



Since The American Legion was founded in 1919 we have been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and American Legion family members. In the '20s, The American Legion entered into an agreement with The American National Red Cross, later called The American Red Cross, to assist them in disaster relief and fund raising.

The program became known as The American Legion's Disaster Relief Program and worked in conjunction with The Red Cross for about 50 years.

Over that time, The American Legion through its many local posts assisted our Nations' residents with housing assistance, food, supplies and cleanup after a number of major disasters.

After Hurricane Hugo struck Florida in 1989, in order to better assist American Legion family members and posts, the National Executive Committee created what we know as the National Emergency Fund (NEF). Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members and American Legion Auxiliary (less than 3 consecutive years as a member of the Auxiliary) who have been displaced or evacuated from their home due to a declared natural disaster are eligible for grants up to \$1,500. American Legion Posts impacted by a declared natural disaster that would possibly cause them to cease to perform their duties and activities in the community are eligible for grants up to \$5,000.

Since the NEF's inception in 1989, over \$7,500,000 has been provided in direct financial assistance to American Legion family members and posts. All contributions made to the NEF are deposited in a special account and are used exclusively to meet our member's most urgent needs. Not one single contribution dollar is used for fund raising or administrative costs. The NEF has kept posts from closing and enabled American Legion family members to begin to rebuild their lives and return to some semblance of order.

Funds are presented in the form of a grant to current members for out-of-pocket temporary housing, food and clothing expenses. The funds are not designed for insurance compensation or to cover monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds), second homes or equipment or vehicles.

How You Can Make A Difference:

- Encourage your post, squadron and unit to make a contribution to the NEF.
- **Advertise – Place NEF information on your post bulletin board, in your post newsletter and in your Department newspaper.**
- Encourage your elected leadership to add this subject to their topics when they visit other posts.
- **Have your post, squadron or unit hold an annual fundraising event, with the proceeds being donated to the NEF.**
- Departments could issue a written challenge to all their posts to make a donation in support of this fund. Have a goal of 100 percent participation from posts.



MAIL TO: The American Legion, National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 6141, Indianapolis, IN 46206

For more information visit: www.legion.org/emergency

Yes, I'm proud to help my fellow members in their time of need. Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$ _____ . This donation represents contributions from (please check one):

Post _____ Squadron _____ Unit _____ Individual _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____