

HURRICANE MARIA

Puerto Rico has been a territory of the U.S. since 1898 and is the home of 3.6 million American citizens. On the morning of September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria tore through Puerto Rico with sustained winds of 155 miles per hour and gusts up to 200 miles per hour, lasting 12 hours and enveloping the entire island. Within this massive hurricane, multiple funnel clouds formed and devastated the island. FEMA has distributed more than 6.2 million gallons of water in Puerto Rico – more than they’ve ever distributed after a disaster before.

Thousands of Puerto Ricans are living without electricity, safe water or reliable sources of food. More than 200,000 Puerto Ricans have fled the island since Maria struck to stay with friends and family on the mainland but are anxious to return.

Teams will have the opportunity to work alongside the local church and help families rebuild their homes and lives. Regardless of your skill set, together we can provide the free labor needed to clean up, gut homes, install roofs, and assist the community in rebuilding their homes. Our initial focus will be assisting the most vulnerable: widows, seniors, single moms, and low-income families living in the rural-interior of the island. These families need hope and you can provide it.

Forward Edge has more than 25 years of experience in disaster-relief work, including long-term recovery efforts after hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. By God’s grace, we were able to mobilize more than 3,000 volunteers from around the country to serve in the Gulf Coast after Katrina, and more than 1,000 to serve in Haiti. Puerto Rico needs us now and we want to respond by mobilizing YOU!

As always, our plan will be to remain involved in the hurricane recovery effort long after first responders are gone and the media has moved on. We have the following resources in place:

- Strong church partners to host our teams in the city of Ponce, the base location for our operations.
- Strong collaboration with churches in the southern region of the island.
- In-country partners trained in the National Incident Management System created by FEMA.
- Access to hundreds of families in need.

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IMPORTANT DATES

**TOTAL TRIP FEES:
\$610**

**60 DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE
\$200 Non-Refundable
Deposit Due**

Registration &
Medical Release Forms
DUE

**30 DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE
\$410 Payment Due**





TRIP FEES INCLUDE

- Meals, lodging, materials, team packs, ground transportation, and trip medical coverage
- An on-site Field Coordinator and a Trip Facilitator
- Complete trip coordination provided by Forward Edge

TRIP FEES DO NOT INCLUDE

- Airfare or transportation to/from Ponce
- Luggage fees

TEAMS INFO

Forward Edge can accommodate teams of 10–13 people for a 7–day trip. Churches, businesses, and schools interested in sending teams through Forward Edge to serve in Puerto Rico should contact our office at 360.574.3343.

TEAM LODGING

Teams will stay in a local church in Ponce. Air-mattresses and showers will be available. Team members are asked to bring their own bedding and towels. The team will have meals prepared by local Puerto Ricans.

TRIP FEE PAYMENTS

A \$200 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of registration and will be applied towards your trip fee. Payments can be paid by check, by an ACH payment (please contact us), or online by creating an account at www.forwardedge.org. Make checks payable to: Forward Edge International. All payments need to reflect the team member name and team number.

TEAM MEMBER PREPARATIONS

IMMUNIZATIONS: Forward Edge strongly recommends that each team member has a current tetanus shot. Please consult a personal physician for any other recommendations.

TEAM PACKS: Once registration is complete, Forward Edge will send each Team Member a team pack. Each team pack will include a T-shirt, a Team Member manual, a devotional, and other Forward Edge items.

Please contact us with any questions.

FOR MORE INFO

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