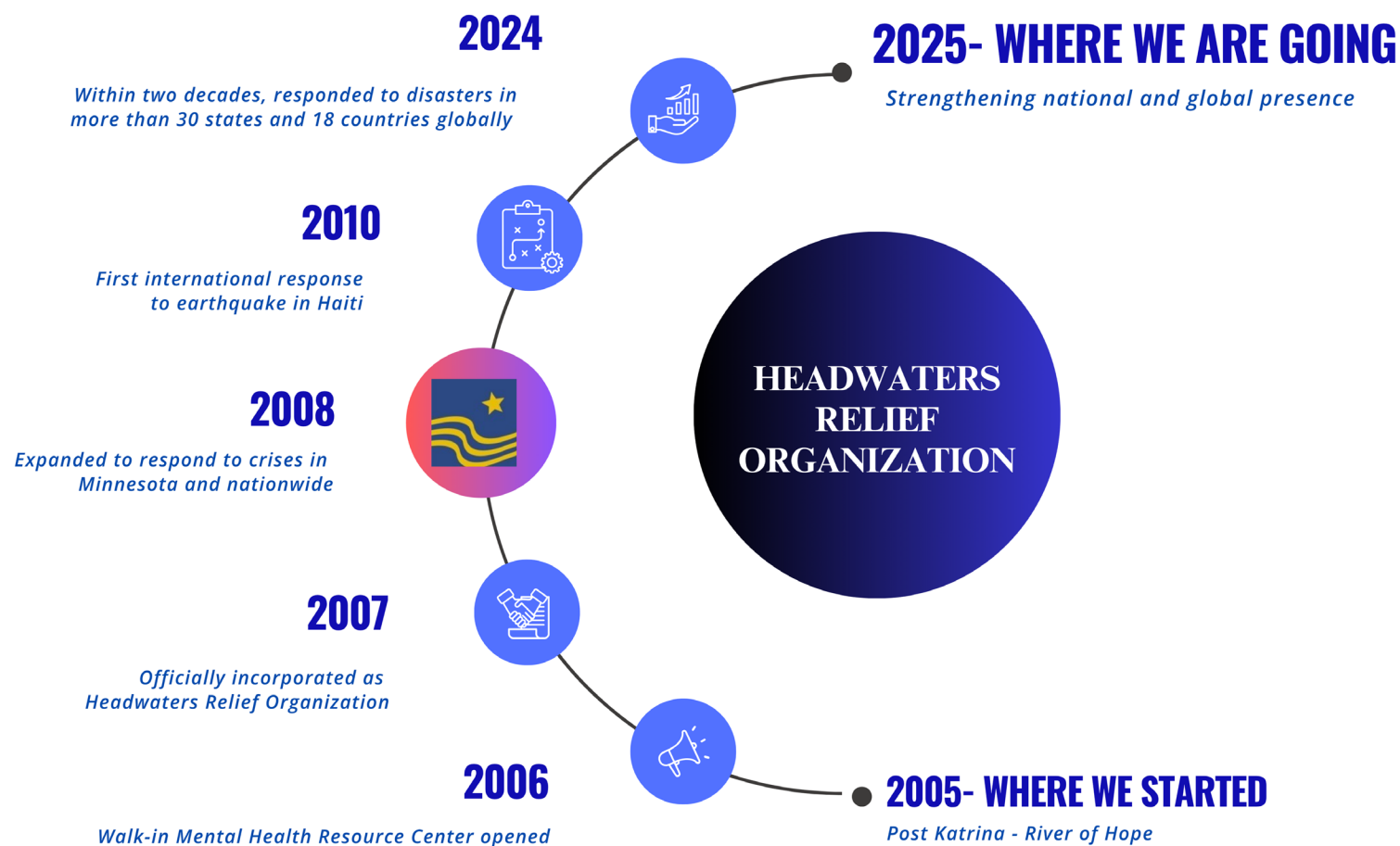


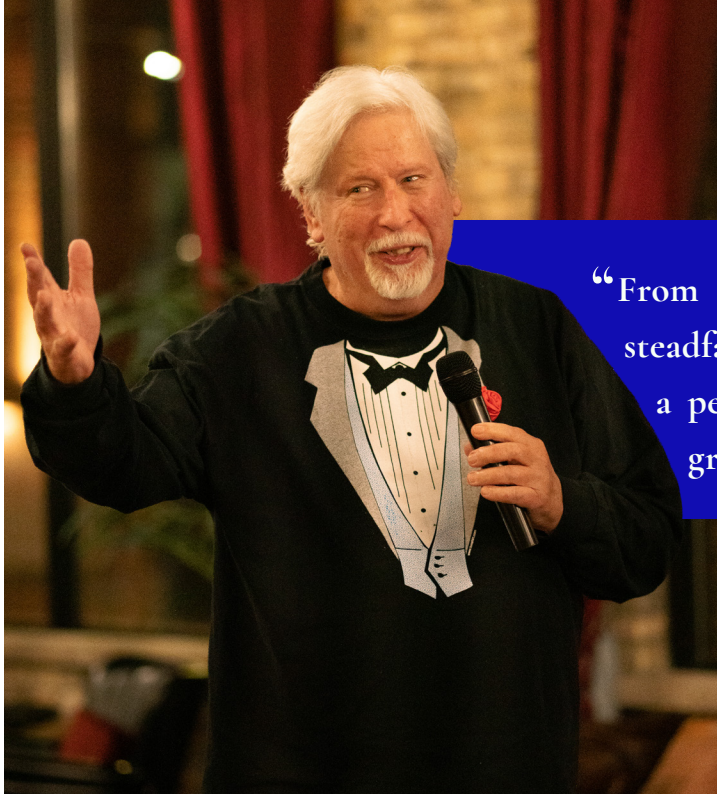
Introduction

Founded in 2005 as a grassroots initiative called “River of Hope,” we began our journey in response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. In 2007, we officially became “Headwaters Relief Organization” upon earning non-profit status.

- Initially dedicated to cleanup and forming rebuilding partnerships, we opened a mental health resource center in the Ninth Ward by 2006.
- By 2008, Headwaters expanded its disaster response activities to include Minnesota and other national crises.
- Our first international response took place in 2010, assisting after the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti.
- Over time, we’ve provided disaster relief and humanitarian aid worldwide, responding to hurricanes, typhoons, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, Ebola outbreaks, refugee crises, and human trafficking.
- Partnering with various organizations, we continue to offer services such as cleanup, rebuilding, education, medical aid, psychosocial support, along with public health endeavors.
- Headwaters Relief Organization has created eleven children’s books and 30 COVID-19 coloring books to help families process disaster-related experiences and build coping strategies, with translations in over 15 languages.
- Every dollar donated directly supports the communities and programs we serve. We have a 100% donation model.
- Our volunteer base includes over 3,000 people from local, national, and international communities.
- With just two full-time staff members (an Executive Director and a Program Director), administrative functions are supported by donated salaries and volunteer assistance.
- Psychosocial services have been a key focus since 2007. We recently secured a grant for an after-school support program and have consistently provided educational assistance in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake.
- Collaboration is central to our work. We partner with organizations globally and are active members of disaster relief and emergency management networks.
- Our funding primarily relies on grants aligned with specific initiatives, with longstanding supporters ensuring our commitment to a 100% donation model.
- Over 70% of our volunteers return to work with us multiple times.

By keeping administrative operations lean, we maintain agility and adapt our services to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve.





“From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your steadfast support. I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and joyful year ahead, filled with love, gratitude, and the spirit of giving.”

Dear Friends & Family,

As we begin a new year, I am excited to share with you the 2024 Annual Report of Headwaters Relief Organization. This is a moment to reflect on our collective efforts and achievements as we continue to grow and expand our mission of providing support to communities affected by natural disasters.

Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our work. Thanks to your generosity, Headwaters has been able to assist countless individuals and communities, both in the U.S. and around the globe. It is because of people like you, who deeply care about making a difference, that we can bring hope to those facing the most challenging circumstances.

Last year, we witnessed the devastating effects of Hurricanes Helene and Milton in the southeastern United States. The destruction was profound, yet the resilience and strength of the affected communities were nothing short of inspiring. Many families are now on the path to recovery, aided by the dedication of local volunteers, donors, and organizations like Headwaters. Your support has been pivotal in turning despair into hope.

As we close the chapter on 2024, I am more convinced than ever of the critical role organizations like Headwaters play in disaster response and recovery. We strive to be a beacon of hope for the most vulnerable, reaching out with compassion and tangible aid. Your continued generosity allows us to provide immediate relief and long-term support, making a meaningful impact on countless lives.

I invite you to visit our website, headwatersrelief.org to learn more about the people we serve and the transformative work made possible by your contributions. Every dollar donated goes directly to disaster relief efforts, and I am proud to share that Headwaters operates entirely through the dedication of volunteers. This ensures that your support directly reaches those who need it most.

Your kindness and compassion bring warmth and hope to families in need, reminding them they are not alone. Together, we make a difference, one life at a time.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your steadfast support. I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and joyful year ahead, filled with love, gratitude, and the spirit of giving.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Daniel G. Leitner
Board President



“Witnessing our community unite to volunteer and uplift those in need has been extremely rewarding for me. These acts of kindness and compassion create a huge impact on the lives of those affected by disasters. We are deeply thankful for all of your support.”

This year has been exceptionally active in terms of disasters. We responded to various incidents across the United States, and towards the end of the year, we concentrated our efforts on the devastating Hurricanes Helene and Milton that impacted the East Coast. We provided essential disaster cleanup, as well as supplies for infants and children, and offered psychosocial support to the communities of Crystal River and Homosassa, Florida.

Our sponsorship program in Haiti is ongoing and making a meaningful impact on communities in Haiti. Through this initiative, we have successfully supplied resources, including educational materials, shoes, backpacks, and food, to support the children at Lived Christian. Our dedication to this program addresses immediate needs but also gives these

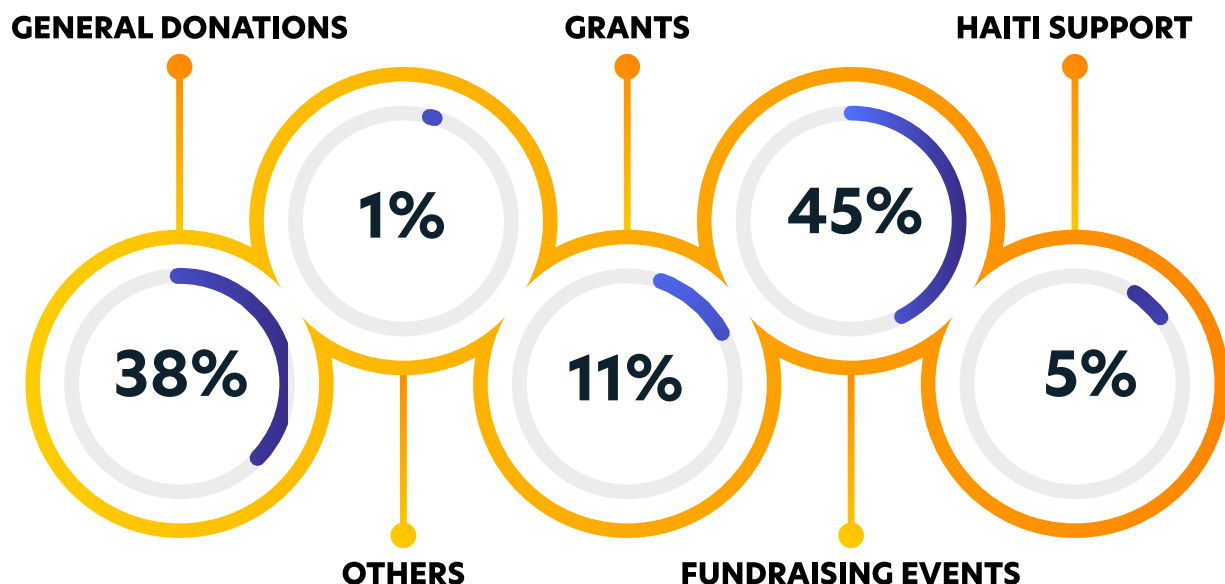
children the opportunity to pursue their education when they may not have the chance otherwise.

We have also continued to support troops and their families, children, and communities locally, nationally, and internationally through North American Banking Company's sponsorship. One way we have done this is by packing military care packages, children's activities, disaster clean-up kits, and making blankets. We have also created activity packs for children living in areas affected by disasters. These packs are designed to help children stay busy and engaged while we work with caregivers and educators on public and mental health education and training. Additionally, we have put together disaster clean-up kits that are distributed to individuals after a disaster, as they may not have access to these items.

Witnessing our community unite to volunteer and lift up those in need has been extremely rewarding for me. These acts of kindness and compassion create a huge impact on the lives of those affected by disasters. We are deeply thankful for all of your support.

Ashley Emry
Program Director

2024 FUNDING



Board of Directors



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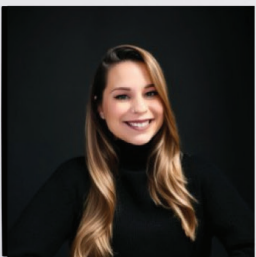


Mary Anderson



Dave Combs

Advisory Committee



Ashley Emry



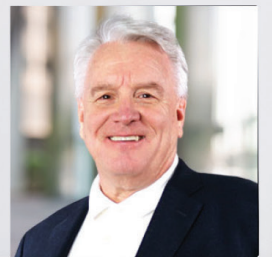
Dr. Roshan Khatri



Cheryl Vennerstrom



Dr. Rebecca Thomley



Joel LeVahn

Community Support in Action

Headwaters Relief's National Disaster Relief Initiatives in 2024



Tennessee Tornado Relief

In December 2023, a devastating outbreak of 18 tornadoes swept through Nashville and its surrounding areas, leaving a trail of destruction. Among the hardest-hit areas, Madison, Tennessee, saw significant damage, with 114 homes destroyed, 857 damaged, and 20,000 people left without electricity.

After the New Year's holiday, Headwaters Relief Organization mobilized a team of dedicated volunteers to assist in the recovery efforts. Our work focused on helping homeowners with essential repairs and cleanup. Additionally, our team included two Spanish-speaking staff from the Meridian Case Management department. Their presence proved invaluable, as they reached out to Spanish-speaking residents who had received less assistance and helped to ensure that their recovery needs were met. This targeted support underscored our commitment to equitable disaster relief and provided vital aid to underserved community members.

Florida Hurricane Relief

The fall of 2024 brought Hurricanes Helene and Milton, which ravaged Florida's communities with unprecedented force. Headwaters Relief Organization launched a robust disaster response, uniting volunteers for trips in October through December to assist with debris cleanup, mold remediation, and emotional support for affected families.

Our efforts also included a donation drive, organized in partnership with Amazing Alterations, Anoka, to collect essential supplies for mothers and young children. Our volunteers transported a truckload of donations to Florida, ensuring timely distribution through local partners.

Volunteer teams carried out hands-on relief work, addressing the immediate needs of families and contributing to the long-term recovery of communities. With more teams scheduled for continued long-term relief work, our mission remains focused on bringing hope and stability to those who need it most. The ongoing collaboration between volunteers, local organizations, and donors highlights the collective power of compassionate action in disaster recovery.

International Visitors



In July of 2024, Headwaters Relief Organization welcomed international visitors from Pakistan as part of a collaboration with the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). This program brought participants from Pakistan to the United States to enhance their capacity for disaster response in the face of floods, droughts, heatwaves, and earthquakes. Spanning from July 6 to July 27, the program aimed to facilitate cross-cultural exchange and professional learning. Visitors were introduced to Headwaters' diverse initiatives in disaster recovery, community empowerment, and public health.

Through interactive sessions and site visits, participants explored best practices in disaster preparedness, emergency management, and recovery. They shared their experiences while learning from local efforts to engage native communities, small businesses, and conservation programs in disaster mitigation. This exchange not only fostered mutual understanding but also created opportunities for international collaboration and innovation in disaster response, highlighting the importance of global partnerships in tackling environmental challenges.

Twins Stand Fundraising

Headwaters Relief Organization continued its tradition of operating a volunteer stand at select Minnesota Twins home games. Through a unique partnership with the Twins organization, non-profit groups like ours are provided the opportunity to staff food stands at the ballpark, fostering team building and raising much-needed funds for our mission.

In 2024, Headwaters was thrilled to be selected to volunteer at several Twins home games. Our dedicated volunteers, including board members and community supporters, staffed the stadium food stands for 10 games. Thanks to their hard work and enthusiasm, all of the funds raised will be used to directly support our disaster relief and recovery

efforts. Additionally, this event provided us with an invaluable platform to raise awareness about the important work we do in communities affected by natural disasters.

The success of our involvement in the past has led to an invitation to participate in the program again during the 2025 season. We are incredibly grateful for this ongoing opportunity to engage with the community while raising funds for our work.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who made this initiative possible. Your support has made a significant difference, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in 2025 and beyond.



Headwaters Volunteers in Support of the Native American Community

In June 2024, volunteers from Headwaters Relief Organization participated in a critical search for a Native American person who has been missing since October 2016. The search, organized by the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, took place on June 3rd in the heavily wooded and swampy areas of the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota.

For decades, Native American and Alaska Native communities have struggled with high rates of assault, abduction, and murder of tribal members. Community advocates describe the crisis as a legacy of generations of government policies of forced removal, land seizures, and violence inflicted on Native peoples. Native American and Alaska Native rates of murder, rape, and violent crime are all higher than the national averages.

This search is part of a larger effort to address the ongoing crisis of violence, abduction, and murder disproportionately affecting Native American and Alaska Native communities. Headwaters' volunteers assisted in the search with the hope that vital information and items could be recovered, offering closure to victims loved ones and contributing to the broader effort to find missing Indigenous people.



The Headwaters team remains committed to supporting initiatives that bring awareness to the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous persons, and we are proud to stand with the community in these crucial search efforts.

Annual Mardi Gras Gala 2024

The Fifth Annual Mardi Gras Gala was held on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024, at Watson Block in downtown Minneapolis. This sold-out event brought together supporters, volunteers, and friends to celebrate Headwaters Relief Organization's mission.

The evening featured an array of entertainment, starting with a lively cocktail hour that included a wine toss and music from a local jazz band. Guests were dazzled by a stilt walker and a performer adorned in a champagne dress, adding a touch of spectacle to the festivities.

After dinner, the excitement continued with casino-themed entertainment, complete with four volunteer dealers and professional dealers who guided the guests. The fun extended late into the evening, with additional attractions like a tarot card reader and a local piano player creating a magical ambiance. To support fundraising efforts, we hosted both silent and live auctions featuring incredible items generously donated by our community.



6th Annual Golf Tournament: A Resounding Success

On August 2nd, 2024, Headwaters Relief Organization hosted its 6th Annual Golf Tournament, which once again sold out—marking six consecutive years of overwhelming community support. The event brought together supporters, players, and volunteers for a day filled with camaraderie, great weather, exciting raffles, and memorable prizes. Congratulations to the tournament winners, and thank you to everyone who participated!

We look forward to welcoming you back for the 7th Annual Golf Tournament, scheduled for August 8th, 2025. Save the date and join us!



In the Spotlight: Media Highlights

Our Volunteers In Disaster Recovery

Among the highlights were two features by CCX Media Channel 12, spotlighting our hurricane relief efforts.

The first segment introduced our preparations for sending volunteer crews to assist communities affected by recent hurricanes in the Carolinas, Florida, and Tennessee. The piece highlighted our organization's grassroots approach, mobilizing skilled volunteers and essential resources to support recovery in areas devastated by natural disasters.

A follow-up segment aired weeks later, providing an update on the progress of our hurricane relief initiatives. The story underscored the tangible results of our efforts, including debris removal, emotional support services, and the rebuilding of critical infrastructure. Through interviews with team members and community partners, while they were working in the field, the feature captured the resilience of the impacted communities and the unwavering commitment of our volunteers to stand with them.



GOLDEN VALLEY NONPROFIT SENDING CREWS FOR HURRICANE RELIEF
5:19 PM | Wednesday, October 16, 2024



Global Advocacy for Humanitarian Efforts

World Humanitarian Day 2024: Protecting Civilians and Aid Workers

On World Humanitarian Day 2024, Headwaters Relief Organization joined 412 other organizations worldwide in signing a landmark global call to action, urging the protection of civilians and aid workers in conflict zones. This initiative, spearheaded by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), underscores our commitment to global humanitarian principles and advocacy.

This statement reinforces our pledge to support communities affected by crises and ensure the safety and dignity of those providing critical aid. As a signatory, Headwaters stands alongside leading humanitarian organizations, amplifying the message that protecting civilians and aid workers is a universal responsibility.



Protect civilians and aid workers: A global call on World Humanitarian Day

SHARE f X in



Volunteer team during hurricane relief efforts



Reflecting on 20 Years of Commitment

Headwaters Relief Organization in Louisiana

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans on August 29, 2005, it left an indelible mark on the city and its people. The Category 5 hurricane caused catastrophic damage, breaching levees, flooding approximately 80% of the city, and displacing thousands. Amid the nation's collective response, Headwaters Relief Organization emerged as a grassroots volunteer effort to provide disaster relief in the city's Ninth Ward, Calcasieu Parish, Plaquemines Parish, Baton Rouge, and Orléans Parish - one of the most devastated areas, a community that became a focal point of Headwaters Relief Organization's journey of resilience and recovery.

For 20 years, Headwaters has stood alongside the residents of the Ninth Ward, and other communities in Louisiana. Developing programs to address both the immediate needs and the enduring challenges of rebuilding and healing.

Beginnings in Crisis

Headwaters Relief Organization began as a grassroots effort, answering the urgent call for help in the aftermath of Katrina. Volunteers initially focused on gutting homes and removing debris in the Ninth Ward. As the magnitude of the disaster unfolded, so did the commitment of Headwaters' volunteers. The early days were marked by collaboration with other organizations, eventually transitioning from cleanup to rebuilding efforts. By 2007, the organization realized the need for long-term support beyond physical reconstruction.





Mental Health: A Cornerstone of Recovery

The trauma experienced by the Ninth Ward community extended far beyond the visible destruction. In response, Headwaters established the River of Hope Mental Health Resource Center in 2007. This walk-in center became a sanctuary for individuals grappling with the psychological aftermath of Katrina. Offering free counseling, referrals, and community education, the center prioritized access to mental health support, particularly for children - a population often overlooked in disaster recovery- this center remains a cornerstone of Headwaters' efforts.

Sustained Community Engagement

Over the years, Headwaters has cultivated lasting relationships with local organizations, including the New Salem Baptist Church. These partnerships have allowed the organization to amplify its impact through events like Health Fairs, Drumming Circles, and the 2023 New Orleans Fall Festival. Held at the River of Hope Mental Health Resource Center, the festival was a celebration of community spirit, featuring activities for all ages, local music, and workshops. A highlight of the event was a medical clinic run in collaboration with Baptist Community Health Services, showcasing a holistic approach to well-being.



After School Program

During the Covid-19 pandemic, after recognizing the challenges of remote learning and the existing disparities in access to resources, we launched an after-school academic program to assist families in their children's education while also tackling the systemic inequities affecting children of color in the Ninth Ward. The program provided academic support, and leadership training, and promoted fitness, nutrition, and wellness.

We collaborated closely with local leaders to design programming that met their needs. The program was staffed by a dedicated team, including two teachers, security personnel, and community volunteers- all people of color from the local area.

We equipped the center with high-speed internet, laptops, and supplies, ensuring students had access to the tools they needed. Adhering to Covid-19 precautions, the center implemented safety protocols, provided children's masks and sanitizers, and resumed operations of the resource center, which had temporarily halted during the pandemic.

Research and Partnerships

Our work has been informed by research, including three studies based in New Orleans conducted in partnership with Lesley University and Georgetown University, as well as two others based in Haiti. These studies reflect our ongoing commitment to understanding and addressing the psychological and emotional recovery needs of the community.



Lessons in Longevity

Headwaters' two decades in New Orleans offer valuable insights into the complexities of long-term disaster recovery. Key strategies include:

- **Authentic Community Partnerships:** Empowering local voices and ensuring initiatives align with community needs.
- **Sustainable Recovery Programs:** Extending support beyond immediate relief to build resilience.
- **Overcoming Challenges:** Addressing funding limitations and evolving priorities with adaptability and perseverance.
- **Mental Health Advocacy:** Highlighting the critical role of emotional and psychological support in recovery.
- **Youth Engagement:** Encouraging the next generation to take active roles in rebuilding and building resilience.

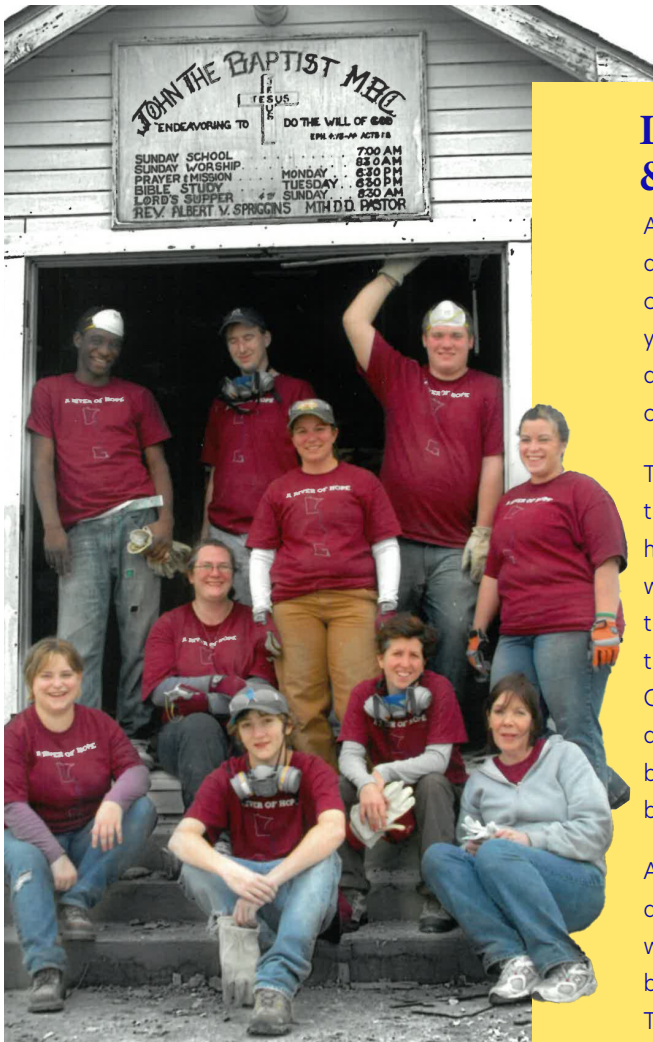


Looking Ahead: A Commemoration & A Call to Action

As we mark the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we remember the devastation - the lives lost, the homes destroyed, and the communities forever changed. Even today, the scars of that storm remain visible in areas that have yet to fully recover. We hold in our hearts the memory of those affected and acknowledge the long journey of healing. Katrina serves as a poignant reminder of nature's power and the human cost of disaster.

The story of Headwaters Relief Organization in New Orleans is a testament to the power of sustained commitment, collaborative partnerships, and unwavering hope. Headwaters Relief Organization renews its commitment to the ongoing work of recovery and building resilience, standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of the Ninth Ward. From the initial chaos of disaster response to the enduring presence of Headwaters' River of Hope Mental Health Resource Center, Headwaters has demonstrated the true meaning of standing alongside a community. As the organization looks to the future, it remains deeply inspired by the people and resilience of the Ninth Ward and steadfast in its dedication to building equitable and empowered communities.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we invite you to join us for a series of community events during the last week of August. This commemoration will include a celebration of resilience with opportunities to volunteer and to give back with a community fair and a medical camp, providing essential services. Together, we will honor the memory of those we lost, acknowledge the ongoing journey of recovery, and reaffirm our commitment to building a stronger future. Join us as we stand together in reflection, solidarity, and hope.



Together, We Can Transform The World

The Sustainable Development Goals are humanity's to-do list for a sustainable planet, a clear road map for a better future.

Take Action. These are words to live by, and UN Geneva is working to transform them into reality. The Organization has developed a number of tools to facilitate action and support the personal drive that exists in so many of us.

Headwaters Relief Organization has committed itself to being a part of this Action, and we are sharing with you some of the daily actions that we have supported, and those that you can easily incorporate in your daily lives to make a difference for all.



2

ZERO HUNGER

Support local farmers by buying your food at farmer's markets.

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Make time for yourself and friends

Be more active. Go for walks at lunch time or cycle to work.

Eat healthy diet and drink a lot of water.

1

NO POVERTY

Teach a skill or short course at a community center (computing skills, building a resume, preparing for job interviews)

Donate non-perishable foods to charities.

4

QUALITY EDUCATION

Educate your kids about the power of education, as many don't see the tangible benefits.

Volunteer in homeless shelters. Your time can be more valuable than money.

Sponsor a child so they can have access to food, education, and health.

Support food assistance programs. They provide over 20 times more food than food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens.

In many countries girls are pulled out of school early in order to get married. Start conversations that allow for problems to be openly discussed and solutions to be found.

Donate books to public libraries or public schools in need.

5

GENDER EQUALITY

Practice and demonstrate to children equal decision- making processes at home.

Use mentoring and coaching to help women build their confidence and develop their careers.

Sponsor a girl child who needs a role mode.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Conserve, conserve, conserve. When ice-cubes are left over from a drink, don't throw them away. Put them into plants.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Build schools, homes and office to be more accommodating to older persons and people with disabilities.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Reach out to underprivileged areas. Integrate people of different class and ethnicity and include them in decision-making processes that involve them, including their living conditions, pollution and so on.

Support organizations that give water to areas in need.

Donate to projects that require funds for digging boreholes, installing pipes and pumps, maintenance training to communities etc.

Gather in small community groups to brainstorm ways to ensure safe and accessible public spaces especially for women, children, elderly people and people with disabilities.

Research, encourage and raise awareness for greater information transparency within your community.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Use energy-efficient light bulbs and set your household appliances on low energy settings.

Sponsor a child to attend school.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Don't keep clothes or other items you are not using. Donate them.

Turn lights off in rooms that aren't being used. When you switch your lights off, even for a few seconds, it saves more energy than it takes for the light to start up, regardless of the bulb type.

Turn down the thermostat and fill the house with carpets to keep the warmth inside.

Learn to respect all kinds of people who may do things differently than you.

Drink tap water when it is safe.

Buy sustainable products including electronics, toys, shampoo or seafood and organic groceries.



15 LIFE ON LAND



Practice and demonstrate to children equal decision-making processes at home.

Use mentoring and coaching to help women build their confidence and develop their careers.

Sponsor a girl child who needs a role mode.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Make your voice heard and vote in your country's elections.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Encourage corporate social responsibility towards projects related to sustainable development in developing countries.

Participate in your country's decision-making processes in an informed manner.

Find value in different demographics, thoughts and beliefs for an inclusive society.

Encourage schools to embrace teamwork outside the classrooms in local communities and businesses.

Look for synergies and build stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships. Share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources. Teach kids about partnerships through sport.





2024 Monthly Volunteer Events

Headwaters Relief Organization and North American Banking Company share a long-standing partnership founded on shared values of service and community support. Over the past two years, North American Banking Company's generous funding, leadership, and volunteer participation have enabled Headwaters to conduct impactful Monthly Volunteer Events. We are profoundly grateful for this continued support.

In 2024, we successfully organized local monthly volunteer events to engage the community and address diverse needs. We were able to use the funds to create opportunities to support communities both locally and nationally. These efforts involved dedicated volunteers here in Minnesota who contributed significantly to disaster preparedness, public health education, and psychosocial support. In addition, we were also able to conduct awareness programs such as art displays at the local libraries, and the city hall as well as support volunteers and families affected by storms like Hurricane Helene and Milton in Florida and the Carolinas.

Impact Highlights

Community Engagement: Activities such as creating children's therapeutic crafts (March) and tie blankets (December) fostered community connection and ensured that vulnerable populations received meaningful support.

Disaster Response: Volunteers' efforts in Tennessee (January) and Florida (October- December) provided critical support for disaster recovery, including cleanup, clearing debris, gutting, and rebuilding support.

Preparedness Initiatives: The flood bucket assembly (June) equipped families with essential tools to tackle the aftermath of flooding disasters, demonstrating Headwaters' commitment to proactive disaster readiness.

Military Packing: This year, Headwaters maintained a long-standing tradition of supporting troops. Our volunteers contributed to assembling care packages that brought comfort and appreciation to deployed military personnel. We are currently sending these packs to 8 troops that are deployed in Japan, South Korea, Germany, The US, Mexico border, Maryland, and the Middle East.



Volunteer Contributions

- The dedication and compassion of our volunteers were instrumental in 2024's success. Together, they:
- Reached over 1,000 community members in Minnesota, Florida, Tennessee, the Carolinas, and beyond.
- Supported more than 500 military personnel through care packages.
- Assembled 150 flood bucket kits for disaster-prone areas.
- Created therapeutic resources for children to aid in emotional recovery.
- Delivered aid directly to families affected by disasters in Tennessee, Florida, and North Carolina.



summer golf event. One particularly memorable experience for her was a relief trip assisting with flood efforts in Fargo/Moorhead. Her team worked on sandbagging, and the experience was especially meaningful not only because she was serving in her home state but also because, to her surprise, she was chosen to do a local news interview. What stood out most to her in this experience, however, was the deep gratitude expressed by the people they helped.



Volunteer Spotlight

Mary Anderson has made a lifelong commitment to service. She grew up on a farm in North Dakota with three siblings, one younger and two older. Her father passed away when Mary was three and her oldest brother was nine. Their mother raised them on the family farm, instilling values of hard work, faith, and family commitment. Mary's early years were shaped by the loss of her father and her close relationship with her younger brother, who was only 11 months younger and had Down syndrome.

Living in a rural area, their family had limited resources to support her brother's special needs. This had a profound impact on Mary, inspiring her to dedicate her life to service. Her brother with Down syndrome passed away when she was a college freshman. Following a similar path of service, Mary's older sister became a speech therapist and helped their brother develop language skills before he passed. Her sister, who had diabetes and kidney disease, the same diseases that impacted their father later underwent a kidney transplant. Mary supported her through this process until she ultimately lost her to heart failure. Meanwhile, Mary's oldest brother, Tim, remained on the family farm, working alongside their mother. He later became a teacher of industrial art and a musician, still continuing to use his creative skills in his older years.

Mary's career has always been centered on serving others. She has worked extensively with individuals with disabilities and mental health needs, dedicating her entire adult life to this mission. Even in challenging times, her belief in Jesus Christ has sustained her and motivated her to share her gifts of service. From a young age, she volunteered at food shelves and participated in faith-based ministries. Eventually, she became involved with Headwaters.

Through Headwaters, Mary has participated in multiple relief trips, volunteer events, and fundraising activities, including the annual

Mary has been a dedicated board member for many years, committed to supporting Headwaters and its mission. She values the organization's commitment to ensuring that 100% of donations go directly in service, she particularly appreciates the work Headwaters does to address the mental health needs in children. When Mary's mother passed away, she and her brother chose to designate Headwaters as the recipient of her memorials, further honoring their family's legacy of service and Headwaters Relief Organization.

Mary's faith is based on her personal relationship with Jesus Christ. John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.



500+ VOLUNTEERS

37,400

HOURS DONATED IN 2024





Thank you

The incredible work of Headwaters Relief Organization was made possible through the generous support of our donors, sponsors, and partners. Your contributions have allowed us to continue providing critical assistance to communities in need, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

We proudly recognize the individuals, organizations, and businesses whose contributions have made our work possible this year. Additionally, we recognize individuals who chose to remain unnamed, as well as those whose names may have been inadvertently omitted. Please know that your support—whether through donations, volunteering, or simply keeping us in your thoughts and prayers—has been invaluable to our mission.

Thank you for standing with us as we continue to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. We look forward to your continued partnership in the years to come.





Headwaters

RELIEF ORGANIZATION

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