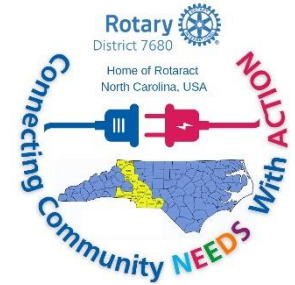


Thursday, Oct. 7, 2024

Rotary – District 7680 Disaster Update 4



My fellow Rotarians,

First and foremost, thank you to all the Rotarians and friends who have either given their time or resources to help those impacted by Tropical Storm Helene or other weather-related events impacting western North Carolina. With major highways open and supplies continuing to come in, help is being provided to those in need.

The needs in our northern counties of District 7680 and those in District 7670, however, will be with us for a long time. Authorities are still grappling with the magnitude of this disaster, and it may be many more months until we have a more complete understanding of the damage and human toll that has been exacted on the region.

With that in mind, I want you all to know that our District Finance Committee approved a new campaign to grow our District 7680 Donor Advised Fund (DAF). This fund will be used to assist on a longer-term basis, our communities in the six counties declared as disaster areas in our District and the communities in District 7670 who have been immobilized by TS Helene. We want to challenge Rotarians to raise \$50,000 for the DAF. The District will match 1:1 the first \$50,000 raised with a total initial goal of \$100,000 for the DAF. I'm confident we have the people in this District who can make this a reality.

We have also created a new reference page on the District 7680 website: <https://rotary7680.org> Once you land on the page, look for the banner at the top OR a link called "2024 Western NC Disaster" in the menu bar, to find the latest news and how you can help. Rather than seeing a constant flow of emails from me, please visit this link regularly to get the latest information on what's going on and how you can help.

I heard from Sheila Crunkleton, member of the Monroe Rotary Club, and an executive with the American Red Cross, who was on-site in western NC in her Red Cross capacity. Her counsel for those who want to donate supplies is to please make sure there is space for whatever you wish to send. They have lot of supplies, yet to be distributed like water, but they still need other items like infant formula. Just please make sure there is space for whatever you send. DGE Alpo Portelli is coordinating logistics in District 7670.

On a Zoom call with DG Connie from 7670 on 10/6 and multiple Districts from Florida, I learned that equipment will be one of their main requests in the near future for 7670.

Shovels, wheelbarrows, cleaning supplies, etc. will be needed. Please go the webpage to learn of specific needs.

In addition to the website, here are a few more resources for you to consider:

[Hurricane Helene Response | North Carolina Red Cross](#)

[Hurricane Helene: Rumor Response | FEMA.gov](#)

[Resources for Hurricane Helene - National Association of Social Workers NC Chapter \(naswnc.org\)](#)

[Were You Affected by Hurricane Helene? 7 Things to Know About Applying for Disaster Assistance | FEMA.gov](#)

[Tax relief in disaster situations | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](#)

DG Kevin Kendrick
2024-25