ABOUT CHILDREN’S DISASTER SERVICES

Children’s Disaster Services is a Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministry that involves volunteers from many faith communities who provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence in the midst of the chaos that follows disaster by setting up & operating special childcare centers in disaster locations. Parents are then able to apply for assistance and begin to put their lives back together, knowing their children are safe. The information learned at this workshop can be beneficial to anyone working with children.

Since CDS was founded in 1980, over 3,680 volunteers have served in 303 disasters and worked with more than 116,098 children. Following hurricane Katrina, Children’s Disaster Services, served in 9 states at 19 sites caring for 4,856 children with 173 volunteers.

ABOUT A CHILDREN’S DISASTER SERVICES VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP

CDS provides specialized training for all its volunteers. The CDS Volunteer Workshop is a comprehensive 25-hour workshop that uses applied, experiential activities to help the participants integrate their learning.

The workshop will train you to understand and respond to children who have experienced a disaster. Designed for people who have a heart and passion for children, the workshop helps you recognize and understand the fears and other emotions children experience during and following a disaster and how child-led play and various art mediums can start the healing process in children. Participants will experience a simulated shelter, sleeping on cots and eating simple meals. Once the training is completed, participants have the opportunity to become a certified Children’s Disaster Services volunteer by providing two personal references and a
criminal & sexual offender background check.

The Workshop includes:

- Types and phases of disaster
- Children
  - Their needs after a disaster
  - Responding to them in a healing manner
  - Using play to begin emotional recovery
- CDS Centers
  - Setup and operation
  - Safety procedures
- Self care on site and after returning home
- A shelter simulation

Although most volunteers are motivated by faith, CDS workshops are open to anyone over 18 years of age.

**WHAT SHOULD I BRING?**

Comfortable clothes, refillable water bottle, camping gear (sleeping bag or blankets, pillow, air mattress, flashlight), earplugs or sleep mask and personal items (towel, washcloth, toiletries). A want to help others in need!

**COST OF THE WORKSHOP**

$55 for early registration (postmarked 3 weeks prior to the workshop)
$65 for late registration (postmarked less than 3 weeks prior to the workshop)

Meals and overnight accommodations are provided by the host organization.

**TO REGISTER**

Go to the following link:  [http://www.brethren.org/cds/training/dates.html](http://www.brethren.org/cds/training/dates.html)