

Seminole Heights Patch

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How You Can Help Hurricane Irene Victims

Two Tampa Bay area agencies are accepting disaster relief donations.

By [Sherri Lonon](#) | [Email the author](#) | 4:00pm | [Print](#)

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After [Hurricane Irene](#) battered the Northeast, Seminole Heights residents may be wondering what they can do to help.

At this point, cash donations can do the most good, said **Janet McGuire**, spokeswoman for the [American Red Cross](#). "Donate to the disaster relief (fund)," she said.

While residents can designate their donations for a specific event, such as Hurricane Irene, she advises against it. "People don't understand" if they donate to a specific disaster, the money is locked in for that disaster. That's why it's important to give to a general disaster fund, she said. "It's the exact same area a hurricane impacted – the money collected earlier could not be used to assist victims in a different area."