

# Rebuilding Hope in Western North Carolina with Convoy of Hope

## The Community We're Serving

Nestled in the mountains of Western North Carolina, Asheville and nearby communities such as Barnardsville and Swannanoa were among the hardest hit by Hurricane Helene. In the days leading up to the storm, persistent rainfall had already saturated the ground. When the hurricane landed, local dams, filled beyond capacity, were suddenly forced to release massive volumes of water. Tragically, emergency alerts gave residents *less than* an hour's notice. With *no formal* evacuation plans in place, flash flooding swept through the region.

The storm caused catastrophic damage, impacting over 120,000 homes, and significantly deepened the region's existing housing crisis. The disaster further strained an already critical housing shortage and led to a dramatic rise in homelessness. Many families, particularly those who were uninsured or underinsured, were left displaced with little to no resources for recovery.

## From Emergency Relief to Long-Term Recovery

In the immediate aftermath, a powerful coalition of local and national partners stepped in. Today, that response has evolved into a coordinated long-term recovery movement- the Asheville Dream Center leading the charge, partnering with national partners like Convoy of Hope, local allies including Crossroads Church, and a network of local churches and volunteers, and a coalition of area churches launched a long-term, community-driven recovery initiative to rebuild lives and restore housing stability. We are heading into a region deeply impacted by disaster, but also full of resilience and hope. Together, we are addressing both the physical and spiritual needs of the community through a wide range of efforts, including:

- Rebuilding and repairing homes for displaced families,
- Providing temporary housing such as all-season campers,
- Offering free home repair services to the uninsured and underinsured,
- Supporting inner-city ministry work, including community outreach, food distribution, and mentorship,
- Coordinating volunteer teams nationwide to meet urgent needs on the ground.

## Our Role in the Recovery

As part of this effort, we will join the Asheville Dream Center's mission to bring hope and healing to this community. Our work will be driven by the area's immediate needs, helping provide safe homes and meaningful connections to those needing them most. Our hands-on service will directly support one of 40+ active housing projects, and may include:

- Home repairs and light construction,
- Debris Removal, cleanup, and site preparation,
- Assisting with temporary housing setups,
- Participating in inner-city outreach, such as delivering meals or engaging with underserved families.

## **Who We're Helping**

The beneficiaries of our work are local families *still displaced* by the floods—families with no safety net, many of whom live in temporary housing, campers, or overcrowded spaces. These are single parents, elderly residents, and children who've lost *everything*. By rebuilding their homes, we're also helping restore their stability, dignity, and future.

## **A Nationwide Response with Local Impact**

What began as a local emergency has become a nationwide movement of compassion and action. Organizations like Convoy of Hope have brought vital resources, while local churches have stepped up to serve their communities. We're combining emergency relief, housing recovery, and inner-city ministry to bring holistic support to those most affected by Hurricane Helene.