



## THE WEST INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB OF HARTFORD, INC.

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# HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF UPDATE

## Donation & Shipment Update

Donation drop-off sites were established throughout the Greater Hartford region, with the West Indian Social Club of Hartford serving as the central Disaster Relief Hub. The immediate focus has been on collecting clothing, food, and essential supplies to support communities affected by Hurricane Melissa.

On **Friday, November 14, 2025**, we successfully shipped 41 barrels, 4 boxes, and 1 pallet of water.

These were sent through Reliable Shipping Company. Contents include:

- Non-perishable food
- Clothing for women, men, and children
- Shoes
- Diapers, baby bottles, baby formula
- Medical supplies & bandages
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Blankets, towels, sheets, tarp
- Batteries

Upon arrival in Jamaica, the shipment will be received by:

Discipleship and Restoration Ministries, c/o John Smith, Golden Grove, Saint Ann.

## Distribution Partners in Jamaica

- **Andrew Morris, MP** – North St. Elizabeth & Lacovia Community
- **LT Patrick Malcomb**, Principal – Carrisbrook Primary School, Middle Quarters & Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth
- **Mustard Seed** – Donna Reynolds (Blessed Assurance), Montego Bay & Jacob's Ladder, St. Ann)
- **Westmore Nursing Home** – Shaun Briscoe, Petersfield, Westmoreland
- **Dwight Bolton, DH Bolton & Former Councilman Cal Torres** – Three barrels to Mandeville, Manchester, in memory of Jean Holloway

These partners will ensure that donated items reach individuals and communities most in need.

# Regional Support for Affected Caribbean Countries

While Jamaica endured the most severe impact of Hurricane Melissa, other nations, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, the Bahamas, and Bermuda, were also affected.

Recognizing the region-wide devastation, Maggie Gardener, Claudette Graham, and Edwin Vargas are coordinating international disaster relief efforts. They are currently conducting assessments to determine the needs of each country.

Once the assessments are complete and a coordinated distribution system is established, the West Indian Social Club of Hartford will provide further updates. Donations designated for other countries will be distributed appropriately.

## National Days of Prayer: November 15 & 16, 2025

The Government of Jamaica has declared November 15–16 as **National Days of Prayer** following the tragic loss and devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa.

We invite churches across Greater Hartford to join us in solidarity by offering a **special prayer** during worship services on **Saturday, November 15 or Sunday, November 16**. The team members coordinating this effort are Rev. Horace Johnson • Errol A. Smith • Claudette Graham

### Prayer Focus

- Mourning the lives lost
- Comforting grieving families
- Acknowledging widespread suffering and displacement
- Seeking God's healing, restoration, and hope
- Strengthening unity within the global faith community

## WISCOH Drop-off Center – Holiday Closings

- For Thanksgiving week – Thursday, November 27 – 30, 2025, Drop-off Center will be closed.
- For the Christmas Holidays- December 15 – January 1, 2026, Drop-off Center will be closed.

## Thank You

The Caribbean community extends heartfelt appreciation to all organizations, partners, donors, and individuals who have contributed so far. Your generosity and compassion are making a meaningful difference. Together, we will overcome the challenges ahead.

We are still in need of barrels. Visit: [www.westindiansocialclub.org](http://www.westindiansocialclub.org) for updates. For monetary donations: [www.westindianfoundation.org](http://www.westindianfoundation.org).

### Hurricane Melissa Relief Team