

# Disaster Relief

2020



Embrace Relief Foundation (ERF) is a 501 (c) (3) research-based international humanitarian aid and development organization. It started as disaster relief in 2008 and then became international humanitarian in 2013. Since then, it has seen vast progression in program development, **extending but not limited to: health initiatives, refugee relief, education, women's empowerment, disaster relief, clean water relief, and hunger relief.** In order to efficiently supply for those in need, Embrace Relief partners and collaborates with grassroots organizations. This has proven to allow for closer engagement with local communities, supporting them with food, monetary funds, supplies, educational materials and personal assistance. **The organization seeks to leave a lasting impact on lives through a multitude of initiatives that provide both immediate, short-term assistance as well as long-term solutions.**

In times of significant natural disasters, **Embrace Relief facilitates campaigns to provide food, water, clothing and funds directed towards affected communities. The organization has helped more than 422,610 people to date. To this day over \$1.4 million has been spent on disaster relief efforts around the globe.**

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# Sustainability Assessment

In providing humanitarian aid, Embrace Relief simultaneously furthers significant improvement of the overall stability of others. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the principle cravings of human security and satisfaction begins with the physiological. This pertains to shelter, water, air, food and clothing. As Embrace Relief works to open accessibility to these needs, they implicitly encourage mobility along the Maslow's pyramid for ongoing personal fulfillment. **These efforts work to serve life-affirming advances for those in battered living conditions.** The organization promotes a sustained level of personal satisfaction, which can extend to an overall improvement in health and happiness.



# PROJECTS

Embrace Relief worked to help the tornado victims in Moore, OK. A tornado rolled through a suburb of Oklahoma City, destroying everything in its path. The tornado wrecked two schools, a medical center, and dozens of neighborhoods. 24 people were killed including 9 children, and hundreds were injured. Many were left without food, water and shelter. **Embrace Relief distributed water, diapers, clothes for babies, blankets, gloves, and other necessary needs of the victims. Embrace Relief collected and donated \$10,000 to Red Cross Oklahoma and \$5,730 for the tornado victims**

After a horrific bombing in 2013, three victims were killed and hundreds were injured. About 17 lost limbs. **Embrace Relief collected \$45,00 to help the Boston Marathon Tragedy victims. The organization gave the donations to the One Fund Boston of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick.**

19 elite firefighters were killed in a wildlife fire on June 30, 2013. The fire claimed more lives than any other disasters since 9/11. The fire consumed more than 8,000 acres of forest and wildlife. **Embrace Relief responded by donating \$2,000 to the United Phoenix FireFighters Association to help the victims' families.**

**Tornado in  
Oklahoma**

**Boston  
Marathon  
Tragedy**

**Arizona  
Firefighters**

The 2011 Texas wildfires led to a destructive series of events during the fire season. At this time, about 31,453 fires burned 4,000,000 acres and 2,947 homes. All other destroyed buildings amounted to 2,700. Embrace Relief raised and donated about 1,000 cans of beef, 1,000 loafs of bread, 1,000 snack bars, 1,000 soup cans, 1,000 bottles of water and 1,000 canned fruit cocktail to Forest Fire victims in Magnolia, TX in September 2011 in partnership with Raindrop Helping Helps.

## Forest Fire in Magnolia, TX

Embrace Relief organized a campaign during Hurricane Katrina, which ruined the coastal line of Mississippi and Alabama including New Orleans. According to official reports, Hurricane Katrina injured thousands of people, and half a million people had to leave their homes. Embrace Relief provided food and shelter to the people affected by Hurricane Katrina.

## Hurricane Katrina

Embrace Relief sent 119 volunteers to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Embrace Relief was the first organization to distribute food after the earthquake. Volunteers distributed hot meals to 1,000 people every 30 days. The volunteers also distributed tents, blankets and clothes. Because many people were left homeless, volunteers set up tents as housing. 15 doctors attended this vital campaign and gave medical help to the injured.

## Earthquake in Haiti 2013



Pakistan experienced severe flooding after a torrential monsoon hit in August 2011. It's reported that at least 434 people were pronounced dead and 8.9 million affected. **That November, Embrace Relief raised and donated \$11,473 to the victims. The donations were delivered to Worldwide Resource Aid and House of Charity.**

In 2011, floods triggered by monsoon rains in Bangladesh killed six people, displaced over 10,000 and washed away farms. In response to this, **Embrace Relief raised and donated \$5,110 to the victims of the Bangladesh Flood in November. The donations were delivered to the Kimse Yok Mu Solidarity and Aid Association.**

Officials confirmed that the earthquake killed 604 and injured 4,152. At least 11,200 buildings sustained damage in the region, 6,017 of which were found to be uninhabitable. The other 5,200 were damaged but are habitable. **Embrace Relief immediately started a campaign to help victims of the earthquake in Van, Turkey, distributing food, clothing and blankets to them. Volunteers from Embrace Relief set up tents as temporary housing for those who lost their homes. Since then, a dormitory in Van, Turkey was built to house 200 students. Volunteers completed the dormitory in September 2013.**

## **Flood in Pakistan 2011**

## **Flood in Bangladesh 2011**

## **Earthquake in Van, Turkey**

In 2011, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake struck the Pacific Ocean, triggering a major tsunami that flooded over 200 square miles of coastal land. Roughly 15,897 people died and 6,157 were left injured. Embrace Relief donated \$52,267 for the victims of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. It delivered \$30,000 donation to the Consul General of Japan in New York and \$22,267 to the Japanese American Citizen league in Houston. President of Embrace Relief Neuzat Yilmaz presented the collected sum to Japanese officials to show the goodwill of the Turkish-American community by contributing to relief efforts in Japan

## Tsunami in Japan

The 2008 Sichuan earthquake devastated the central region of Sichuan, China with damages amounting to \$150 billion. Considered the 18th deadliest earthquake of all time, the death toll reached 87,587 with 374,643 injured and 18,392 missing. Embrace Relief raised and donated \$3,137 to the China earthquake relief efforts in July 2008. The donations were delivered to the Chinese Consulate.

## Earthquake in China

The first of the 2009 Sumatra earthquakes occurred in Sumatra, Indonesia with a magnitude of 7.6. It was later reported that 1,115 were dead, 1,214 severely injured and 1,688 slightly affected. Considering the extreme number of homes destroyed -- nearing 300,000 -- an estimated 250,000 families were affected by the disaster. Embrace Relief raised and donated \$5,000 to Indonesia earthquake victims in September 2009. The donations were delivered to the Honorable Kria Fahmi Pasaribu, the Consul General of Indonesia in Houston.

## Earthquake in Indonesia

South of Haifa, the Mount Carmel Forest Fire started in northern Israel in December 2010. The fire killed 44 people and prompted over 17,000 to evacuate before it continued to cause drastic property and environmental damages. **Embrace Relief organized a fundraiser for the 2010 forest fire in Israel. The money raised was donated for Mouth Carmel Forest's rehabilitation. The \$10,000 contribution was presented to JNF CEO Russell Robinson for the Operation Carmen Renewal campaign. The \$25,000 check was delivered to the Consulate of Israel in Houston, Texas.**

## Forest Fire in Israel

Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines on Friday, November 8th with a wind of 200 mph, leaving the country in a devastating condition. Reports claim around 10,000 people lost their lives. As the most powerful typhoon in history, more than 1,200,000 people were forced to seek shelter from the typhoon and around more than 850,000 people were in need of food. **Embrace Relief donated \$50,000 to help those who were affected by Typhoon Haiyan.**

## Typhoon in Philippines

In 2012, Hurricane Sandy traveled over New England, moving from the Midwest to New Jersey. Its landfall in Atlantic City had winds of up to 80 miles per hour. Though the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Whole Community made preparations for the storm, their response team could not have measured the debris that was to come. Their 2013 report states that in the first 72 hours, "FEMA focused efforts on supporting first responders to save lives, maintain safety, restore power, and stabilize communities with the FEMA Administrator emphasizing response priorities as: people, power restoration, points of distribution for commodities, and pumping flooded tunnels." Their statement goes on to explain that the storm left 8.5 million without power and caused nearly \$50 billion in property damage. FEMA's efforts made great strides, however, this destruction called for a community response, furthering aid and support in rebuilding not only homes, but families, too.

## Hurricane Sandy

## Our Contribution

On Nov. 11, 2012, members of the organization joined New York City Assembly Member Eric Stevenson's recovery efforts at the Salvation Army Franklin Women's Shelter in the Bronx. Overseen by Congressman Jose E. Serrano and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, they fed 500 people. For the Broadway Presbyterian Church's annual Thanksgiving dinner, held in the Lower East Side's NY City Rescue Mission, **Embrace Relief** donated 15 turkeys, 240 cans of tuna, 108 cans of corned beef, 80 pounds of apples and three cases of pudding. Along with the Turkish Cultural Center, they gave 200 blankets and 4,000 bars of soap to residents of Brooklyn. In Rockaway, Queens, they delivered food and cleaning supplies to 500 people, and the Connecticut Food Bank received 13 boxes containing 200 pounds of ground beef. Lastly, the organization gave \$40,000 for general storm recovery, as well as \$50,000 specifically allocated to the Far Rockaway branch of the Queens Public Library. "1001 Kids for Sandy Relief" was initiated by **Embrace Relief** to encourage kids to volunteer in disaster areas like Staten Island, NY, Hoboken, NJ and Rockaway, NY. 1001 Kids donated money from their savings for Hurricane Sandy. They raised money by setting up bake sales. They served soup to the victims, sorted clothing that was donated for the victims of the hurricane, and provided moral support. **Embrace Relief** received a \$150,000 donation from Turkish relief organization Kimse Yok Mu Solidarity and Aid Association. KYM launched an aid campaign to help the victims of Sandy, expressed to be the most violent hurricane in the last 30 years. **Embrace Relief** contributed to Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts along with the Red Cross. Red Cross Field Supervisor Zoe Jennings said **Embrace Relief's** help was "timely and very much appreciated." Volunteers served soup and bread to 350 people at the Levittown Memorial High School shelter on Nov 9, 2012. They served soup, bread, and water to 850 people at the shelter Nassau Community College ARC on Nov 10, 2012. **Embrace Relief** volunteers served dinner to 350 people at Levittown Memorial HS shelter on Nov 10, 2012. Volunteers served food and drinks to 700 people on Nov. 12, 2012 at Nassau County Community College.

On August 4th at 6:08 p.m., a massive explosion erupted in the capital city of Beirut, Lebanon that measured a 3.5 magnitude earthquake that was felt up to 150 miles away. Specialists from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom estimated the blast had one-tenth the force of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, making it one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history. In response to this disaster, **Embrace Relief** partnered with **Haddak Men B3d** and raised \$10,000. Half of this was used to send out food packages to more than 400 families while the remaining \$5,000 was spent toward rebuilding homes.



### Beirut Explosion





## COVID-19 Pandemic

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the coronavirus was named a pandemic on Mar. 11, 2020. Since then, it has rapidly spread around the world, hitting the United States the hardest, both socially and economically. However, globally, all people have been challenged against food systems and overall financially. A recent report from the WHO states “tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year.” This has resulted in food crises, public healthcare fragility and inaccessibility, and employment issues. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has concluded that the unemployment rate in the United States has hit 10.4%, marking an end to a decade of economic expansion for one of the world’s most biggest economies. Millions of devastated workers have been fighting for unemployment benefits or have simply come to a standstill, unable to afford basic living expenses. This has since drawn a concern for the overall wellbeing of the general population who wait for further assistance.

## Our Contribution

Embrace Relief has thus recognized the reprehensible circumstances people are currently under. In an attempt to reconcile and stabilize some major pillars of humanity, it has started a campaign centered around community restoration, “Stronger Together.” Since May 2020, the campaign has provided: 52,400 masks, 4,180 hot meals for frontline workers, 840 paper towels and 20+ gallons of antibacterial soap for hospitals, 840 face shields, 1,700 families with meat packages, and 81 families with monetary support. In response to the coronavirus, Embrace Relief hosted a fundraising event in May 2020. During this program, the team succeeded in raising over \$103,000 with notable support from: Enes Kanter, Helen Little, Ambassador Narinder Kakar, Joyce M. Davis, Edie Peters Liguori, Dr. Ron Messier, Dr. Katrina Swett, Father Thomas F. Michel, S.J., Eliz Akueva, Gary Busey, Kareem Irfan, Dr. Joan Rivitz, Rabbi Michael Zedek, Ertugrul and Aslihan Erkisi, Reverend Dirk Ficca and Lisa Guerrero. The team has forthcoming plans to launch another fundraising event, seeing that conditions have only worsened since the beginning of the pandemic. This second approach will primarily focus on rent assistance, bringing a number of families some semblance of relief.

## Conclusion

Despite considerable damage done to a range of communities and families after natural disasters occur, Embrace Relief continues its main effort of offering stability and support to those affected. These strides are only made possible through the continued support of donors and overall consistency in the organization's goals. In doing so, the organization has provided substantial support to the wellbeing of injured communities with a sustainable approach to benefits and security. With these responses, Embrace Relief is able to see substantial progress and growth in these communities in need.

