Why We Exist:

When tragedy strikes, people instinctively long to know that they’re not alone or forgotten — that someone cares. During these times, many cry out — grasping for hope and looking for help from both God and man.

As followers of Jesus, deep in our “knower”, something of God’s divine deposit within us rises up with a longing to show compassion — to demonstrate comfort because we ourselves have been comforted. The challenge is that very often, we don’t know what or how to go about doing so.

Hope Force International [HFI] seeks to follow the example of Jesus by responding to the needs that surround us at home and abroad — reaching out to those who suffer because of sudden, traumatic loss and those in desperate, chronic need. Hurting people need to know they’re not abandoned or forgotten — and that God and people care. The mission of HFI is to create a pathway to connect those in need with Jesus-followers who are able and willing to reflect and convey God’s love through compassionate action, bringing help and igniting hope. If this resonates in your heart — and you’re prepared to put your faith into action through acts of service to those impacted by crisis and disaster — we can help.

There are numerous and very meaningful opportunities to be involved in all phases of disaster, depending on your interest and ability. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, the situation is often chaotic, uncertain and demanding. At this stage, HFI deploys pre-trained volunteers called “Reservists.” These are individuals who have completed the basic training intensive designed to prepare them for what they may encounter. As circumstances stabilize, the pathway to volunteer service expands to welcome a broader population.

Mission:
To alleviate suffering caused by disasters and chronic human need through mobilizing the global Christian community into compassionate action.

Vision:
To become a leading volunteer training and response force, bringing hope to those affected by crisis or disaster.

Core Values:
* Reverencing and referencing God in all we do
* Responding to worldwide disasters and crisis quickly and effectively
* Empowering volunteers for rapid deployment
* Partnering with others to maximize effectiveness
* Demonstrating the transforming work of God in the lives of responders and those we serve
* Maintaining high standards of professionalism in decisions and actions
* Loving people - one individual at a time
* Serving others with bravery, compassion and integrity

Objectives:
• To prepare for disasters through training and strategic planning
• To take action through immediate response and relief at disaster sites worldwide
• To proactively help disaster survivors through recovery and rebuilding programs, as well as serving in areas of chronic, pre-existing need
Getting Involved:

What We Do:

The motivating purpose of Hope Force is to equip willing responders and mobilize them onto pathways of service. HFI trains volunteers in advance so they are prepared and allowed to respond — often in restricted areas — when disaster strikes.

Training:

The HFI Disaster Response Training Intensive consists of two days of preparation for domestic & international service with HFI.

The training consists of live speakers, as well as teaching filmed exclusively for HFI, and covers topics to prepare the HFI Reservist for the emotional, spiritual, and practical dynamics of disaster response.

Upon successful completion of the training graduates will be certified as Hope Force Reservists, eligible for rapid deployment with Hope Force International — often within 24-48 hours of a disaster.

Hands-on service & training in the field often includes:

- Debris removal
- Tarps application
- Mucking out flooded homes
- Reconstruction
- Emotional / Spiritual Care (ESC)
- Food services
- Case Management
- Administration / Logistics
- Journalism & Public Relations

There are 3 Phases of Disaster:

Relief:
- Rapid & restrictive
- Chaotic & without most services

Recovery:
- Occurs once basic services are restored
- Much less restrictive, but still disorganized
- Far more organizations involved

Rebuild:
- Coincides with good assessments
- Open to non-Reservists
- No longer in the headlines

Hope Force International engages in all three phases

Haiti: Since the devastating 2010 Haiti earthquake, HFI has had personnel on the ground and remains committed to helping Haiti recover. As the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti was in no way prepared for this disaster. Over 230,000 people lost their lives in the 7.0-magnitude, and election violence delayed recovery.

HFI chose to focus its efforts on Sous Savanne, a village close to the epicenter of the earthquake. Over 90% of the buildings in the area were destroyed in the quake, and many lost their livelihood as a result of the devastation.

Given Haiti’s existing poverty prior to the earthquake, HFI’s long-term goal is to promote sustainable development and improve the overall quality of life for people in Sous Savanne and the surrounding area. Our programs include rebuilding homes, healthcare initiatives and a child sponsorship program with an emphasis on education.

HFI Mexico: HFI is taking steps to expand into Mexico. We recognize that a well-equipped cadre of Reservists in Mexico will increase HFI’s capacity to respond nationally, in the Caribbean Basin and throughout Central & South America. Mexico Reservists responded in-country to the devastating 2017 earth- quakes that rocked the country.

HFI Mexico: HFI trains volunteers in advance so they are prepared and allowed to respond — often in restricted areas — when disaster strikes.

Nepal: When the 2015 earthquake took place in Nepal, HFI responded by sending two back-to-back medical teams. Apple of God’s Eyes (AOGE), our national partner, received these teams and worked collaboratively with HFI in an effort to meet the critical needs of survivors. As an expression of ongoing commitment to AOGE, HFI successfully raised funds to assist with a significant rebuilding project. Teams have returned annually with HFI construction / medical clinics to continue working hand-in-hand with our partner.

In 2016, construction efforts concentrated on rebuilding facilities lost to AOGE during the quake. Since then, construction teams have worked to build homes for those involved in leadership with AOGE.

The Apple of God’s Eyes organization is dedicated to restoring the lives of children once trapped in deplorable situations, including trafficking. We deeply respect the mission of AOGE and the staff members who provide such amazing care.

Ministry of Presence / Emotional & Spiritual Care

Based on Luke 7:22-24, we believe it is clear that there are two hands of the Gospel; meeting the physical and spiritual needs of people are strong components to any ministry endeavor. The “ministry of presence” allows us to come alongside individuals to help them onto the pathway of recovery in their lives.

The stories of changed lives are most compelling; we are given the honor of coming alongside survivors at a time of their greatest need. We need your help, and would love to facilitate the process of your involvement in Emotional & Spiritual Care (ESC), or as we call it — “The Ministry of Presence.”

Medical Teams Abroad:

Historically, emergency medical intervention has led our relief efforts in international disaster events of great magnitude.

We are very fortunate in Hope Force International (HFI) to have a number of highly qualified healthcare providers in our volunteer ranks. When a crisis occurs, we send out an SOS, and then mount an effective response.

HFI is committed to providing opportunities to better prepare our medical volunteers for future calamities, and have planned pre-determined opportunities to serve together under less stressful conditions. This will enable us to identify areas of opportunity to strengthen our systems and practices. It will also provide first-time international volunteers the ability to acquaint themselves with what it takes to be effective in unfamiliar conditions, and builds confidence.