

**Long-Term Fire Recovery Ministry (FRM) Plan  
Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church**

**Current Fire Recovery Ministry Members:**

Rich Belzer, Anne Conley, Joe Farrell, Jan Rasmussen,  
Greg Seckington, David R Shalinsky, Sheri Woodley

**Chair:** David Shalinsky

**RBCPC Team Leader:** Greg Seckington

**Advisors:** Ray Sparling, Neal Nybo, John Stafford, Bruce Humphrey

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## **I. Background and Purpose**

The San Diego County Firestorms of October 2007 created a need for emergency and long-term relief to help those affected by the fires. This document describes the programs developed by the newly-created 'Fire Recovery Ministry' (FRM) at RBCPC to promote the road to recovery for Fire Survivors.

The FRM's goal is to ensure that funds and programs are used to help families and individuals find permanent solutions to their fire-related problems. The FRM represents RBCPC and seeks to engage and help coordinate existing ministries to do the most good for Fire Survivors. The FRM is the official arm of the congregation developed to lead the recovery efforts. The FRM will act to facilitate referrals to optimize benefits to Survivors when RBCPC ministries can not address specific needs. As a ministry, the FRM falls under the regular guidelines and oversight of the Session of RBCPC.

## **II. Vision Statement**

RBCPC will befriend Survivors of Firestorm 2007 and help restore lives and homes by ministering to physical, emotional, and spiritual needs by.

- Leveraging existing programs
- Developing new programs
- Targeted outreach and referral
- Administering funds donated to help Fire Survivors

## **III. Scope**

Consists of the following:

- Objectives
- Criteria for programs developed or used by RBCPC
- Criteria for beneficiaries to receive aid from the FRM
- Definition of aid
- Specific programs developed to address needs arising from Firestorm 2007
- Coordinating RBCPC programs aimed at meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs of Fire Survivors
- Proposed budget for relief efforts and programs
- Plans to procure additional funding for relief efforts and programs
- Policy for referring Fire Survivors and Donors to external resources to meet extraordinary underinsurance and post-traumatic related disorder needs

### **1. Objectives**

To support members of the RBCPC church family and members of the community who lost or suffered damage to their home or dwelling due to the Firestorms of 2007. Efforts will be prioritized to help those in the regions of Rancho Bernardo, Poway and Escondido. Aid may also be given to other Fire Survivors based on resources available to, and criteria set by the FRM.

## 2. Criteria for programs developed or used by FRM

Criteria include the following points. In other words, will the program(s) help:

- Those who suffered loss or damage to home or dwelling in Firestorm 2007?
- Alleviate discomfort or hardship produced by Firestorm 2007?
- Prepare affected persons to return to a permanent home or dwelling?
- Affected persons meet their physical, emotional or spiritual needs associated with Firestorm 2007?
- Demonstrate the love of God?
- Serve its clients in a fair and just manner?


## 3. Criteria for Recipients of Aid

- Church-family
  - Has highest priority regardless of domicile
  - Need not be a member of RBCPC. Intention is to be part of the church family.
  - FRM would like to support all who ask for help.
    - Based on geography, FRM will be able to logistically serve those living in Rancho Bernardo, Poway and Escondido to a greater extent than those in outlying areas.
    - Certain programs will likely be limited for those in outlying areas and our intention is to help address these needs with Targeted Outreach and Referrals.
- Loss of home
  - Has highest priority
  - Those who suffered lesser damage to home or dwelling are also welcome to FRM attention
- Aid will not unnecessarily duplicate aid given elsewhere. In some cases, cash grants may be paid directly to provider (landlord, physician, vendor)
- Amount of aid determined by need on individual basis, to be coordinated with outside agency where applicable.
- Those who suffered trauma or other losses may also receive aid based on resources available to, and criteria set by the FRM.
- Aid is available during the time of temporary dislocation and may be extended up to 6 months after moving home based on resources available and criteria set by FRM

## 4. Definitions of Aid

Donation of time, cash, tangible or intangible gifts, educational services, and/or referrals.

**5. Leveraging & developing specific programs aimed at meeting needs from Firestorm 2007**

| Acute <sup>1</sup>                                                                                                                                                       | Long-term <sup>2</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Recovery Efforts | 2009 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------|
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |      |
| <b>On-site Help -</b>                                                                                                                                                    | Originally dedicated to acute needs to sift and/or clean properties due to Firestorm damage to the lost or damaged home/dwelling, additional on-site help may be provided to help families e.g., to move back into or help landscape/provide minor repairs or improvements to their newly-rebuilt home or permanent dwelling |                  |      |
| <b>Liaison Program -</b>                                                                                                                                                 | Pairing Fire Survivor Individuals/Families with RBCPC Families to be friends to “walk with Survivors” through the 2+ year process of rebuilding their home or restoring their lives.                                                                                                                                         |                  |      |
| <b>Associated Resource:</b> Women’s and Other Ministry program events engaged to support Fire Families                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |      |
| <b>Educational Series</b>                                                                                                                                                | Offering fire-related seminars, inspirational presentations, and/or social events to educate and support Fire survivors on key issues related to rebuilding and restoring their lives Goal is to provide relevant information and opportunities for fire families to network for emotional support                           |                  |      |
| <b>Associated Resource :</b> Food, Audio-visual and IT Ministries engaged to support Educational Series                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |      |
| Food Ministry: Supper Series / Refreshments offered                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |      |
| AV: Enables presentations and taping                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |      |
| IT: Enables presentations and FRM announcements to be posted at <a href="http://www.rbcpc.org">www.rbcpc.org</a> and other Committee-approved websites in the community. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |      |
| Childcare                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |      |
| <b>Healing Ministries -</b>                                                                                                                                              | Offering fire-related workshops, materials and/or counseling to address emotional and spiritual needs following Firestorm 2007                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |      |
| <b>Targeted Outreach-</b>                                                                                                                                                | Involving RBCPC members directly in community support programs<br>Coordinating and facilitating community construction/support program                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |      |
| <b>Communications</b>                                                                                                                                                    | Communications team member will maintain an up-to-date mailing list and create regular newsletter and other informational (e)mailings to support the efforts of the Liaisons, Educational, Healing, and Outreach efforts. Other Communications tools may be employed, eg, Lantern, newspapers, etc.                          |                  |      |
| <b>Childcare</b>                                                                                                                                                         | To provide a safe place for children of fire families while parents rebuild. (not necessarily free)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                  |      |
| <b>Financial Gifts</b>                                                                                                                                                   | Gift Cards<br>Subsidies to help meet other need(s) related to recovery                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |      |
| Financial gifts may be coordinated with outside agency to reduce duplication of services/resources                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |      |
| <b>Resale Gift Shop</b>                                                                                                                                                  | Offering donations to Fire Survivors to restore loss of physical items following Firestorm 2007 and may be used to help RBCPC fire family survivors to obtain furnishings to “Go Home”                                                                                                                                       |                  |      |
| <b>Other program(s)</b> TBD                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |      |

<sup>1</sup> Acute support program effective October through December, 2007 was dedicated to on-site help, providing Gift Cards, and referrals to FEMA and Disaster Relief agencies

<sup>2</sup> Beginning, Jan , 2008

5. Leveraging RBCPC programs aimed at meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs of Fire Survivors

RBCPC has many active ministries that are vital to the success of FRM objectives. Led by the FRM, a coordinated, productive team effort will guide recovery efforts. Each part of the body of RBCPC is needed to promote restoration and recovery as shown in Fig 1.

## 2008 Firestorm Relief Ministry: Program Overview (Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church)

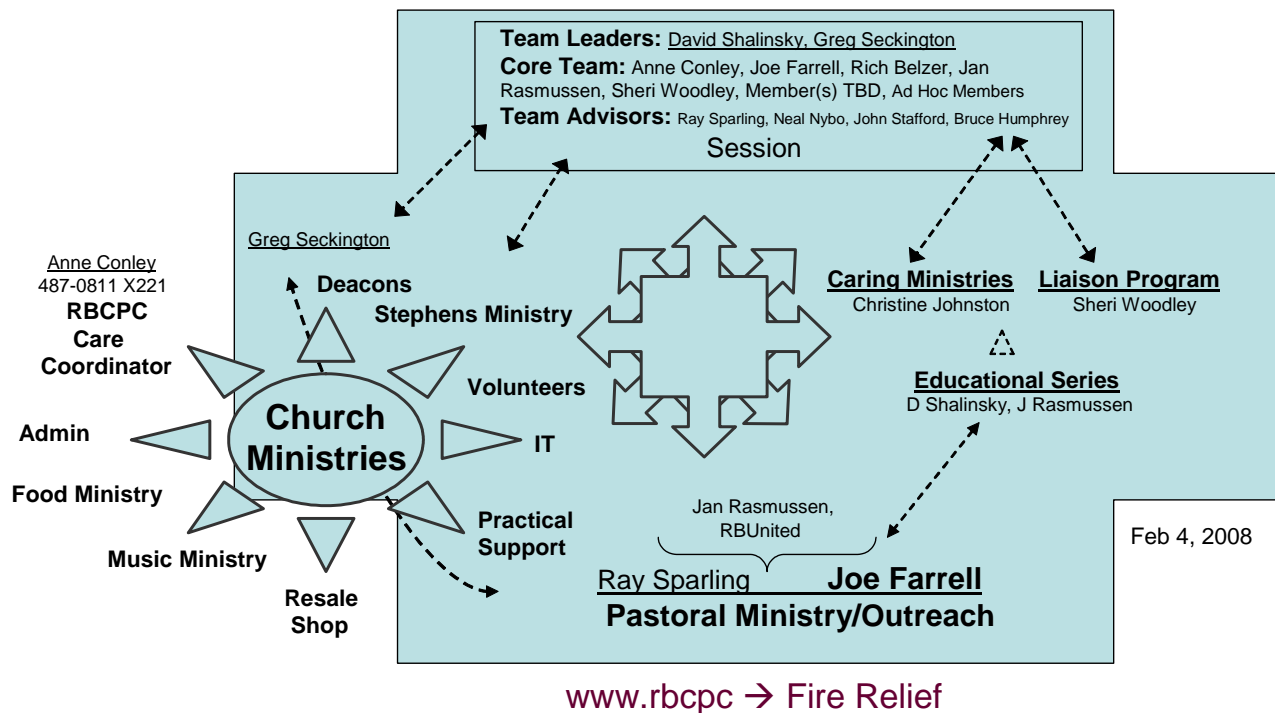


Figure 1. Overview of FRM and Existing Ministries at RBCPC.

**Specific roles are outlined here:**

**Liaison:** A volunteer who will “walk with” the Fire Family and be a friend or otherwise offer to support the family during their recovery process.

**Congregational Care:** Facilitates existing Congregational Care services to the Fire Family

**Deacons:** Supports Fire Families aligned with mission to be the caring arm of RBCPC.

**Pastoral Care:** Provides pastoral care, counseling and/or support as necessary

**Stephens Ministry:** Provides 1:1 relationship for special counseling needs

**Educational Series:** Provides information, forum to educate fire survivors, and opportunity for Fire Families and Liaisons to connect to aid the recovery of Fire Families

**Supper/Social Get Togethers:** Implemented to supplement Educational Series

**Targeted Outreach:** Leads RBCPC efforts outside Liaison program to serve needs of greater community

**Carpenter Ministry:** Serves minor needs for repair, restoration, and helping Fire Survivors

## 6. Proposed budget for relief efforts and programs

RBCPC has received over **\$257,416** in donations and gift cards and has spent or incurred costs of **\$124,412** as of Jan 15, 2008. **Cash and gift card donations of \$225,611 and \$31,805**, respectively, have been received. Striving to be good stewards, a budget has been set to support programs and relief efforts as outlined:

Draft Budget (on 1/15/08) = \$257,416 (**of which \$133,004 = balance**)<sup>3</sup>  
**See FRM Agenda for 1-15-08 {Accounting Sheet dated 1-11-08}**

|                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Liaison Program:               | \$ >\$150,000 (bulk of funds here) |
| - cash grants                  |                                    |
| - gifts                        |                                    |
| - admin?                       |                                    |
| Gen Community<br>Financial Aid | \$ tbd                             |
| Educational Series             | \$ 20,000                          |
| Resale Shop                    | \$ 8,000                           |
| Healing Ministries             | \$ 1,500                           |
| Targeted Outreach              | \$ tbd                             |

**Total \$**

## 7. Potential Options to procure additional funding for relief efforts and programs

RBCPC Ministries and external resources may represent sources of additional funding.

- Deacons have a fund for helping Members of the congregation and community face extraordinary hardships generally on a one-time basis.

Deacons may be able to defray a limited amount.

Presbytery has Disaster Relief funding that can be solicited. Funding for specific projects can be solicited.

VOAD has Disaster Relief funding that can be solicited.

Other grant opportunities may be pursued

Call for donations may be made to congregation

## 8. Acknowledgements

The loving and generous response of RBCPC members, friends and existing RBCPC Ministries and Pastors is gratefully acknowledged. The outpouring of support was widespread. Numerous individuals and teams have provided key support to those affected by the 2007 firestorm. Thanks be to God.

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<sup>3</sup> By end of FRM Mission, estimated at end of 2009, all donated funds will be distributed as budgeted or as cash grants to benefit fire survivors.