

[Oil Spill Continues to Destroy Environment](#)

With the oil spill still not under control, oil is continuing to seep into the marshes and wetlands areas, suffocating dolphins, turtles and a variety of birds, including the brown pelicans, the [Louisiana](#) state bird. As frustration over the inability to control the spill and clean up the oil grows, many groups are down in the Gulf, taking matters into their own hands, raising funds and helping directly in cleanup efforts. If you want to learn more about these efforts or offer support, we've compiled a list of some of the organizations that are at work in the Gulf.

How You Can Help

The [Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana](#) is organizing food distributions for those affected by the spill. You can [donate](#) money online or volunteer your time if you live in the gulf.

The [Community Center of St. Bernard](#) provides food, hot meals and counseling to those affected by the spill. You can [buy](#) a t-shirt that says, "Save The Gulf Coast," and the proceeds go to helping the fishermen and their families.

The [Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of New Orleans](#) has helped organized disaster relief sites where food is distributed. Mental Health assessments and vouchers to help pay utility bills are also given. You can [volunteer](#) your time or [donate](#).

The Gulf Coast Oil Spill Volunteers [Facebook](#) group has been created to help mobilize people who want to get the training required to help in cleanup efforts. Over 8,000 members have joined the group, where they have posted information for residents in Louisiana, [Alabama](#), [Mississippi](#), and [Florida](#). See details from the group at: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=121928837818541&v=info>

[Animals Caught in Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill: How You Can Help](#)



Organizations Seek Donations and Volunteers to Aid in Rescue Efforts

- **Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research** is the organization which treated the first oiled bird discovered in this spill. To support their efforts with a donation, visit: www.tristatebird.org/donations
- The New Orleans-based **Audubon Nature Institute** has positioned triage units in the affected areas to treat any affected sea turtles or marine mammals, such as sea otters. You can support their efforts by making a donation at <http://www.audubontransactions.org/support/fund1.php> or calling 504-861-5107.
- The **International Bird Rescue Research Center** has a team of specialists prepared to assist with rescue efforts. If you want to volunteer, they suggest calling the **BP** Community Support Team Hotline 866-448-5816. You can make an online donation by [clicking here](#).
- *Mobile Baykeeper*, based in **Alabama**, is an environmental group participating in cleanup efforts. They are currently taking donations to support their work related to the spill on their website: <http://www.mobilebaykeeper.org/support-join/donate>
- Tampa-based **Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary** says it's the largest wild bird hospital in the United States. It is currently asking for volunteers and donations to help with the Gulf oil spill, particularly with any cleanup efforts that may happen in **Florida**. For details, visit their website: <http://www.seabirdsanctuary.com/>

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