



**American  
Red Cross**

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*News Release*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## ***San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Donates \$200,000 to American Red Cross Disaster Relief***

**SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. Dec. 3, 2013** — The American Red Cross announced today that the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has donated \$200,000 toward American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Motivated by the devastating tornadoes and severe weather that affected hundreds of people across five states in the Midwest, and committed to helping others near and far; San Manuel is a true partner to the American Red Cross.

"Disasters have long lasting impacts on those affected and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is pleased to be in partnership with the American Red Cross to support the on-going response to these events," said San Manuel Tribal Chairperson Carla Rodriguez. "By helping affected communities to recover we are fulfilling our traditional teachings and values to sustain life and wholeness in the world."

This donation will help the Red Cross immediately respond to the approximately 70,000 natural and man-made disasters that happen throughout the U.S. on a yearly basis. When disaster threaten or strikes, the Red Cross focuses on meeting people's immediate emergency needs by providing shelter, food, and health and emotional health services to address basic human needs and assist individuals and families in resuming their normal daily activities independently. Red Cross disaster relief efforts also includes feeding emergency workers like fire fighters and police, handles inquiries from concerned family members outside the disaster area, provides blood and blood products to disaster victims, and helps them access other available resources.

"We're extremely grateful to San Manuel for their generous support of Red Cross Disaster Relief," said Maxine Margaritis, regional CEO American Red Cross, serving Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. "Donations such as this will go a long way in helping the Red Cross meet the emergency needs of those devastated by the many disasters we respond to on a regular basis."

The Red Cross and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has a long standing partnership that began following the Old Fire in 2003, to which San Manuel dedicated relief effort resources following wildfires that burned more than 90,000 acres. In the years since, the tribe has supported multiple Red Cross international and domestic disaster relief efforts and helped fund programs that provide preparedness training to members of the community, including seniors and youth.

"We are so appreciative of San Manuel for their continued support of the Red Cross," said Yvette Ramos, CEO of the Red Cross in San Bernardino County. "Thanks to the generous donations and support of partners like the San Manuel, we're able to immediately respond to our communities and provide those in need the assistance in recovering from disasters as quickly as possible."

### **About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

*The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.*

**About the American Red Cross:**

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).*

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