

Care Team Overview

The National Response Team (NRT) Care Team was created and is maintained as a means of offering individualized support to deployed NRT and National Volunteer Team (NVT) volunteers. The Care Team is made up of NRT/NVT members who, in addition to other NRT/NVT roles, accept the additional responsibility of providing emotional and spiritual support to their deployed colleagues. Care Team support is usually available for early response deployments to disaster situations and for subsequent deployments related to the initial disaster.

Typically, the Associate for National Response determines if Care Team support is needed for a specific deployment. The PDA Program Specialist then sends an email about the deployment to the members of the Care Team. The team is organized so that monthly leadership rotates throughout the year. When a request for Care Team support is received, the monthly leaders poll the Care Team members for availability, and a Care Team buddy is designated for each deploying NRT volunteer.

Care team buddies contact deploying NRT/NVT members prior to deployment to establish contact and to let them know that they will have Care Team support while in the field. Each Care Team buddy and deployed NRT/NVT volunteer pair determine the type and frequency of contact and support, e.g., email, phone, daily or weekly. After the deployment, the Care Team buddy usually makes one additional contact to check in after the deployed volunteer returns home.

Greg Smith is the current Care Team Lead. Questions or comments about the Care Team ministry may be directed to him at revsilversmith@gmail.com.