

Hartford HealthCARES Donation Helps Displaced Families Settle in Connecticut

Purchases much-needed Generator for Hospital in Puerto Rico

Hartford HealthCare on Friday donated \$85,000 to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

The money will be divided-- some will go toward the purchase of a much-needed generator for a rural hospital in Castener. And \$25,000 will stay closer to home, a donation to the Hispanic Health Council of Hartford to assist families from Puerto Rico displaced by Hurricane Maria.

The council will use 100 percent of this donation to help displaced families overcome barriers that have kept them from being able to secure long-term housing, such as deposits for rent or to turn on utility services.

"We asked the council how we could help improve the health of our displaced neighbors," said Jeffrey A. Flaks, president and chief operating officer of Hartford HealthCare. "They told us that without warm, clean, safe homes, nobody can be healthy."

The donation grew out of Hartford HealthCARES, a new, employee-led initiative that will enable Hartford HealthCare and its generous staff to respond to emergencies and disasters as needs arise. For its first effort, Hartford HealthCARES addressed the needs of Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria on Sept. 20, 2017.

Hartford HealthCare and our employees contributed enough money to buy a new emergency generator for a small, rural hospital in the mountains of Puerto Rico. The hospital, Castañer General, continues to serve as a lifeline for its rural community of farmers and migrant workers.

The donation to the Hispanic Health Council will address the needs of people who fled to Connecticut when their homes in Puerto Rico were destroyed. Many sought refuge in towns including Hartford, New Britain and Meriden, which have vibrant Puerto Rican communities. Hartford HealthCare has a big presence in these communities.

Hartford Hospital and the Hispanic Health Council have a long history of partnership that goes back more than 35 years. "They are the perfect stewards for our donation and we know that many families will be able to begin productive lives in our communities with this assistance," Flaks said.

Tina Varona

Manager, [Content Marketing](#)

Hartford HealthCare



Tina.Varona@hhchealth.org

860.972.4475 *office*

860.310.7640 *cell*