

October 28, 2024

14900 Blackburn Road
Burtonsville, MD 20866

Dear NCFE:

I just returned from a Friends Disaster Service work trip (October 23-26) to New Bern, NC, where a small group of volunteers put down the floor and built the walls of a house. A second group of volunteers is following up the next week to close in the house. The house is for an elderly woman, Ms. Sondra Hicks. Ms. Hicks is bedridden and confined to a hospital bed. She lives in a home that was flooded to the floor joists, and her roof and ceilings are collapsing and leaking. Her roof is leaking to the point she must place buckets throughout her home when it rains.

FDS works through Baptists on Mission Disaster Group, which reviews each case according to established criteria. The Baptists still have several families on their list to assist. They appreciate the three or four work trips FDS undertakes each year.

All FDS workers, including the work trip organizers, are volunteers. No one receives any pay or compensation for travel. General contributions to FDS pay for maintenance of the work van (carrying tools, etc., to each work site) and fuel for its trips. In addition, FDS contributes \$5,000 per trip to the Baptist group for housing and food for the workers and to purchasing building materials for the job.

I request that NCFE contribute \$10,000 to FDS next year to purchase building supplies for the two houses on the 2025 calendar. If you have any questions, please contact me.

And yes, FDS plans to turn its attention to western North Carolina as soon as feasible. However, many families in the New Bern area are still displaced by the ravages of Hurricane Florence in 2018!

Thank you for considering this request.

Frank Massey
An occasional FDS volunteer