How can I support CDS' work with children?

- Pray for this ministry
- Volunteer
- Host a training
- Organize a fund raising event
- Make a donation - send your financial contribution to:
  Emergency Disaster Fund
  Church of the Brethren,
  1451 Dundee Avenue Elgin, IL 60120

What is happening?
Why are Mom & Dad crying?
Will someone I love be hurt?
Who will take care of me?
Where's my dog?
Will this happen again?

These are just a few of the questions children have in the wake of a disaster. Often experiencing panic and fear, children need comfort, support and answers.

Fully consumed with the stress of the disaster and addressing the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – even the best of parents can struggle to meet a child’s needs in a disaster.

Children’s Disaster Services
601 Main Street, P. O. Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188
800-451-4407 or 410-635-8734
CDS@brethren.org
www.childrensdisasterservices.org

American Red Cross
National VOAD

Children’s Disaster Services is a program administered by the Church of the Brethren, Brethren Disaster Ministries.

CDS is pleased to be in partnership with:
- American Red Cross
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):
  Disciples Home Missions, National Benevolent Association, Week of Compassion
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
- Child Life Disaster Relief

Nurturing Children
Equipping Volunteers
Supporting Families

Children's Disaster Services
Caring for children since 1980
Nurturing Children

Since 1980 Children's Disaster Services (CDS) has been meeting the needs of children by setting up child care centers in shelters and disaster assistance centers across the nation. Specially trained to respond to traumatized children, volunteers provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence in the midst of chaos.

Arriving with a "Kit of Comfort" - carefully selected toys that promote imaginative play - volunteers encourage children to express themselves, thereby starting the healing process.

“When I see Children's Disaster Services here, I know everything is going to be alright.”
FEMA employee – New Orleans, LA

Supporting Families & Communities

CDS provides respite, education and individualized consultation for parents about their child's unique emotional needs after a disaster.

Through consultation or workshops specifically tailored to each situation, CDS works with parents, community agencies, schools and others to help them understand and meet the special needs of children during or after a disaster.

Partner agencies report CDS creates an environment that makes it easier to give aid to those in need.

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.”
– Jesus in Matthew 18:5

Equipping Volunteers

Volunteers from across the country
- Participate in a specialized experiential training
- Undergo a rigorous screening process
- Learn to work with children after a disaster
- Are capable of mobilizing rapidly
- Respond both locally and nationally

Although many volunteers are motivated by faith, CDS' training is open to anyone age 18 and over.

Critical Response Childcare

CDS was invited to join the Red Cross Critical Response Team in 1997. Critical Response Childcare volunteers receive additional training in responding to the needs of children after a terrorism or mass casualty event.

CDS is able to deploy volunteers within hours of the event, providing respite and support to children and families after a catastrophe.