



2007 Wildfire Recovery

Volunteer Coordination

Interfaith's Volunteer Coordinator Nusrat Symons is organizing volunteer-staffed fire prevention and relief projects. There is still a particular need for debris cleanup throughout North County, especially for seniors, as they are unable to handle this clean up on their own. Through the Senior Services Department, Minor Home Repair Coordinators will assess these fire needs for seniors, and the Volunteer Coordinator will assign willing volunteers to help clear debris and ash, as well as take preventative measures through light gardening and weeding.

If you know of individuals in need of this assistance, or if you would like to learn more about volunteering to provide this form of a clearing / preparatory help, please contact:

Nusrat Symons, Volunteer Coordinator

760-489-6380 ext. 221

nsymons@interfaithservices.org

Faith Center Support

Congregations throughout San Diego County were among those most affected by the recent firestorm, having lost proportionately large numbers of homes to the fires, suffering faith center property damages, and coping with long-term grief in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Many clergy and faith center staff persons found themselves dealing with congregational losses while also working to be a source of support for the community at large; in many instances faith leaders carry out these tasks even while themselves recovering from their own fire-related losses.

Interfaith has partnered with trained grief counselors and psychological professionals of the FEMA-funded group, Wildfire Recovery Project: Firestorm 2007, to not only bring care to those suffering loss and damages due to the fires, but also to those at faith centers who are tending to fire victims. On a monthly basis, Interfaith and the Wildfire Recovery Project will hold Disaster Education Workshops to help the faith community learn how to better assist those affected by the firestorm. Individually, Interfaith's Faith Liaison and a member from the Wildfire Recovery Project are also available to meet with faith center clergy and staff to assess and assist with each congregation's emotional and psychological needs.

For more information on what assistance and services are available for all lay, staff, and clergy caring for those who been affected by the fires, please contact:

Melvin Thomas, Faith Liaison Coordinator

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