

## **Meeting the Emotional Needs of People Affected by Disasters**

In the aftermath of events like Hurricane Katrina, we all feel a great desire to help. Organizations such as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and FEMA have dispatched volunteers to the Gulf Coast and neighboring states to provide assistance to the victims of this disaster.

Communities all across the United States are preparing to welcome individuals and families who must find a new place to live for an, as yet, undetermined amount of time. In time, some of these folks may make their way to Central New York. Students from colleges in the affected area are being enfolded into our campus community. The need for volunteers to help here and in the Gulf coast area will continue for a long time.

Specially trained, licensed mental health professionals are an important part of a disaster response team. They provide emotional support and crisis intervention for the persons affected by the disaster and the persons responding to the disaster. But all who respond to the victims of disasters have an opportunity to help meet the emotional needs of the people they seek to serve.

No matter where you volunteer, whether you're handing out bottles of water, comforting a child in a shelter, rebuilding homes or helping a 'displaced Tulane student' find his or her way around Syracuse, understanding the emotional aftermath of a disaster will enable you to be a better source of emotional support.

Come learn the basics of meeting the emotional needs of people affected by disasters. This 3 hour class will enable you to:

- Identify the range of emotions created by disasters for individuals, communities and disaster responders
- Understand the factors that influence the emotional impact of the disaster
- Understand the emotional phases of recovery from a disaster
- Identify the essential skills for those offering emotional support
- Understand the key components of Emotional First Aid

Presenter: Peg Miller , LMSW, ACSW is Assistant Director of the School of Social Work and a member of the disaster mental health leadership team at the Onondaga and Oswego chapter of the American Red Cross.

**Date: Friday September 16**

**Time: 1:00 to 4:00**

**Location:**

**To register: contact Linda Thomas [lmthomas@syr.edu](mailto:lmthomas@syr.edu) or 443-5550  
at the School of Social Work**