As I write this, the world is in the midst of coordinating the care of hurricane victims around the United States. Volunteering to coordinate the care of hurricane victims is among any disaster's heroines and heroines, providing assistance wherever it's needed. If there is any hope that the Haitian people are going to recover from this crisis, they are going to need nurses. Lots and lots of nurses. If you're considering serving in Haiti, take a look at the Project HOPE Web site (www.projecthope.org) for current needs and requirements for volunteer medical teams traveling to Haiti. The emergent relief efforts in Haiti will move forward and so will the nursing community. Each of us will find our own high water mark and so will the nursing community. Each of us will find our own high water mark.

We’ll Do Whatever We Can

Faced with life’s tragedies, nurses do whatever is necessary to make things better. Nurses are among any disaster’s heroes and heroines, providing assistance wherever needed.

Not every nurse can travel to disaster areas and serve on frontline medical teams. There’s a lot of nursing work to be done at home. Every nurse can volunteer in some way. Ask human resources staff about your facility’s policies related to volunteer service in the United States or elsewhere. Offer to cover for fellow nurses who are traveling to Haiti. Ask whether your facility will allow nurses to donate paid time off hours to nurses who are volunteering without pay. The American Red Cross (ARC) is not deploying medical teams to Haiti at this time; the International Red Cross is coordinating medical volunteers. Nurses are needed for stateside ARC Haitian relief projects. Two groups of ARC nurses in Chicago recently began helping Haitian refugees settle into a repurposed convent a few blocks from my home, giving them clothing, food, a safe place to rest, and essential medical checkups and medication before they are relocated with host families. ARC and other aid organizations can use your help to make phone calls for fundraising, donating essential materials, or locating host families. Donate to legitimate aid organizations; money will be needed for many years to come. Realistically consider what you can offer and when it might be needed.

Nurses are among any disaster’s heroes and heroines, providing assistance wherever it’s needed. If there is any hope that the Haitian people are going to recover from this crisis, they are going to need nurses. Lots and lots of nurses. If you’re considering serving in Haiti, take a look at the Project HOPE Web site (www.projecthope.org) for current needs and requirements for volunteer medical teams traveling to Haiti. The emergent relief efforts in Haiti will move forward and so will the nursing community. Each of us will find our own high water mark and so will the nursing community. Each of us will find our own high water mark.

Reference