

# Alternative Winter Break January 2012

## Alabama



*Spend winter break with a group of UW students and lend a hand in Alabama...*

*...Learn about disaster relief and how you can be a part of strengthening a community*

***UW Hillel and Wisconsin Union Directorate are partnering with the Jewish Disaster Response Corps to help victims of natural disasters in Alabama rebuild their community.***

**Fee:** \$500

### Important Dates

#### Program Fee Includes:

- Transportation to/from Madison - Alabama  
*(We will be driving UW Vans)*
- Transportation in Alabama
- Room & Board

#### Along with your completed application:

- Driver Authorization Form
- Submit a \$200 deposit by check to UW Hillel

*\* Your deposit will be refundable until you are accepted on the trip and confirm your space as a participant*

**Application deadline:** End of October

**Interview:** October-November

**Selection:** Mid November

**1<sup>st</sup> Orientation:** (Nov) Community Building

**2<sup>nd</sup> Orientation:** (December) JDRC Info

**3<sup>rd</sup> Orientation:** (December) Trip Prep

**Fundraising:** December

**Winter Break in Alabama:** January 15-22<sup>nd</sup>

**On Campus Reunion:** February 2012

*\*Participants must attend all events, dates are tentative*

*This trip is open to all UW students*

*Upon our first visit to our volunteer site, a disaster will greet us. Debris, destroyed homes, and displacement will mark our initial encounter. We will see a community in need that the media has moved on from. As Volunteers we will work diligently throughout the week to help the community rebuild. By the end of the week, we will be able to see the change we have made after working for only a few days. Volunteering with the JDRC will help participants understand the effects of disaster and the strength of a community effort through a Jewish lens.*



# Hillel

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*the information on this page is subject to change*

## **Jewish Disaster Response Corps (JDRC)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **General**

*Do I need to be Jewish to volunteer?*

You do not have to be Jewish to volunteer with the JDRC. We have had volunteers of all faiths and background. We only require that our volunteers be open minded and respectful of everyone's beliefs and practices and participate fully in all group activities.

*Who does the JDRC help?*

The JDRC helps any homeowners or community institutions that have been effected by disaster, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or gender. Most of the people we help are elderly, in poor health, or living in poverty as these people often have the most difficult time rebuilding.

#### **Once I'm There**

*What will I be doing once I'm there?*

The type of work you will be doing varies depending on the location and what type of disaster has affected the community. In the past, volunteers have removed debris, built homes, done interior or external painting, and more. A very important aspect of the trip is listening. Listen to survivor testimony; learn about the effects of the disaster, what do people need, etc

*What if I need Kosher food and am Sabbath observant?*

The JDRC works to accommodate all of our volunteers in their religious observance. We have Kosher food available on all of our locations (it might not be five star catering but we promise you will never go to bed hungry). The JDRC does not work on Shabbat and strives to join the local Jewish community, where possible, for Shabbat. In the field our volunteers come together for a meaningful and restful Shabbat experience.

*Where do volunteers sleep?*

Housing varies from locate on to location, but it is usually in a community building (ie: a YMCA, synagogue, JCC etc). Volunteers are provided with beds or air mattresses to sleep. It is not the Ritz, but we try and accommodate (please bring your own mints for your pillow and your own pillow).

*What if I have never used a hammer before?*

The JDRC works with volunteers of all skill level. We have staff on site to supervise all of our volunteers to make sure that they are working safely and effectively. Many of our volunteers show up on the first day with no experience and by the time they leave they are skilled carpenter. Well, almost.

*Who is cooking our food?*

You are! The group will make communal lunches and dinners. In some cases, the local community will help with dinner preparation, but don't count on it.