When homes are damaged and lives upended, treasured possessions such as photos, artwork, important documents, quilts, family heirlooms, and other keepsakes become more cherished. Even in the aftermath of a disaster, these treasures may be salvageable.

*Saving Your Family Treasures* workshops provide simple preservation advice to disaster survivors and demonstrate how to handle, dry, and clean damaged personal keepsakes using materials accessible at local hardware or convenience stores. The workshops are often held in community gathering places such as museums, libraries, or schools. In federally declared disasters, Smithsonian staff may also provide demonstrations at FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), large mobile information centers set up in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. As we know, family treasures provide hope to disaster survivors, and these workshops fill a crucial gap between the response and recovery phases of a disaster.

During the workshops, preservation experts from the Smithsonian Institution share their immense collections care knowledge directly with communities that need it. Smithsonian experts demonstrate how to salvage damaged objects and share tips on personal safety, setting priorities, options for future treatment, and how to prepare for the next disaster. Visitors to the workshops also receive fact sheets and instructions on how to find further conservation help.

The workshops have examples of common personal heirlooms on display to demonstrate salvaging techniques. Due to safety concerns, we ask that members of the public do not bring damaged objects to the workshop. Experts are happy to address specific questions about personal heirlooms and attendees are encouraged to bring images of items to discuss with the preservation experts directly.

*Saving Your Family Treasures* workshops are always free and open to the public thanks to the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and our lead corporate sponsor, Bank of America.

The Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative, in collaboration with the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, coordinates *Saving Your Family Treasures* workshops in disaster-affected areas. The first workshop was held in September 2016 in Baton Rouge, LA after the devastating August 2016 floods. Since then, the Smithsonian has deployed staff to 16 disaster-affected communities, including South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For more information or to host a *Saving Your Family Treasures* workshop in your community, please contact culturalrescue@si.edu.