

# CINNER A MAGAZINE BY WJ OFFICE

"How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time."

12th 1116

**Morgan Freeman** 

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#### ACTS OF KINDNESS

Hurricane Helene prompted an extraordinary network of nonprofits, emergency responders, and community volunteers to rise to the occasion, providing not only critical aid but also a reminder of human resilience and compassion.

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#### **GRANT RELIEF MONEY AVAILABLE**

To help restaurants recover in times of critical need, DoorDash has partnered with Hello Alice to create the Restaurant Disaster Relief Fund in the aftermath of Hurrican Helene.

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Something new for modern, flexible work environments - the New A4 Imaging Series from Ricoh. The RICOH IM C320F, RICOH M C320FW, and RICOH P C375 ensure that employees can stay productive, securely access information from anywhere.

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# **Acts of Kindness**

### ACKNOWLEDGING THE HEROES OF HURRICANE HELENE

#### BY NEVILLE CHANEY

Hurricane Helene brought with it a swath of devastation, leaving many North Carolina communities reeling from widespread flooding, property damage, and an immediate need for basic resources. Families, business owners, and entire towns found themselves grappling with losses that felt insurmountable. But in the face of these challenges, an extraordinary network of nonprofits, emergency responders, and community volunteers rose to the occasion, providing not only critical aid but also a reminder of human resilience and compassion. These organizations and individuals deserve our deepest gratitude for their unwavering commitment to North Carolina's people and economy during this crisis.

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## **ACTS OF KINDNESS** -

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#### Nonprofits: The Cornerstones of Compassion and Consistency

North Carolina's nonprofits demonstrated the strength of collective compassion, mobilizing resources and manpower to provide relief in the form of food, water, shelter, and financial assistance. Local organizations such as Samaritan's Purse, Alliance Bible Fellowship Church, Brushy Fork Baptist Church, Hospitality House, and so many more deployed volunteers and aid almost immediately. They offered both immediate and long-term support. Their ability to rapidly assemble response teams, establish supply locations, and distribute essential supplies became lifelines for countless families and small business owners. The sustained support of these organizations beyond the immediate crisis ensures that people can focus on recovery without worrying about basic survival.

Many nonprofits also stepped in to provide more specialized forms of aid. For example, housingfocused organizations worked tirelessly to arrange temporary accommodations and financial assistance for those whose homes had been damaged or destroyed. Additionally, animal welfare groups mobilized to rescue and shelter pets left stranded or abandoned in the aftermath. These groups recognized that supporting the whole community means addressing needs both big and small, immediate and ongoing.

Businesses that could do so allowed their employees some leeway regarding attendance at their jobs without losing compensation. Many of those employees worked to get their personal lives in order and others volunteered to help their neighbors.

# First Responders: Courage in the Face of Chaos

The selflessness of North Carolina's first responders—firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, and the National Guard—cannot be overstated. Often among the first to witness the devastation, they worked around the clock to rescue residents trapped in flooded areas, transport the injured to medical facilities, and secure dangerous zones. Their training and bravery saved lives and prevented additional tragedy, as they navigated treacherous conditions to reach those in need. By risking their own safety, first responders offered a critical stabilizing presence in what otherwise might have felt like chaos for those caught in the storm's path.

Beyond the rescue phase, first responders partnered with other agencies to assess structural damage, provide guidance on safe evacuation routes, and assist in efforts to clear debris, ensuring communities could start on the road to recovery more quickly. Their efforts to maintain order and prioritize safety set the groundwork for the nonprofits and volunteers who would carry the baton as the state transitioned from emergency response to rebuilding.

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**HURRICANE** 

SEASON



## **ACTS OF KINDNESS** -

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#### Volunteers: The Heart of Community Resilience

The role of volunteers in aiding North Carolinians post-Hurricane Helene highlights the power of everyday people rallying around their neighbors in times of need. Volunteers from across the state and even from far away arrived to distribute food and clothing, help clean up affected neighborhoods and lend emotional support to those dealing with losses. Churches, community centers, and local businesses served as hubs for volunteer activity, with individuals and families offering their time, skills, and resources to help the most vulnerable. Volunteers from First Presbyterian Church partnered with Water Mission from Charleston, SC to give away 1,000 generators to needy families.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the volunteer response was its organic and inclusive nature. Volunteers brought diverse skills, backgrounds, and perspectives, but all shared a unified goal of rebuilding and supporting their fellow North Carolinians. Whether they were helping clear mud from homes, cooking meals for evacuees, or simply lending a listening ear, these volunteers embodied the spirit of resilience and compassion that defines North Carolina's communities. Their presence reminded flood victims that they were not alone and provided much-needed hope during a challenging time.

#### A Unified Effort for a Stronger Future Here in North Carolina

As the Southeast rebuilds and recovers from the impact of Hurricane Helene, we must take time to recognize the monumental contributions of nonprofits, responders, and volunteers. Their work not only provided tangible relief to those in immediate need but also bolstered the collective spirit of our region, demonstrating the power of unity in the face of adversity. These heroes serve as a reminder that even in our darkest hours, we are bound together by a common humanity and an enduring commitment to help one another.

In the months and years ahead, it is essential that we continue to support and invest in the infrastructure that allows nonprofits, first responders, and volunteer groups to mobilize in times of crisis. Their contributions were—and will always be—crucial to the wellbeing of our communities, as they stand ready to answer the call whenever disaster strikes.

#### Small Business Needs the Support of the Communities They Serve

It would be a mistake not to take this opportunity to point out that small businesses need your support. They make up the fabric of the culture of all communities and are not missed until they are not here any longer. They have missed out on the visitors brought into the area during part of this football season, leaf season, and many are struggling to know how they will be able to make up the lost revenue. Everyone must consider their budget but try to find some dollars to support those companies that you find really special by purchasing the goods and/or services that they provide and make our life special in the High Country.

### **YOUR BUSINESS**

# GRANT RELIEF \$ AVAILABLE FOR SMALL RESTAURANTS HIT HARD BY HELENE

Disasters are unpredictable — but critical support shouldn't be. The average small business loses \$3,000 every day they remain closed due to a disaster. To help restaurants recover in times of critical need, DoorDash has partnered with Hello Alice to create the Restaurant Disaster Relief Fund. The fund supports restaurants impacted by natural disasters, severe weather events, or major infrastructure failures, and provides relief through \$10,000 grants. Recipients will be announced in April 2025



### ELIGIBILITY

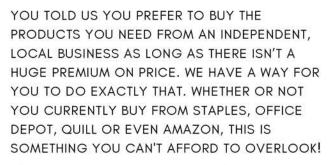
- Be a restaurant located and registered in one of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico.
- Be a restaurant, gastropub or bakery with a brick & mortar location that has experienced a loss in revenue as a direct result of a natural disaster, severe weather event, or major infrastructure failure which occurred within the last 12 months <u>declared a disaster by state, tribal, or federal government.</u>
- Operate a brick-and-mortar location.
- Own a maximum of three locations, and employ fewer than 50 employees per location.
- Have been open for at least six months.
- Have revenues of \$3M or less per location in the last 12 months.

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STERLING SELECT HAND HYGIENE SYSTEM	STERLING QUALITY BATH TISSUE DISPENSERS	STERLING QUALITY PAPER TOWEL DISPENSERS	FOAMING HAND WASH SOAPS
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#### YOUR BACKUP

# CHARGED AND READY: PORTABLE POWER STATIONS CAN BE A LIFELINE IN A CRISIS

When the unexpected happens, being prepared for emergencies is not just a good idea; it's a necessity. Hurrican Helene was evidence of this and when that disaster struck, reliable power was a scarce for so many throughout North Carolina. In many cases, the difference between calm or chaos was often marked by who had access to a power source.

Fortunately, we at WJ Office have a line in on portable power stations made by DieHard. These rechargeable devices proved their worth in keeping many people and organizations connected and in control in the aftermath of that hurricane.

DieHard Portable Power Stations are built to endure harsh conditions, ensuring they perform when you need them the most DieHard® has a storied legacy of providing reliable power solutions. With robust construction and highquality components, these power stations can withstand the rigors of emergencies. Safety is a top priority and these power stations come equipped with advanced safety features, including overcharge protection, short-circuit protection, and temperature control, ensuring safe and reliable operation.

They come with high-capacity batteries that can power multiple devices simultaneously. Whether you need to charge your phone, run a mini fridge, or keep your lights on, DieHard power stations are versatile enough to handle a variety of needs. They offer various charging options, including AC outlets, USB ports, and DC carports. This versatility ensures you can charge a wide range of devices, from smartphones and laptops to mini-refrigerators and power tools.

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## YOUR BACKUP

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### Simplicity is Crucial, Particularly in an Emergency

During an emergency, simplicity is crucial. DieHard Portable Power Stations are designed for ease of use, with intuitive controls and clear indicators. Even in a high-stress situation, you can quickly and easily get the power you need. Portability is also key. DieHard Portable Power Stations are designed to be lightweight and easy to carry, allowing you to take power wherever you need it. Their compact size makes them easy to store and transport.

Unlike traditional gas-powered generators, DieHard Portable Power Stations operate silently and produce no emissions. This makes them ideal for indoor use and ensures you can maintain a peaceful environment even during a crisis. All models support solar panel recharging, offering an eco-friendly and renewable energy source while featuring fast recharging times, ensuring you can quickly get back to full power.

DieHard is synonymous with reliability. These power stations provide consistent and stable power, ensuring your devices run smoothly without the risk of surges or interruptions.

#### Best Advice for Emergeny Preparation

#### **Create an Emergency Plan**

Having an emergency plan in place is the first step in preparedness. Identify the essential devices you need to keep powered and create a plan for using your DieHard Portable Power Station during different types of emergencies.

#### **Keep Your Power Station Charged**

Ensure your power station is always charged and ready to go. Regularly check the battery level and recharge it as needed. Consider investing in a solar panel for continuous charging, especially if you live in an area prone to long power outages.

#### **Test Your Equipment**

Regularly test your power station and the devices you plan to use with it. This ensures everything works as expected and helps you become familiar with the operation of your equipment.

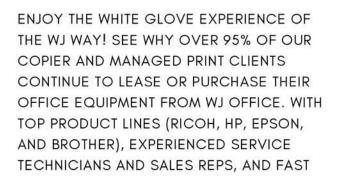
#### **Stay Informed**

Keep abreast of potential emergencies by monitoring weather forecasts and news reports. Having advance warning can give you the time needed to ensure your power station is fully charged and ready to use.



Visit the WJ Store online to see a selection of portable power stations.

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### **YOUR PRINTING**

# SOMETHING NEW FOR MODERN, FLEXIBLE WORK ENVIRONMENTS

Ricoh last month announced a new color A4 multifunction printer (MFP) and printer series specifically designed to meet the demands of today's hybrid workplaces. Ideal for spaceconstrained locations, the series provides innovative features and solutions for workplace optimization, information sharing and sustainability that are typically reserved for larger A3 devices, but in a smaller footprint.

The RICOH IM C320F, RICOH M C320FW, and RICOH P C375 ensure that employees can stay productive, securely access information from

#### The New A4 Imaging Series from Ricoh

anywhere, and benefit from innovative digital workflows. Pairing Ricoh's advanced imaging capabilities with its cutting-edge workflow solutions, including RICOH CloudStream, RICOH Smart Integration, and RICOH Streamline NX, these devices facilitate seamless information sharing and help modernize the print infrastructure for businesses operating in decentralized, hybrid work settings.

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## YOUR PRINTING

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### Enhanced Features for Efficiency and Productivity

- Intelligent MFP capabilities: The IM C320F MFP offers a 7" Smart Operation Panel and leverages RICOH Always Current Technology to maximize hardware value by allowing for periodic updates and ongoing improvements. This model also leverages the latest cybersecurity and compliance standards to support information security in the evolving workplace.
- Compact, lightweight design: With up to a 40% smaller footprint compared to Ricoh's current model in the same speed range, the IM C320F and M C320FW MFPs can fit comfortably on a desk or countertop, making them ideal for space-constrained locations, including retail and healthcare environments.
- Affordable, user-friendly solutions: The M C320FW features a 4.3" touch panel, enhanced RICOH Web API functionality, and supports the integrated RICOH Support Station app, which streamlines setup and ongoing operation, making it an ideal choice for small offices needing cost-effective and straightforward device management.
- Versatile print-only model: The P C375 delivers exceptional performance in the mid-range segment with a 4-line LCD panel while supporting a print speed of 32 pages-per-minute (ppm) and a maximum input sheet capacity of 1,300 sheets, providing the flexibility needed for growing offices.

The IM C320F and M C320FW also support a 32-ppm print speed and include a Single-Pass Document Feeder, which scans both sides of a page in a single pass for fast scanning, simplifying the management of multi-page documents, and increasing overall productivity in busy offices.

### Commitment to Sustainability and Security

Embodying Ricoh's long-standing commitment to environmental sustainability, each model is manufactured with 50% post-consumer recycled plastic and features a significant reduction in single-use plastic packaging – up to 31% compared to other models. Additionally, Ricoh toner cartridges now come in entirely plastic-free packaging. With ENERGY STAR certification and incorporating innovations such as a more thermally efficient transfer unit and low-meltingpoint toner achieving among the best Typical Energy Consumption values in the industry, Ricoh's commitment to sustainability helps businesses meet their ESG and net-zero goals while maintaining high performance.

All three models offer robust security features, including:

- User authentication and data encryption (TLS 1.3) for protecting sensitive information.
- Enhanced network filter and log functions for comprehensive monitoring and compliance.

As organizations continue to navigate the evolving office landscape and adapt to hybrid workstyles, Ricoh remains committed to providing innovative technologies, such as the IM C320F, M C320FW, and P C375, that increase productivity, streamline operations, and support sustainability for customers in the transformation of their print infrastructures for the future.

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# ALPINE COFFEE HAS YOU COVERED WITH THE MOST AMAZING BLENDS

#### **ITEM**

#### DESCRIPTION

#### PRICE/BOX OF 24

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Fruity notes from apricot, lime and a pleasant bitterness.	\$12.99	
Rich, Smoky flavor with a hint of white wine and bitterness.		
Jasmine, blueberry, fermented mango w/ a good body.	\$12.99	
Rich flavor w/ a deep, wine-like acidity and pleasant aroma.	\$12.99	
Medium roasted with hazelnut accents	\$11.99	
Chocolate, ripe berries, black tea, delightful herbs & spice	\$11.99	
Medium-bodied w/ a rich taste & citrus-like acidity		
Sweet strawberry & caramel notes, smoky smooth & not bitter		
Very sweet, blueberries & strawberries slightly fermented w/ caramel		
Earthy & layered w/ notes of fresh herbs & spice flavors		
Delightful blend of caramel, kahlua & hazelnut flavors	\$11.99	
Toffee, cocoa, butter & vanilla w/ a mellow peachiness	\$12.79	
Caramel w/ rich, buttery smooth notes, lightly sprinkled w/ sea salt	\$12.79	
Smooth, balanced acidity w/a fruity note to the finish		
100% Arabica beans flavored w/ Madagascar vanilla	\$12.79	

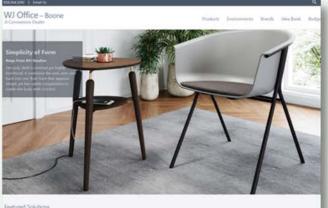


your space

#### WJ OFFERS A NEW WAY TO VISUALIZE AND FURNISH YOUR WORKSPACE

Shopping around for furniture can be a timeconsuming task when you have so many things to do and even less time than ever before. It's also a little difficult to see what's available in style, aesthetics and price without walking around showrooms or flipping through catalogs during your lunch break.

We've changed that with a whole new connection that you can make online, anytime. Just visit our **WJ Connexions** website where you may view the many options available to you depending on your environment or budget. The site offers some amazing tools including a digital Idea Book and Instant Budget builder that can help you narrow your search down based on parameters you set.









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# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

### FROM ALL OF US AT WJ OFFICE