



Special Message

From AHA President & CEO Rick Pollack

September 28, 2017

THE CARE FUND
www.thecarefund.net

PUERTO RICO UPDATE & HOW YOU CAN HELP

This month, Puerto Rico was battered by two powerful storms – Hurricanes Irma and Maria. While the full extent of the disaster is still unfolding, it is clear that the island has sustained historic damage from which it will likely take years to recover. The magnitude of the devastation cannot be overstated. Power, water, supplies, fuel, phone lines and cellular towers are affected across most of the island; flood waters have yet to recede in many areas; and countless homes and buildings have been severely damaged or destroyed.

During the storms and in their ongoing aftermath, the women and men of Puerto Rico's hospitals have been doing what comes most naturally to them – putting patients first – even under very dire circumstances. They have worked tirelessly to care for others, even while their own families were in harm's way.

The American Hospital Association has a long and strong relationship with the Puerto Rico Hospital Association and hospitals throughout the island. We have been in regular contact to offer our assistance and will continue to provide support.

As part of our efforts, we have activated The Care Fund – www.thecarefund.net – to provide support to hospital employees in Puerto Rico affected by the storms.

The AHA has contributed an initial \$50,000 to get the fund started. In addition, we are collaborating with the Greater New York Hospital Association and the Healthcare Association of New York State, who are working to provide direct assistance to hospitals in Puerto Rico by organizing teams of medical personnel to deploy through the federal government, the collection of medical supplies donated by vendors and the development of a long-term plan to provide direct assistance. Watch for more information about how you can help as plans solidify in the near future.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by these powerful hurricanes. We will continue to monitor the situation and help as needed.

HOW YOU CAN HELP PUERTO RICO

To make a donation for hospital employees in Puerto Rico, please visit www.thecarefund.net.

Each hospital will identify those employees with the most significant needs and disperse the funds accordingly. All administrative services are being provided in kind so that 100 percent of your donation will be used to assist hospital employees. For questions, please e-mail thecarefund@aha.org or call (202) 626-2672.

ADDITIONAL HELP NEEDED IN FLORIDA AND TEXAS

As we have shared previously, the Texas and Florida hospital associations have established funds to assist hospital employees impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. These funds are still collecting donations. Please visit www.tha.org and www.fha.org/donate for more information or to make a donation.