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The Soup Ladies Warming the World One Bowl at a Time™

NEW BERN, N.C. – Many details need to be considered when Craven County Emergency Management responds to a community disaster the size of Hurricane Florence including meeting the basic needs of dozens of emergency management and responder staff who have been working around the clock on rescue and recovery operations.

Ginger “Mama” Passarelli of Buckley, Washington has made it her personal mission to provide warm meals emergency responders need to stay fueled and energized to help others. “First responders didn’t have anyone taking care of them so I decided I want to do that. Taking care of first responders is my passion and mission. It’s more than just food. It’s caring for people who have no one else caring for them,” said Passarelli.

Passarelli used her restaurant ownership experience and started The Soup Ladies™ a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization 15 years ago. “We provided 14,500 meals to first responders in 2017 and have responded to incidents such as the Las Vegas shooting, SWAT scenes, extensive evidence searches and many other extended stay critical incidents,” said Passarelli.

Passarelli not only provides hot meals to first responders, she is also registered with the State of Washington as an emergency worker and she has hundreds of hours of training such as Incident Command Systems, Critical Incident Stress Management, Crisis Intervention Training, and she has been selected to attend FEMA’s Advanced Academy starting in October.

When Craven County was hit with Hurricane Florence, Passarelli and her daughter, Beth Passarelli, along with two other team members, Paula Andrew and Heidi Agun, hopped on a flight from Washington State to New Bern, North Carolina and they have provided the Craven County Emergency Operations Center staff with lunch and dinner since lunchtime on Monday, September 17, 2018. The Soup Ladies™ frequently drive their mobile kitchen up to 1,200 miles to provide food and chaplain services all over the country.

The faces of first responders light up when The Soup Ladies™ walk into the room. Not only does Passarelli and her team provide first responders with wholesome, hot and delicious meals, she also, “Gives the best hugs in the world,” said Jamison Roberts, Washington Incident Management Planning Sessions Chief.

The Soup Ladies™ is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that runs solely on individual donations. Individuals who want to assist The Soup Ladies™ with their mission, “Warming the world one bowl at a time...™,” can donate at <http://www.soupladies.org/donate/>.

For more information on The Soup Ladies™ and their mission visit The Soup Ladies™ website at www.soupladies.org or see them on Returning the Favor Feeding the First Responders episode <http://bit.ly/2NSqQex>.



Ginger Passarelli and Beth Passarelli



Ginger Passarelli, Greg Miller, and Beth Passarelli

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