

Media Contact: Tara Letort

Telephone: (504) 250-4251

loucommunications@redcross.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Red Cross builds local partnerships to foster Disaster resilience in Terrebonne Parish

*Amid climate crisis, the partnership aims to increase residents' access
To meals before and after disasters*

Houma, LA, May 2023 – The American Red Cross of Louisiana is pleased to announce a new partnership with Terrebonne General Health System and Terrebonne Churches United Foodbank to help people in Houma cope with the increasing frequency and intensity of climate disasters.

This partnership aims to expand and enhance Terrebonne Churches United Foodbank's services to patients discharged from Terrebonne General Health System. This includes improving access to healthy food for patients and their families, including home deliveries. Taken further, this partnership will also help residents remain safely in their homes after disasters and be better equipped to begin and sustain their recovery.

“It’s a team effort to help our community become better prepared for and more resilient after disasters, especially as the climate crisis worsens existing societal inequities such as access to nutritious food, health and mental health care, and housing resources,” said Dr. Gilda Ebanks, manager of disaster risk reduction with the Louisiana Red Cross. “By joining together with hospitals, food banks, and other local organizations at work in Houma, we can make a greater difference in the lives of those we jointly serve.”

“We are thrilled to partner with the American Red Cross and the TCU Foodbank to provide our patients much-needed access to healthy food once discharged from the hospital,” said Phyllis Peoples, President and CEO of Terrebonne General Health System. “Healthy food is an important part of the recovery process, and having these resources readily available will benefit those who need it the most.”

“For 35 years, the Terrebonne Churches United (TCU) Foodbank has been your hometown food bank serving this community in times of need,” said Lawrence DeHart, executive director of the TCU Foodbank. “We are proud to partner with two other amazing organizations that have provided great care and love for the citizens of our area on this groundbreaking, one-of-a-kind program.”

This new partnership is part of the national American Red Cross Community Adaptation Program (CAP), which is providing enhanced support in select communities across the country that are at high risk for extreme weather and face socioeconomic challenges. The program focuses on enhancing local nonprofits specializing in health, hunger, and housing to strengthen their programs before a disaster and serve families hit hard by this increasing state of climate disasters. Louisiana's CAP team is focused on Terrebonne Parish, one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Ida in 2021.

The Louisiana Red Cross CAP team includes **Dr. Gilda Ebanks, Dr. John Navy**, and **Ryan Sims-Gilkey**. Meet the Louisiana CAP team at the [ResCon International conference](#) at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Wednesday, April 26 during the 1 p.m. plenary session, [“The Way Forward: How Communities Can Thrive after Being Hit with Multiple Disasters.”](#)

Each year, the Red Cross responds to more than 60,000 disasters across the country by providing food, shelter, emotional support, financial assistance, and supplies. Here in Louisiana, the Red Cross responds to a disaster nearly six times daily. Among recent major relief efforts, the Red Cross has responded to winter and spring tornadoes as well as multi-family home fires.

Pictured: Teresita McNabb, Terrebonne General Senior Vice President of Clinical Services, Lawrence DeHart, Terrebonne Churches United Food Bank Executive Director, Dr. Gilda Ebanks, Louisiana Red Cross CAP team, Daisy Cheramie, Terrebonne Churches United Food Bank, and Joy Martinez, Terrebonne General Director of Care Management

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About Terrebonne General Health System

Terrebonne General Health System is the largest healthcare resource provider in southeast Louisiana that has taken the lead to deliver medical excellence and innovation to the people of Southeast Louisiana. Driven by a "high tech" and "high touch" style of healing that offers an expansive range of services that provide hospital care and preventive care while also providing basic healthcare needs on and offsite. Our highly skilled healthcare team consists of over 1,500 employees, with over 450 medical staff providers that offer 42 various specialties. Our system has been honored with many prestigious awards and accolades for quality, safety, and patient experience on the state, national and international levels. Terrebonne General took the lead to initiate a public/private partnership with Ochsner Health which delivers crucial safety-net services for the region through Chabert Medical Center and is part of an alliance of healthcare-focused entities across the greater Gulf South region. For more information, please visit www.tghealthsystem.com and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

