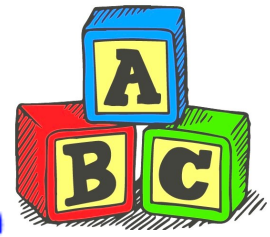


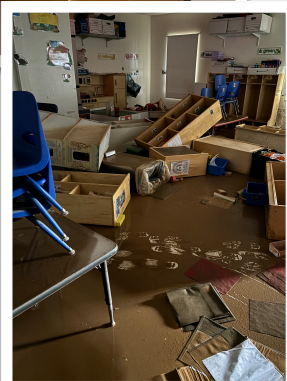
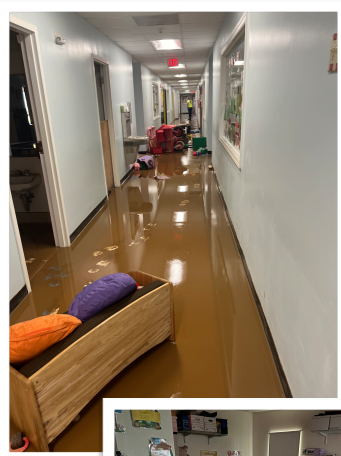


Building Blocks



Helene Photos

The following photos are from Blue Ridge Community Action.



WNC Head Start Centers Devastated

The NC Head Start Association held an emergency phone meeting on Thursday with member organizations to help NCHSA catalogue the extensive damage caused by Helene and its aftermath over the last week.

After the call, NCHSA President Terry David described it as a “gut punch” while NCHSA Operations Manager/Lobbyist Christy Jones said she continues to be overwhelmed with emotion as she thinks about the devastation facing her friends and colleagues in the storm-torn region.

The meeting commenced with David introducing key individuals from organizations such as the Office of Head Start, Lakeshore, Kaplan, and Save the Children, who were present to provide support. Terry emphasized the necessity of reporting resource needs and enhancing facilities to mitigate future damage. He then invited Brian Repass to discuss the challenges and resource requirements in his area, highlighting the importance of organized efforts to deliver effective assistance.

Repass detailed the significant obstacles faced by the local community post-hurricane, including limited access to information about the extent of the damage. He described the slow restoration of essential infrastructure, such as water and power systems, which severely impacted daily life and access to basic necessities. The personal toll on community members was evident, with many experiencing damage to homes and vehicles, further complicating their situation. Repass also outlined the organization's initiatives to support affected families, including resource delivery and staff compensation, while addressing the challenges of providing potable water.

Karey Dulaney shared her community's experiences, emphasizing the extensive devastation and loss. She highlighted communication and infrastructure challenges, while expressing gratitude for the support received from various organizations.

The meeting also featured updates from other participants, including Lori Reed and Titania Stockton, who discussed the storm's impact in their areas, such as power outages and the need for mental wellness support. OHS Director Khari Garvin provided insights into the widespread effects of the storm, emphasizing the administration's commitment to recovery efforts and the importance of communication regarding damage and losses.

David wrapped up the meeting by encouraging participants to reach out for support and expressing appreciation for their contributions.

September 30-October 4, 2024