



# **CAN-DO.ORG**

**COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION CENTER PLAN**



# Introduction

## Community Revitalization Centers (CRC)

A **CRC** is a location or structure that fulfills short and long term needs of an affected community in the wake of a natural disaster. Whether it is a building, trailer(s), or a tent area in harder hit regions, it is a centralized hub from where relief operations are directed and properly managed. With a pre-constructed plan, a **CRC** can be set up within **48 - 72 hours** to provide an organized and well planned assistance to victims with immediate needs, such as medical treatment, food, water, and shelter. In addition, the **CRC** addresses long-term needs of survivors by supplying the necessary resources in one centralized location. As immediate goals are met, and rebuilding throughout the community progresses, the **CRC** will evolve with the capacity to tailor itself to the community it supports.



## PHASE I : Immediate Response

Following a natural disaster, a **CRC** will quickly initiate a pre-planned response to meet the immediate needs of a devastated population. **Within 24 hours**, the **CRC** base, with communication and rescue resources, arrives on the ground in the affected area.

**Within 48 hours**, a suitable location is allocated, as well as a centralized community drop zone, which would preferably be located at a secure warehouse or structure. Upon designation, supplies would begin to filter into the region via the public and our vast network of contributors.

**Within the first 72 hours**, **VCT** and **Mobile Units** will triage the local needs and make requests for aid via the **Shared Relief Network**. Through the network, communication is established between organizations both locally and nationally. In addition, coordinators begin to organize the volunteer work force in gathering information, registering homeowners for aid, and beginning the process of restoration. In union with these objectives, a second phase of operation begins.



## PHASE II : Addressing Short Term Needs

Serving victim needs is **THE** top priority. Supply Distribution lines and **PODs** (*Points of Distribution sites*) are set up. **Mobile Units** have already been dispatched to remote areas to find and assist those unable to travel to the **CRC**. As donations and supplies flood the area, the center can aid the flow of information and material into the distribution chain.

The **CRC** is able to triage specific supplies to the appropriate location, generally a **POD** or Medical Clinic. The **CRC** can easily identify these disparities and assist with the solution through our **Shared Relief Network**. As assessments continue through the community specific needs for the region are identified and immediately relayed to the relief organizations on the ground.

The Network will function as a source of information to prevent confusion and duplication throughout the community. Progress reports will be provided to local and federal emergency management teams regarding the current status of the relief services being done on the ground. During **Phase II**, a mobile-information vehicle will be dispatched to notify the community where to register for aid and receive services.

Specific (non-confidential) victim information is gathered at any **POD** where services are provided, and statistics are entered into the **Shared Relief Network database**. This will be accessible to all ground agencies and organizations and will paint a more accurate picture of the extent of damage and overall needs. Vouchers will be issued to those seeking aid, allowing universal access, ensuring aid is given according to the need, and helping to eliminate hoarding and fraud. Throughout **Phase II**, available relief services are recorded; needed programs are sourced, imported, and assigned.

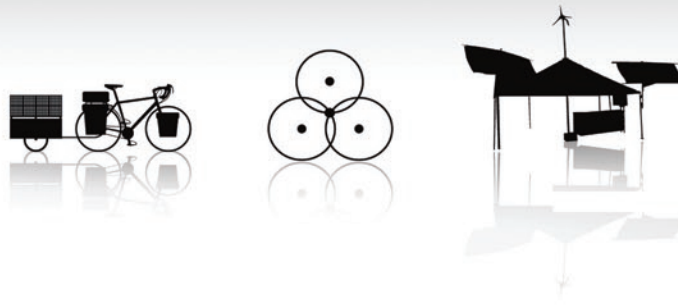


## PHASE III : Addressing Longer Term Needs

As survivor's needs are met and rebuilding begins, a different focus takes precedence.

The **CRC** changes focus to assist in the rehabilitation of the community. Despite the fact that basic emergency services are no longer needed, the **CRC** continues to maintain a positive role in the community. While emergency medicine may no longer be a necessity, the long-term effects of trauma will become more evident. Psychiatric care and counselling are highly valuable for survivors of destructive disasters. Furthermore, employment assistance programs, including job re-training, are important in a post-disaster economy. Childcare, aid for working parents, **DMV**, and other 'gap' services can now be housed where other **CRC** programs are phased out. Despite the inevitable ruin of the community around it, the **CRC** still remains relevant, while symbolizing hope and support as the community rebuilds.





# the Shared Relief Network

When the proper assessments are not made and communication is not established, duplication of relief efforts becomes a serious problem and operation slows down. Below is an aerial map of Biloxi, MS. The areas circled represent distribution centers or PODs, which were specifically set up for food, water, clothing, home supplies, and information. These PODs were set up in Biloxi shortly after Hurricane Katrina and remained in these locations for months or until they were phased out. The map below illustrates the overlapping of PODs in a condensed area. This is a clear example of why a stronger communication network between organizations is crucial in the relief process.

Another example illustrating the importance of inter-agency communication (or the need for a **Shared Relief Network**). Several groups were offering medical care within the west-central portion of the city, while no medical services were available in the northern part of town. In addition, despite their physical proximity, it was several weeks before physicians in one area realized that they had an abundance of insulin, while the other center was seriously lacking.

### MOBILE RESPONSE UNIT:

In addition, the **Shared Relief Network** maximizes the impact of the **Mobile Response Teams**.

**Mobile Response Teams** are dispatched into the hardest hit areas of a disaster. Using the Grid System, teams distribute crucial aid and information to survivors and affiliated organizations to increase efficiency and efficacy. These mobile units also act as providing ongoing assessment teams, documenting vital information, while relaying it back to base to be processed and assigned to various organizations present on the ground. An accurate assessment allows for a cleaner chain of information resulting in better communication between the organizations and their relief teams on the ground, as well as the outside world. It also helps eliminate the overflow of unnecessary supplies in the future. Hence, duplication of efforts, fraud, and failure to meet individual needs are greatly reduced. In addition, through a unified effort between the **Mobile Response Teams** and the **Shared Relief Network**, agencies/organizations will be accessible to both each other and the survivors they are servicing.

### USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND A SHARED RELIEF NETWORK:

Another factor crucial to the success of SDR is immediate access to updated and accurate information. Our use of **Mobile Response Teams**, satellite phones, and internet access points allow for real time communication with the outside world, and allow the SDR units to distribute Federal, State and Local aid to the community.

**CAN-DO** has developed the **Shared Relief Network** (see SRN proposal) to disseminate information, register victims, coordinate in real time with donors, political leaders, and NGOs, and allow for timely transfer of information and vastly improved relief distribution. With the help of the SRN, all relief agencies and volunteer organizations can gather and share information via one shared

database to strategically target the communities' specific needs and goals much more efficiently. **VirtualVolunteer.tv** and the **Shared Relief Network** are revolutionary, interactive technologies that connect viewers and participants with those on the frontlines, in real time.

This mobile technology provides immediate information and state of the art, real-time broadcasts that take participants directly to the frontlines. Using the most advanced internet broadcasting technologies, **VirtualVolunteer.tv** is the first online, interactive real-time video website that allows donors, family members, government officials, companies, leaders, teachers, and organizations anywhere in the world to directly participate in critical relief efforts, vastly improving efficiency, accountability, and transparency in efforts that are often laden with bureaucracy and red tape.

After uploading their individual data/findings, agencies can then tap in to the **SRN** to establish where relief is most needed and plan their responses accordingly. Organizations will be able to coordinate their objectives more effectively with one another and with the citizens they serve. In addition, the **CRC** can access the **SRN** to obtain registration and aid opportunities for survivors. Survivors and family members may also access the system to obtain accurate and necessary updated information (i.e., vaccination locations, how and where to obtain registration information and where to apply for various AID and relief services).

Another essential service provided via the **Shared Relief Network** is volunteer coordination. Volunteer Coordinators working in the **CRC** have access to the **Network** and will direct volunteers to appropriate areas that need the most aid. Hence, this maximizes the organization on the ground to act more efficiently and responsibly. By supporting GPS mapping, the **Shared Relief Network** can identify the location of any group working on the ground by simply obtaining their GPS coordinates. Therefore, organizations are able to set up new satellite PODs in the areas in which they may be most useful. Under this new system we are able to maximize the use of volunteer services more effectively.

With the aid of GPS mapping, the **Shared Relief Network** establishes a remote, real time schematic of the relief effort, accessible to all potential providers while enabling donors, individuals, and political leaders to interact with the frontlines in real-time, increasing accountability, transparency, and the efficacy of relief efforts.

Once the **Shared Relief Network** is aggregated, the plan starts to take shape in the following three-phase manner: Immediate Response, Short-term Need Fulfillment, and Transition to Long-term Assistance Programs. In the last phase, the **CRC** has the potential to evolve into a permanent revitalization center for the community.

**\*\*This Shared Relief Network will soon be accessible via [www.can-do.org](http://www.can-do.org).**

**FIG. 1 INEFFECTIVE SOLUTION - HAPHAZARD DISTRIBUTION**

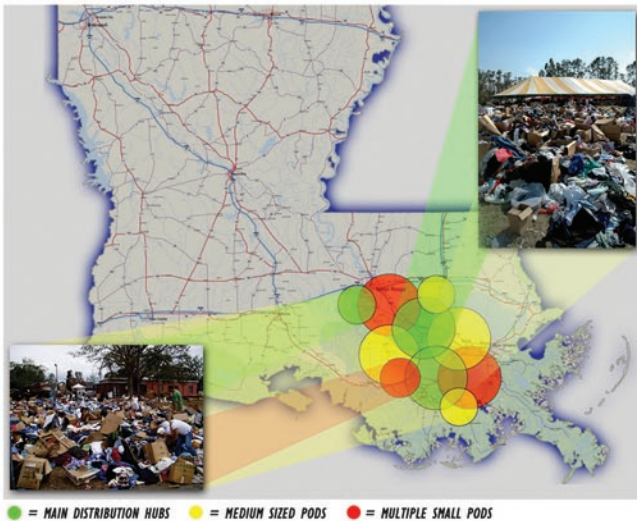


Fig.1 represents actual inefficient practice which was employed by a myriad of disconnected sources converging into the same general vicinities. Traffic was impeded by overlapping of efforts, and lack of verbal or digital communication among service providers led to surpluses in some camps and exhausted supplies in nearby PODs.

**FIG. 2 EFFECTIVE SOLUTION - COORDINATED DISTRIBUTION**

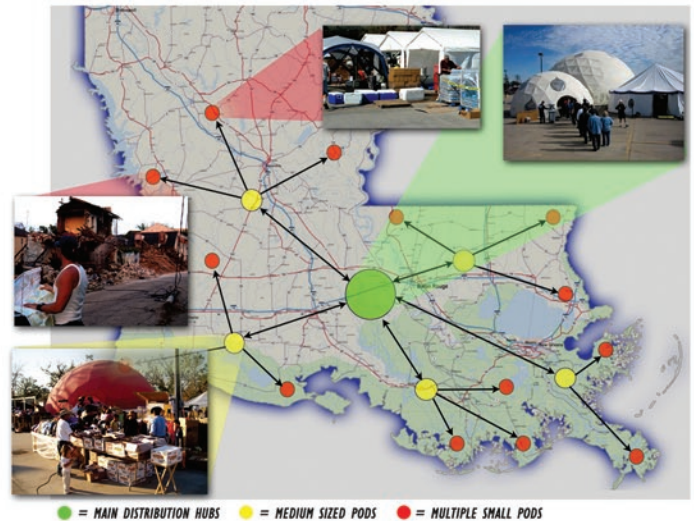


Fig. 2 shows the deployment and set up of PODs according to the geodesic model, greatly improving the relationship among the various modules. The small red PODs service a greater area beyond the established perimeter, and aid in the dispersal of goods as well as communication to the outer lying areas. Collaboration becomes a much simpler task with the proper structure in place.

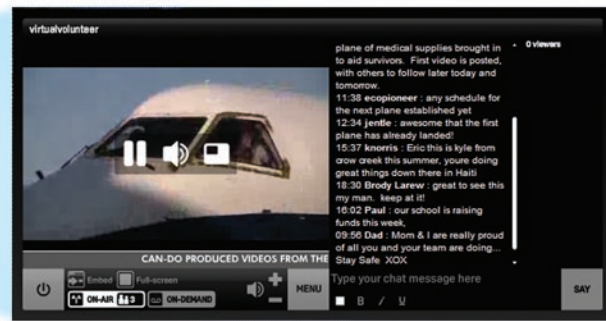




VirtualVolunteer.tv

## TRANSMISSION : Advanced Broadcast Technology

Born out of efforts toward a more accountable, transparent mechanism for Philanthropic Aid, **VirtualVolunteer.tv** is a revolutionary results-based service focused on helping **Non-Profits** get their message to the general public as well as corporate sponsors. Using the most advanced internet broadcasting technologies, **VirtualVolunteer.tv** is the first online, interactive real-time video website that allows you as an individual, company, leader, teacher, or organization anywhere in the world to directly engage with those in need in the wake of humanitarian crises , natural disasters, or much needed community revitalization projects.



### LIVE! FROM THE FIELD TO THE FLATSCREEN



#### ACTION CAPTURED

Using standard video cameras or inexpensive web cams, an event is recorded in real-time. The signal is then fed directly into a High Speed Uplink Device for transmission.



#### HIGH-SPEED UPLINK

Signal is uplinked digitally through state of the art broadcasting technology. Wireless streams of LIVE video can be facilitated for up to 6 hours, eliminating the need for a satellite truck or heavy equipment.



#### IMAGES PROCESSED

Once received in the Control Room, individual camera feeds are cued and mixed live, as well as graphics, overlays, tickers & titling being added. Pre-recorded segments can be mixed with live feeds and PIP (picture in picture).



#### AUDIENCE ENGAGES

The general public, donors, corporate sponsors or anyone with a high speed internet connection can tune in to events as they unfold & interact via chatroom with responders on the front lines of the effort.

