

offer help to an affected A.A. office, you may wish to contact them directly to determine the *current* need.

A.A.'s shared experience suggests that after a disaster, local A.A. offices and groups require very few contributions of money or complimentary literature. In many cases, local A.A. members are happy to work together to replace lost literature or office supplies before asking for help outside their local A.A. community. Local groups often make whatever repairs are necessary to their meeting places.

Regardless of your personal or group response, it is important to keep in mind that many of the affected areas may not have mail delivery, electricity, or available storage space after a disaster.

**Q. Can I send money to G.S.O. and specify that it be used for disaster relief activities, such as replacement of literature?**

**A.** Every A.A. dollar received at G.S.O. is used on a priority basis to carry A.A.'s message when a need is expressed. This includes responding to literature needs after disasters. G.S.O. does not accept A.A. funds that are earmarked for disaster relief or any other specific project, since G.S.O. needs to be able to respond whenever and wherever there is an expressed need.

**Q. So what can I do to help?**

**A.** Many A.A. members choose to support non-A.A. relief organizations in the wake of a disaster as private citizens and individuals. Members may feel compelled to reach out and assist with efforts to bring food, water, shelter and medicine into affected areas. Our experience suggests that many A.A. members in the past have helped as private citizens through relief organizations in just this way. In keeping with A.A.'s Traditions, these members do not give donations under the A.A. name or credit A.A. in any way.

Due to the challenges mentioned above, in most cases this office would not be able to list specific ways to help an A.A. community affected by a disaster. G.S.O. handles direct requests for literature from those affected. If a situation arose where the expressed need could not be met by G.S.O.'s resources alone, we would contact local A.A. groups and ask for additional help. This has not occurred to date.