

A true survivor . . .

# KATRINA AID TODAY

Mary Tillman's upstairs bedroom windows shattered as she lay sleeping in bed. Frightened and confused, she hid under a table as the walls of her home shook violently in the powerful gusts of Hurricane Katrina and eventually made it to the bathtub. Trees broke in half, the toilet was coming unbolted from the floor and the tiles on her roof peeled off like paper.



Mary had decided to stay despite her families pleas. She had survived many before and she was not leaving her home.

She lay in the tub until it became eerily quiet. Wondering how bad the storm had been, she climbed to her balcony. The sight was catastrophic. She was surrounded by water; water and dead bodies floating all around her.

Mary was alone and scared. All she could do was wait in the empty house, afraid it would unhinge at any moment. Moreover, she knew the dangers of being a diabetic without medication for even a short period of time.

She lay in her bathtub surviving on just peanut butter for 4 days until she heard the voices of two fishermen who were calling out, looking for survivors. She had lost 12 pounds. As she recovered in the hospital, she was able to contact her daughter in Colorado Springs and soon arranged to move in with her, along with 19 other family members.

When she arrived, The Salvation Army helped Mary stabilize her new life on the Front Range. Today, we continue to work along side her, developing a long-term plan for her care, health and happiness.

She truly is a survivor, and everyday we have a new story like Mary's. The staff of The Salvation Army Katrina Aid Today project continues to be blessed as we help our new neighbors who came to us having lost everything.

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