

A letter from Heather Gatlin

Greetings,

As we move through the annual holiday season, many of us have much to be thankful for—good health, a roof over our heads, food on our tables. Unfortunately, this is still not the case for many Hurricane Ike survivors who continue to struggle to recover from the devastating hurricane that struck Texas fifteen months ago. Many Ike survivors continue to await resources with which to rebuild their homes, all the while living with relatives, residing in temporary housing, or even moving from place to place to make ends meet. Survivors who are fortunate to be back in their homes may still be awaiting resources to replace furniture and appliances. Yet other survivors work daily to piece back together their family businesses so they can be self-sufficient once again.

It is during this holiday season that the purpose of and need for disaster case management to support survivors through the long-term disaster recovery process is even clearer.

[Click here for the full text](#)



About RISE

The RISE program (or Recovery for Ike Survivors Enterprise) is a disaster case management program operated by Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response with a network of [10 partner agencies](#).

Contact RISE

www.texasrise.org

8305 Cross Park Drive
Austin, TX 78754
1-888-IKE-RISE
(1-888-453-7473)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

We are here to help!

RISE is currently serving over 3,800 households in the affected area. That's more than 10,000 individuals that have been helped by RISE disaster case management! The program has also provided \$1,383,783.55 in services for Ike survivors.

If you or someone you know has unmet needs due to Hurricane Ike, please call the RISE intake line at 1-888-453-7473.

Success!

RISE is continuing to help people meet their disaster-related needs. This client received money for supplies so he could complete the repairs to his home from damage caused by Hurricane Ike!

RISE will provide help, support and advocacy for more than 13,000 families in [16 counties](#) as they recover from Ike. RISE case managers are working with survivors to assess their disaster-related needs, develop plans to get back on their feet, and connect survivors to services and resources to meet these needs. It is the goal of the RISE program to help Hurricane Ike survivors return to their pre-disaster lives.



Featured Partner Agencies

Catholic Charities

Through disaster case management services, [Catholic Charities](#) has been fulfilling its mission of helping people in need achieve self-sufficiency by working to connect Hurricane Ike survivors to the resources necessary to rebuild their lives. Catholic Charities is focused on repairing both the lives of Ike survivors in Galveston County as well as the community itself.

Catholic Charities has been featured in the Galveston Daily News for their coordinated efforts with RISE partners in finding survivors in the Galveston County area who still need help. Case managers hand out flyers at the Gleanings of the Harvest food bank on Mondays and attend town hall meetings when they are held.

Success Story: The Garza's family home was heavily damaged during Hurricane Ike. While volunteers had done some repairs on their house, the Garza's had a long way to go before they could move back home. They reached out to Catholic Charities, who was able to put a water meter back in and secure funding to purchase a hot water heater. Little by little, Catholic Charities is working with the Garza's to get them back to their pre-hurricane lives. Currently, their case manager is working on resources to help the Garza's finish repairing their roof.

Gulf Coast Center

An agency with a history of providing mental health services in Brazoria and Galveston counties, [Gulf Coast Center](#) is intimately aware of the tough issues facing members of the hardest hit communities by Hurricane Ike. Disaster case managers are working to help these clients return to a state of wholeness by addressing all their Ike-related needs in Brazoria and Galveston Counties.

Gulf Coast Center has worked diligently to spread the word about the RISE program through regular distribution of print materials at churches, libraries, senior centers, pawn shops and other heavily trafficked areas in the communities they serve.

Success Story: Mr. Smith lost all his tools after the storm surge came through and destroyed his workshop, where he made custom gun cases as a side business. Though he was not initially receptive to receiving services from Gulf Coast Center, Mr. Smith was struggling without the additional income. He agreed to become a RISE client and his Gulf Coast Center case manager

brought his case to the unmet needs committee, who approved the request for funds to replace his tools. Mr. Smith is now back to work and very thankful to his case manager for getting him back to his pre-disaster life.

ICNA Relief USA

[ICNA Relief](#) has been helping Ike survivors since Sept. 2008, when it established the ICNA Relief Ike Recuperation Center immediately following the storm. ICNA Relief continues in its commitment to Hurricane Ike survivors by being a part of the RISE program, where disaster case managers are helping hundreds of clients on their road to recovery in Galveston, Grimes, Madison, Montgomery and Walker Counties.

ICNA Relief has utilized various outreach efforts, including having case managers distribute information at the recent Renaissance Festival and getting permission to send RISE information home with children along with reduced lunch paper work. ICNA also secured a short radio segment about their RISE services that ran on an Urdu-speaking radio station.

Success Story: Mr. Loa's home was hit by tree limbs during Hurricane Ike, ripping of the front porch. This caused the roof to leak and as a result, the sheetrock and flooring were damaged inside the home. Mr. Loa had already fixed the roof and one wall that had been structurally damaged before he became a RISE client. He came to RISE seeking resources for materials so he could continue repairing his family's home. His case manager at ICNA Relief USA was able to help Mr. Loa secure over \$2,000 in gift cards to purchase the materials to finish repairing his home, including sheetrock, flooring, insulation and sporicide. He is currently fixing the sheetrock and floor and hopes to be done soon.

Southeast Texas Interfaith Organization (SETIO)

[SETIO](#) has been helping the most vulnerable members in Jefferson and Orange Counties recover from Hurricane Ike through their disaster case management services and coordination with the diverse communities of Southeast Texas. SETIO's unmet needs table has also provided much needed resources for RISE clients on their road to recovery.

SETIO coordinates with area churches for outreaching to the community. They have also manned booths with RISE materials at health fairs and at the Mexican Heritage Festival. In addition, SETIO has held several house blessings for clients whose homes have finished their repairs.

Success Story: The Evans family's home sustained major water damage following the flooding that caused by Hurricane Ike. A young couple with 2 small boys, the family was struggling to repair their home and recover from the problems that stemmed from lost wages following Ike. When their SETIO case manger realized the family was having a hard time just feeding their children, she referred them to the WIC program, which has been a great relief and positive step toward their recovery. Currently SETIO is working to connect the family with resources to finish their home repairs.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you know who may benefit from it.

RISE Partner agencies

[Lutheran Social Services](#)

[Boat People SOS](#)

[Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston](#)

[G.R.A.C.E. Community Services](#)

[GMC Consultants LLC](#)

[Gulf Coast Center](#)

[Mainland Children's Partnership](#)

[Southeast Texas Interfaith Organization](#)

[Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Dallas](#)

[Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Beaumont](#)

[United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Houston](#)

[United Methodist Committee on Relief \(UMCOR\)](#)



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