

# ONE OF THE MANY FACES OF ALAN

## **Roy Weeden, Director of Disaster Response Adventist Community Services**

“I’ve always been able to make the tough decisions in the heat of battle”, says Roy Weeden, Director of Disaster Response for Adventist Community Services (ACS) in Missouri and Chair of Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). Weeden has made plenty of tough decisions this spring as ACS and the Missouri VOAD have responded to flooding and tornado events across the state.



ACS specializes in warehousing and distributing the unsolicited in-kind donations that amass after a disaster. Following the tornado in nearby Joplin, MO, for example, ACS trained workers at a large local church to sort donations “ACS-style,” so they could move hundreds of thousands of dollars in goods directly to storm survivors. Weeden expects that sharing expertise and influence in this way—rather than directly controlling activities—will help the organization to have an even greater impact on Missouri relief efforts in the long term.

In Weeden’s mind, there is a direct correlation between the effectiveness of relief efforts and the effectiveness of communication among the response community. He is proud of how well the Missouri VOAD has “kept the communication lines open and been open to new thought processes—especially in light of multiple disaster strikes.”

Weeden often draws on his experience as a former business executive and owner to help encourage cooperation and collaboration amongst members. Experience also has shown him the value of disaster planning for all sizes of businesses. This includes recommendations encouraged by FEMA (<http://www.ready.gov/business/>), along with coordinating response with local emergency management and disaster response agencies. He looks forward to a day when a multi-state network will help to increase disaster response capacity.

As a pastor in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, faith is an integral part of Weeden’s framework for disasters: “We are living in days when weather patterns will be more frequent and violent . . . It is not a matter of if your town or community will get hit with something severe. It is only a matter of when,” he warns. “Preparedness is no longer an option. We need to adapt to the world in which we find ourselves. We need each other and we need strength from Someone bigger than us.”

To learn more about ALAN and our partners, visit us online at:

- American Logistics Aid Network – [www.alanaid.org](http://www.alanaid.org)
- Adventist Community Services – [www.communityservices.org](http://www.communityservices.org)
- Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster – <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/programs/drp.asp>

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