



TEAM HAPPY.ORG

Inspiring The Next Generation of First Responders

*1 in 4 New Orleans children live in poor households who cannot afford basic needs.
The most successful way to increase literacy is to increase access to age-appropriate books.*

Re: Youth Preparedness Campaign

THE NEED

Disasters disproportionately affect the most vulnerable members of society, especially children. Low-income families are especially susceptible to disasters because they often live in areas more vulnerable to natural disasters and tend to lack discretionary funds, insurance or reliable transportation. For example, 24.4% of the New Orleans population lives below the federal poverty level; 42.6% of that population is comprised of children ages 5 to 17 years old (2010 Census).

Fun, innovative and meaningful educational programs focused on preparedness can help combat vulnerability: planning prevents panic. Hurricane Season for Greater New Orleans, Southeast Louisiana and the entire Gulf Coast officially begins June 1st and ends November 30th. The immediate months before and after the official start of Hurricane Season provide an excellent window of opportunity for educators to capture the attention of our city/region, preparing youth for mandatory evacuations or the aftermath of a potentially catastrophic hurricane.

THE PROGRAM

MAKE A PLAN, BUILD A KIT, STAY INFORMED: The YPC teaches students how to make a family plan, build a safety kit, and stay informed for disasters. Our program includes the book reading of *The Adventures of Happy & Big Wanda*, which serves as the YPC curriculum core, underscoring: time management, financial literacy, environmental sustainability and outdoor exercise. We incorporate interactive activities to facilitate learning: coloring sections of important survival items, disaster kit checklist, word search and fill in the blank. Students take home individual worksheets: Safety Fun Page and also recite the Safety Pledge, making a personal commitment to encourage their family and peers to become better prepared for disasters.

The Youth Preparedness Campaign is an applied-research disaster readiness program primarily for ages 6-12; it is effective because we inspire motivated learning through active involvement and meaningful activities in concert with Louisiana's Grade Level Expectations (GLEs). Our vision: we believe every child can gain value in learning how to be prepared.

TODAY

Our team has educated and inspired more than 3,000 students about disaster safety in 30 schools across seven U.S. cities since March 2011. Program resources are provided at no cost to participating schools and educators: including local travel for site visits, instructions and materials used to teach lessons (Book & Safety Fun Page). Contact us for more information.