



**Hearts
With Hands™
Disaster Relief**

"volunteers building strong, healthy, and prepared communities"



P. O. Box 6444
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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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The Medical Reserve Corps was founded after President Bush's 2002 State of the Union Address in which he asked all Americans to volunteer in support of their country. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a partner program with Citizens Corps, a national network of volunteers dedicated to ensuring hometown security. The Citizen Corp objective is to ask citizens to take personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and to promote community preparedness and safety.

The Mountain Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council (MATRAC), western North Carolina's own regional trauma system dedicated to regional medical disaster response and preparedness is proud to announce that the Mountain Regional Medical Reserve Corp (MRMRC) is now under the direction of Hearts with Hands, says Debbie Gilbert, Regional Response Coordinator for MATRAC. "We have worked with Hearts with Hands for years and turning sponsorship of the Medical Reserve Corps over to Hearts with Hands will enhance the ability and response capability of volunteers to serve where they are needed."

The Mountain Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council (MATRAC) is a team of volunteer health care professionals (both retired and active) as well as auxiliary medical professionals who are trained to assist local emergency responders and public health professionals in the western North Carolina area and beyond. The MRMRC is dedicated to serving in public health emergencies, mass casualty incidents, and personal and community disaster preparedness. The MRMRC covers the seventeen western most counties of western North Carolina.

Bill Bradley, Executive Director of Hearts with Hands is excited about the arrangement and believes the MRMRC is a nice fit with Hearts with Hands. "We have been operating since 1992 in disasters and disaster mitigation locally, nationally, and internationally. This agreement is an opportunity for Hearts with Hands to strengthen our response throughout our local area, while being able to continue with disaster preparedness daily."

The MRMRC's largest response was to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the agency has assisted throughout the region with numerous training exercises and influenza inoculation clinics. For more information about how you can get involved, contact Hearts with Hands at 1-800-726-9185 or contact the MRC coordinators listed below.

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