

Brethren Disaster Ministries **BRIDGES**

Rebuilding Homes • Nurturing Children • Responding Globally

Vol. 20, Winter 2019

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is a program of the
Church of the Brethren



For more information on
Brethren Disaster Ministries
1-800-451-4407
www.brethren.org/bdm



Church of the Brethren

Art helps children heal

by Lisa Crouch

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) focuses on the youngest survivors in a disaster, providing a safe space for them to find strength and begin the healing process, utilizing art to bring light from darkness and replacing fear with hope in the aftermath of trauma. The Bible states: *The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him. (Nahum 1:7 NIV)* Through God's love, CDS creates a refuge for the children in their care, providing comfort and reassurance in a space designed just for them.

CDS volunteers are specially trained to respond to traumatized children, providing a calm, safe and reassuring presence in the midst of chaos. After a traumatic event, children experience strong feelings, such as anger, fear, guilt and sadness, that can be hard for them to understand. Using non-guided creative outlets, children can work through their story and feelings in a child's most natural process: play.



Children in the CDS childcare center chose darker colors and painted pictures mostly without form in the early days after the Camp Fire began. by Mary Geisler

One of those non-guided creative outlets is a space for art, which is typically the most popular area in a

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Pictures painted toward the end of the CDS deployment, several weeks after the Camp Fire was contained, are brighter and have recognizable features. by Mary Geisler

Art helps children heal

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CDS childcare center. When it may be too difficult to say what they feel with words, children often find it easier to express their deepest feelings with paper and paint. As the child picks up the brush, the canvas absorbs the workings of their heart in a way that is meaningful to that child, and thus the recovery process begins, on their terms.

In Chico, Calif., families affected by the Camp Fire, the deadliest wildfire in California history, sought assistance at the Disaster Resource Center of Butte County, where CDS had set up a childcare area. Over the course of 28 days, 26 CDS volunteers had an impact on 949 children that passed through those doors.

Photographs of the pictures painted by the children in Chico

show how transformation occurs in that safe space, with their paintings getting progressively brighter and more representational the further out from the trauma. Many of the initial paintings were dark and abstract in nature, showing significant feelings of fear and despair. In subsequent weeks the pictures became more colorful

and vibrant, symbolizing increasing light and hope for the child.

Whatever the situation or disaster, CDS is there for the children, a refuge in the storm, a loving space to feel safe and find comfort as they begin the healing process.



Children in Chico, California express their feelings through art following 2018's devastating Camp Fire.

by Patty Henry

by Cindy Schapiro

Children's Disaster Services 2018 Response Statistics

Location	Disaster type	Volunteers*	Total work days	Hours served	Value of service**	Children served
Taloga and Woodward, Okla.	wildfires	5	17	136	\$3,357.84	28
Pahoa and Keaau, Hawaii	earthquake and volcanic eruption	10	103	824	\$20,344.56	337
McAllen, Texas***	refugee crisis	19	196	1,568	\$38,713.92	4,337
Tracy, Minn.	flooding	4	8	64	\$1,580.16	15
North Carolina	Hurricane Florence	31	903	7,224	\$178,360.56	550
College Park, Md.	Hurricane Florence	3	5	40	\$987.60	20
Panama City Beach, Fla.	Hurricane Michael	27	373	2,984	\$73,674.96	563
Pittsburg, Pa.	synagogue shooting	4	12	96	\$2,370.24	0
Chico, Calif.	wildfires	26	316	2,528	\$62,416.32	949
Total: 11 responses		129	1,933	15,464	\$381,806.16	6,799

* Includes repeat volunteers.

**Estimated Value of Volunteer Service is \$24.69/hr. for 2017 per IndependentSector.org

***Includes three separate responses to the same location

CDS 2019 Training Workshops

To register for a CDS training workshop, please visit the CDS website (www.brethren.org/cds) or find the link on the new interactive training map on the CDS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cds.cob). Please note that registrations for the Spring trainings are now open. The Fall training registrations will open on June 1.

If you are interested in hosting a CDS workshop in your area, please contact CDS associate director Lisa Crouch (lcrouch@brethren.org) to check availability and learn what is involved.

Spring 2019 Training Workshops

Oakdale, Pennsylvania
February 22-23, 2019
 United Presbyterian Church
 62 Hastings Street
 Oakdale, PA 15071

Redding, California
March 1-2, 2019
 St. James Lutheran Church
 2500 Shasta View Drive
 Redding, CA 96002

LaVerne, California
March 23-24, 2019
 LaVerne Church of the Brethren
 2425 E Street
 LaVerne, CA 91750

Chicago, Illinois—CDS/Child Life specialized workshop
April 10-11, 2019
*Child life specialists are invited to register and attend.**

North Manchester, Indiana
April 12-13, 2019 FULL
 Manchester University
 604 E. College Avenue
 North Manchester, IN 46962

New York City – One day Intensive
May 2, 2019
 NYDIS Offices
 4 West 43rd Street
 New York, NY 10036

Fall 2019 Training Workshops (registrations open June 1)

Roanoke, Virginia
September 20-21, 2019
 Oak Grove Church of the Brethren
 2138 McVitty Road, SW
 Roanoke, VA 24018

**For more information, please visit cldisasterrelief.org/childrens-disaster-services-training*

Fort Lupton, Colorado
September 20-21, 2019
 Fourway Baptist Church
 9966 County Road 41
 Fort Lupton, CO 80621

Tampa, Florida—CDS/Child Life specialized workshop
October 11-12, 2019
*Child life specialists are invited to register and attend.**

Portland, Oregon
October 11-12, 2019
 Fruit and Flower Childcare Center
 378 NW Irving
 Portland, OR 97210

Omaha, Nebraska
October 18-19, 2019
 Location TBD

Children's Disaster Services 2018 Training Workshops

Date	Location	Type of training	Participants	Trainers*	Volunteer trainer hours***	Value of service**
March 3	Syracuse, N.Y.	Child Life Specialist	24	3	60	\$1,481.40
March 23-24	Shreveport, La.	Level 1	17	2	40	\$987.60
April 14-15	LaVerne, Calif.	Level 1	29	3	60	\$1,481.40
April 20-21	Trotwood, Ohio	Level 1	27	3	60	\$1,481.40
May 15- June 30	Hybrid/Online	Level 2 Critical Response Care	38	1	20	\$493.80
May 3	Washington, D.C.	Child Life Specialist	34	3	60	\$1,481.40
May 11-12	Chicago, Ill.	Level 1	25	2	40	\$987.60
October 19-20	San Francisco, Calif.	Level 1	38	3	60	\$1,481.40
November 2-3	Rockville, Md.	Level 1	27	3	60	\$1,481.40
November 9-10	Skelleytown, Texas	Level 1	18	3	60	\$1,481.40
Totals	9 locations	9 trainings	277	26	520	\$12,838.80

*Includes repeat trainers

**Estimated Value of Volunteer Service is \$24.69/hr for 2017, according to IndependentSector.org

***Average number of hours reported per trainer revised in 2018 to 20 to more clearly reflect the actual workload (pre-2018 the number of hours reported was 8)

CDS Updates

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Synagogue shooting—October 2018

After the October 27 synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, a Critical Response Childcare (CRC) team was called to assist families that lost loved ones. A team of four was deployed quickly and spent three days in the Jewish Community Center where the resource center was established. CDS was ready to play but didn't see any children in the center during their stay. Thank you to this CRC team for their thoughtful response and willingness to be there for Pittsburgh.

McAllen, Texas—Refugee Crisis—November 2018

During this final 14-day deployment at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Texas, CDS volunteers cared for hundreds of children seeking asylum, after they had been processed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. CDS was able to provide services for more than 4,300 children at the border over the course of four deployments to McAllen in 2018. CDS volunteer Tiffany Heinz used the words “beautifully indescribable” to tell of the work happening at the border with the children.

Panama City Beach, Fla.—Hurricane Michael—November 2018

The Hurricane Michael response in Panama City Beach, Fla., ended in Mid-November with a final count of 563 children served by CDS volunteers over 24 days. CDS teams were initially at two different locations and then relocated as those were eventually merged into one mega shelter.

Peter Poccia, the Red Cross disaster health supervisor at one of the shelters, remarked, “I had the opportunity to observe your gentle, sweet, loving care with the children in the shelter. You brought a tear to the eye of a crusty old war veteran and NYC ER nurse; not easy to do. We worked very hard but we could have not brought to those children what you did.”

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands—Typhoon Yutu—November 2018

CDS was prepared to expand its boundaries to unknown territory when Red Cross asked it to support families after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the Pacific Ocean island of Saipan in the U.S. territory of the Northern Mariana Islands. Although the deployment was expected to be challenging, CDS volunteers were identified and eager to go. The team underwent a special pre-deployment process, bought necessary supplies, and was ready to fly the next morning, when Red Cross leadership on the ground decided the childcare need was no longer critical and the deployment was cancelled. Huge thanks to the CDS team for their commitment to helping the smallest survivors of disaster both near and far from home!

Camp Fire Response—Chico, Calif.—November/December 2018

CDS was called to California to assist in a Disaster Resource Center (DRC) set up by the state for families affected by the Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, which devastated the town of Paradise the morning of November 8. CDS volunteers spent 28 days in California and saw 949 children.

This was an intense response with CDS workers seeing large numbers of children pass through the DRC daily. While families sought assistance, the children entered the CDS play space to spend an average of three hours with our volunteers. The children felt a range of confusion, fear, sadness, and grief from the sheer magnitude of this disaster and the uncertainty of what would happen next. The level of loss with this response was tremendous, with many children losing loved ones or pets. CDS volunteers saw transformation through the artwork as the response progressed. See this issue's front page



This November 2018 volunteer team served during CDS' fourth deployment to McAllen, Texas. by Tiffany Heinz

article “Art helps children heal” to learn more about this transformation.

Red Cross (ARC) values partnership with CDS

“We love our partnership with CDS and the people affected by disasters love you too. We are so grateful for the wonderful partnership.”

—Mary DeWitt Dia, ARC headquarters, Partnerships Manager

“This is an outstanding partnership delivering much needed services throughout the entirety of our response operations this year. I am humbled by CDS' dedication, commitment to service and desire to serve and meet the needs of children impacted by disasters.”

—Mark Smith, ARC headquarters, Partnerships team

Red Cross Volunteer Connection a necessity before deployment

CDS would like to make the deployment process as smooth as possible when the next call comes from Red Cross for a team. Our goal is to get all CDS volunteers registered with a Red Cross Volunteer Connection (VC) number in 2019!

- If you have already been deployed and you have a Red Cross VC number, please send it to CDS program assistant Sherry Chastain (schastain@brethren.org) so it can be recorded in your CDS file.
- If you do not have a Red Cross VC number, please contact Sherry for information on how to obtain one for CDS work.

Hurricane recovery continues across Puerto Rico



District executive José Calleja (center) visited BDM volunteers working on a new build in Puerto Rico and tearfully thanked them for supporting the church and island in Hurricane Maria recovery.

by Jenn Dorsch-Messler

Volunteers and leaders continue to travel to Puerto Rico to contribute to the recovery work from the 2017 hurricanes (Irma and Maria) that BDM supports in partnership with the Church of the Brethren Puerto Rico District. In 2018, seven families were served by 76 volunteers at the site based on the Castañer Church of the Brethren compound.

Volunteer groups stay for two weeks and are sometimes surprised at the difference they can make in that short time period. In January 2019, a group from the Chiques Church of the Brethren (ANE district) helped a family move from their home on Monday (their first day of work), tore the home down on Tuesday and completed the new build by the following Friday as they finished their service.

Funding for construction materials has predominantly come from FEMA through the Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repair (VALOR) program. Additional materials, if needed, are purchased with BDM funding from the Emergency Disaster Fund or other money available from homeowners.



Carrie Miller with Pastor Carmen Mercado at Río Prieto
by José Acevedo



Carmelo Rodriguez
by Jenn Dorsch-Messler

BDM anticipates that work can continue through Thanksgiving 2019 utilizing the VALOR funding. Rebuilding after that will be dependent on funding that is available from BDM.

BDM is also working on support for survivors in the northern part of the island. More details on opportunities to help the churches and families in that area are being developed by the district and will be available soon.

The recovery and project are supported by an amazing team that involves the District and the Project Site. This includes José Acevedo, who leads the District Recovery Committee and was recently named the district disaster coordinator (DDC), and BDM project leader Carrie Miller, who has managed the project since its inception and has recently committed to continue through its duration.

The construction assistant provides interpretation on the work site with the homeowners, volunteers and partners and works alongside volunteers on construction. This

critical role was previously filled by Joel de Leon Feliz, a member of the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic, who, after serving with a team from DR, returned to volunteer through December 2018 and provided crucial assistance as the project was gaining momentum. He returned home to complete his studies. Puerto Rican Carmelo Rodriguez, who lost the house he was living in due to Hurricane Maria, took over the position in January 2019. Carmelo also works at a local coffee farm where he has given tours to several BDM volunteer groups. He looks forward to sharing his construction experience and his wealth of knowledge about the island with volunteers.

In January 2019, in a celebration held at the Church of the Brethren in Río Prieto, Brethren church leaders and members were joined by representatives from the community and other denominations to honor Carrie (known locally as Carolina) for her dedication, passion, and hard work in helping the community recover from Hurricane Maria. During Puerto Rico's district conference in February, both Carrie and José were recognized for their work. We are blessed to have such committed and faithful leadership managing the recovery work in Puerto Rico.



(l to r) José Acevedo with PR district executive José Callejo, BBT president Nevin Dulabaum, and PR board president Antonio Medina
by Jay Wittmeyer

Bringing families home sooner after disasters

The BDM rebuild program focus on long-term recovery often takes volunteers to communities that were affected by a disaster months or even years earlier, long after the event has left the news and/or is overshadowed by other disasters. This timeline is reliant on BDM being able to identify suitable volunteer housing, jobs that have been vetted through case management and funding for the construction materials. This is typically not a quick process. For example, BDM first started rebuilding homes damaged in Hurricane Matthew response 10 months after the storm hit in October 2016, and that work still continues.

When Hurricane Florence hit the same areas in September 2018, BDM's presence there put it in a unique position to participate in programs to help bring families home sooner after the storm than is usual. In North Carolina BDM, under its partnership with the North Carolina United Methodist Conference (NCUMC), will be able to use materials purchased through the

FEMA-funded STEP (Sheltering and Temporary Essential Power) program to help families with emergency repairs to enable them to return quicker to their storm-damaged homes. STEP is available for homes which need emergency repairs costing less than \$17,000. In the next recovery phase, families with remaining funds may pay contractors to complete more permanent repairs. Others will then get rebuilding support from BDM volunteers, by using the remaining FEMA funds and/or with funding support from the NCUMC.

The entire town of Nichols, S.C., was flooded from overflowing rivers after Hurricane Florence, including all the homes that BDM had helped to repair following Hurricane Matthew. BDM quickly set out to do clean-up work on the homes that it had previously worked on to prevent mold and other damage. The Town of Nichols has now applied for federal funding that would offer a mitigation program for homeowners to raise their homes to avoid flooding in the future.

In the meantime, this program also allows BDM to make repairs to homes so that the survivors can return home while they are waiting for the house to be raised.

While it may be frustrating to not see the work on these houses done to completion, these initial repairs will enable hundreds of families affected by Hurricane Florence to move back home sooner, saving thousands of dollars in housing costs (hotels or rental properties) and allowing them to return to life in their community, including to schools and jobs. BDM is excited to work with partners in the short and long-term to help these survivors in their recovery.

!!! ATTENTION !!!

If you have had changes to your mailing address, phone number or email address, please inform us by emailing BDM@brethren.org or calling 800-451-4407.

Thank you for helping us keep our records up-to-date!

A different kind of Advent

by Erin Matteson, Modesto, Calif., Live Oak COB, Pacific Southwest District

Reflections on the December 2018 BDM short-term Hurricanes Irma and Maria response to support U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI)

My husband Russ and I were first timers on this Brethren Disaster Ministries project. St. Thomas made sense because we were supposed to go there a year earlier for vacation when the hurricanes hit. We still had airfares to be used, and we were attracted to this opportunity to give back through service rather than "vacation". It was a different way to spend Advent. And it was perfect. In this season to ponder and act on the many dimensions of "the real meaning of Christmas", we were gathered in community for a week of grounding ourselves in devotions daily, then moving across the ground

to load up in vans bound for different neighborhoods to be part of reconstructing homes and hearts. As we worked on patio doors, gutters and roofing, shutters, painting rooms and more, all of us could sense through conversations with owners and each other that as we pieced back together houses, we pieced back together lives. The local iguanas and dogs watched as owners came by grateful to see many things coming together. Our hearts were filled each day as we experienced communion through literal work and also through shared breaks and lunch, (with the dogs, too!) Then we loaded up for "home", (the church hosting us), had showers, dinner and evening devotions. Throughout that week, all those working realized and commented that



BDM volunteers painted the exterior and installed storm shutters on this St. Thomas (USVI) home in December 2018.

by Doretta Dorsch

each day it was as if we essentially traveled to Bethlehem, experienced Christ, and then went "home by another way" transformed by what had happened there.

Upcoming 2019 disaster relief auctions

Brethren Disaster Ministries benefits from the proceeds of several annual disaster relief auctions. Thank you to the many volunteers who give their time and talents to making these auctions a success. Are you holding an auction or fundraiser to benefit the Emergency Disaster Fund? If so, let us know and we can help advertise it.

May 4: 39th Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction - Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Md.; Information is available at www.madcob.com/disaster-response-auction or 443-960-3052.

May 17-18: 27th annual Shenandoah District Disaster Ministries Auction & Sale - Rockingham County Fairgrounds in Harrisonburg, Va.; Information is available at www.shencob.org/disaster_auction, www.facebook.com/brethrenauction or 540-234-8555.

Sept. 27-28: 43rd Brethren Disaster Relief Auction (Atlantic Northeast and Southern Pa. districts) - Lebanon Valley Expo Center, Lebanon, Pa.; Information is available at www.facebook.com/BrethrenDisasterRelief, www.brethrenauction.org or 717-823-2745.

Brethren Disaster Ministries 2018 Project Funding & Grants

Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) Total	\$2,315,759
<i>Nigeria Crisis Fund (included in EDF Total)</i>	\$201,842
<i>Hurricanes and Puerto Rico Hurricane Responses (included in EDF Total)</i>	\$255,066
CDS Program Grants Total (not included in EDF):	\$65,000
<i>CDS UMCOR Grant</i>	\$35,000
<i>CDS Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Grants</i>	\$15,000
<i>CDS Save the Children Grants</i>	\$10,000
<i>Community Foundation for Hurricane Harvey response</i>	\$5,000
Rebuilding Program Grant: National VOAD for USVI Travel (not included in EDF)	\$5,000
DRSI* Program Grants Total (not included in EDF):	\$489,608
<i>Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI) Partner Funding</i>	\$227,608
<i>Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands</i>	\$212,000
<i>CWS Grant for DRSI in USVI</i>	\$50,000
*DRSI is a joint program of BDM, United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	

Brethren Disaster Ministries 2018 Rebuild Responses

Project location	Disaster type	Volunteers*	Work days	Hours served	Value of service**	Families served
Rebuild Projects						
Hurricane Matthew, S.C.	hurricane	210	1,510	12,080	\$298,255.20	13
Flood Eureka, Mo.	flood	133	978	7,824	\$193,174.56	6
Carolinas	hurricanes	576	3,798	30,384	\$750,180.96	45***
Puerto Rico	hurricane	76	576	4,608	\$113,771.52	7
5 Short-term responses†	hurricanes	55	364	2,912	\$71,897.28	15
Total		1,050	7,226	57,808	\$1,427,279.52	86

*Includes repeat volunteers **Estimated Value of Volunteer Service is \$24.69/hr. for 2017 per IndependentSector.org

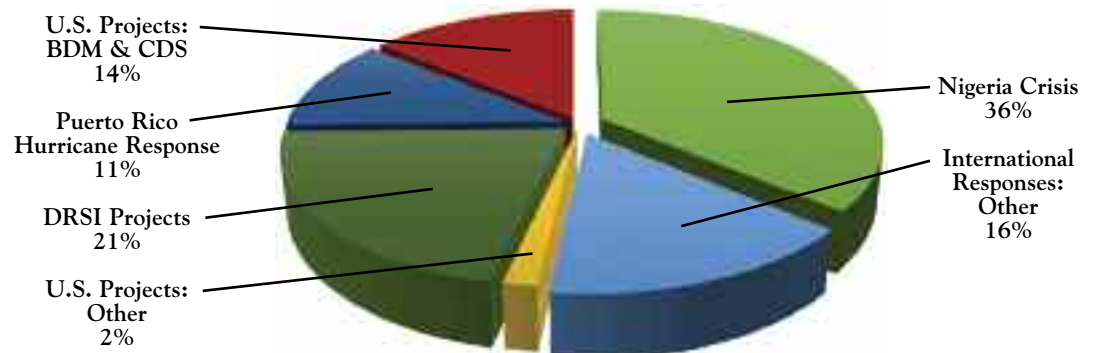
***Includes homes affected by Hurricanes Matthew and/or Florence; 9 homes were affected by both

†Six short-term responses (North Carolina, United States Virgin Islands)

Brethren Disaster Ministries 2018 Project Expenses

Status		Amount
	U.S. Projects	
Active	BDM and Puerto Rico District—Puerto Rico Hurricanes response	\$171,090
Active	BDM—Carolinas Hurricane Matthew response	\$60,895
Active	BDM—Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI)	\$320,471
Active	BDM—Hurricanes Irma and Maria USVI response	\$11,495
Active	Iowa River Church of the Brethren—tornado response	\$25,000
Completed	CDS—2018 California wildfire response	\$12,013
Completed	CDS—Texas border crisis	\$32,306
Completed	CDS—Pittsburgh, Pa., synagogue shooting	\$616
Completed	BDM—National Youth Conference Emergency Cleanup Bucket service project	\$18,019
Completed	BDM—Eureka, Mo., flood recovery	\$22,134
Completed	BDM—Marion County, S.C., Hurricane Matthew response	\$43,837
Completed	BDM—Middle Pennsylvania district response, 2016 West Virginia flooding	\$6,000
Completed	CDS—Hawaii volcano and earthquakes	\$4,444
Completed	CDS—Oklahoma wildfires/Hurricane Michael/small responses	\$1,702
U.S. total		\$730,022
	International Projects	
Active	BDM/Haitian Church of the Brethren—Haiti 2018 Earthquake response	\$354
Active	Proyecto Aldea Global—southern Honduras flooding	\$16,339
Active	CWS—Indonesian Earthquake and Tsunami response	\$40,000
Active	Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development—Syrian refugee crisis	\$40,000
Active	BDM/Haitian Church of the Brethren—Hurricane Matthew response	\$50,604
Active	BDM—Nigeria Crisis response	\$548,662
Completed	Shalom Ministry for Reconciliation—Democratic Republic of the Congo flood recovery	\$20,000
Completed	United Christian Fellowship Church (UCF)—Sri Lanka monsoon and flooding	\$5,000
Completed	CWS—Kenya flooding response	\$40,000
Completed	CWS—Venezuelan migration and humanitarian crisis	\$20,000
Completed	Dominican Republic Church of the Brethren—naturalization of Haitians in the DR	\$5,000
International total		\$785,959
Total BDM Project Expenses		\$1,515,981

BDM 2018 Project Expenses



Rebuild Program updates

Carolinas site

BDM rebuilding continues in North and South Carolina in response to Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. Housing is still located at the First Presbyterian Church in Lumberton, N.C., with leaders and up to 30 volunteers serving each week on this double site. Volunteers are in community with the congregation when they attend the meal hosted by the church during their Wednesday night event. BDM keeps in close contact with partners to learn about future work and ways to support the area's recovery as it is changing due to Hurricane Florence. It is likely that BDM volunteers will be needed for quite some time.

The current Lumberton housing Memorandum of Understanding is being expanded so that BDM can continue to host a project in the church through April 2020. It is anticipated that at least one BDM site will continue there through this time. It is possible that a decision will be made to split the double site and return to the BDM norm of supporting work in two different locations. This would likely happen after August 2019 but will depend on the availability of work in the Carolinas and other possible sites.

Strong second site options that are being explored are recovery in Florida from September 2017's Hurricane Irma or another location in North Carolina with Hurricane Florence recovery.

Short-term Responses in the USVI

BDM teams traveled to St. Thomas in the

U.S. Virgin Islands in both December 2018 and January 2019 to contribute to the recovery from Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. A previous team had served in September 2018. Seventeen volunteers worked from December 2-15 to support four families needing home repairs. Fifteen volunteers continued the work on three homes from January 6-19. The work done during these weeks included replacing doors, windows, ceilings, walls and a roof; painting; installing storm shutters; and rebuilding gutters and exterior stairs. The cases and volunteer housing came through a partnership with the St. Thomas Recovery Team (STRT), which was previously supported during its formation by Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI) staff. The volunteer support for the response in December was also supported by a \$5,000 UPS Recovery Grant from National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD).



BDM volunteers started 2019 continuing to work on a new build in South Carolina as part of Hurricane Matthew recovery, despite new damage in the area from Hurricane Florence.

courtesy of BDM

Leadership conference

BDM held a leadership conference in October 2018, bringing together 46 project leaders and district disaster coordinators to learn, communicate and fellowship. The event took place at Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa., and included large and small group sessions, a campfire, guest speakers and many meals together. The Appreciation Dinner included guest speaker Denise Kasten, who shared her thanks for BDM's support for the recovery in Eureka, Mo., from 2015 and 2017 floods.



BDM volunteers and staff attended a leadership conference in October 2018.

Courtesy of Thom Deily

Nigeria updates

by Roy Winter

Highlights of 2018

- 6,300 people received medical aid and screening for Hepatitis B
- 2,500 families received seeds and fertilizer
- 169 homes were rebuilt
- 19 food distributions provided critical food and supplies for more than 2,500 families
- 11 communities were provided with drinking water wells
- \$548,662 COB funds supported all Nigeria Crisis programming and partners in 2018



Bean harvest in Masaka: During a brief visit to Masaka, a village the Church of the Brethren built for displaced families, residents were busy harvesting and processing beans. Located outside of the capital Abuja, these farmers are teaching the locals how to grow crops and survive off the land. The community has built a temporary school and has partially constructed a church. Here, women in Masaka shell and winnow their bean harvest.

by Roy Winter

Tripartite Meeting

In order to avoid travel around the time of the February Nigerian federal elections, the 2019 annual tripartite meeting was held early at the Jos Technology Center in December 2018. Attending were 11 participants from the three response partners: Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN,

Church of the Brethren in Nigeria); Church of the Brethren (BDM); and Mission 21 (European mission and development organization). The agenda involved a review of the successes and challenges of 2018 programming and the plan for the 2019 response with a joint budget of \$632,298. The program goals will

continue in the key areas of agriculture, home repair, trauma healing/peace building, job training/creation, education, water and security. The joint budget for 2020 and 2021 are \$531,289 and \$504,577, respectively.

The ongoing violence and security

continued on page 11

Southern Honduras flood response

When extensive flooding damaged homes and infrastructure in Southern Honduras in October 2018, long time BDM partner Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG, Project Global Village) was quick to respond. An \$18,000 EDF grant supported this response and shipped material aid from the Brethren Service Center. This included immediate emergency food, drinking water and household supplies to the most vulnerable families. During the clean-up phase \$6,600 provided the cleaning and repair of critical drinking water wells in these communities. The grant also enabled the shipping of a 40-foot container of canned chicken provided by the meat canning committee of the Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania districts, hygiene kits from Church World Service, medical supplies gathered by PAG and farming equipment.

Founder and director of PAG, Chester Thomas, reported that more than 800 families benefited from this joint response. He added: "Thank you for helping us reach out to these folks who have lost just about everything but their faith."



Top: Homeowners repaired their flood damaged homes as best they could. Bottom: An EDF grant brought assistance—just in time for Christmas.

by Proyecto Aldea

Spotlight on Maiduguri—Living on a time bomb

by Roy Winter

Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, in the farthest northeastern part of Nigeria, is where Boko Haram started and the violence began. As reported in the January 2019 Messenger¹, “All seemed peaceful in the city limits—but Maiduguri is a garrison town heavily guarded by Nigerian military and an air force base.” The city is surrounded by unsafe roads, places where kidnapping abounds and areas still controlled by Boko Haram. The United Nations reports that 4.3 million people continue to need assistance in the Maiduguri area while the Borno government focuses on building new high rises and roads.

Due to safety issues, this was my first trip to Maiduguri and to see the EYN and other Christian internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in the area. We drove through the poorly

developed Christian sector called “Jerusalem” to find thousands of people living in temporary camps that have been their home for 3-4 years. The Nigerian government runs very large camps with considerable international aid, but these Christians reported discrimination, lack of access to food and fear for their safety. Some families are living on property owned by EYN (Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), called the Shwari camp. This camp receives more services from the Church of the Brethren and EYN. Several other camps are at abandoned churches that families have occupied out of desperation.

These camps continue to grow as families return from Cameroon, hoping sometime soon they can return home. Most the families are from the Gwoza area, which is still controlled

by Boko Haram. The situation is desperate for many, and we all wish we could do more. Even in such a setting, the families shared their appreciation for all that has been done to keep them alive. In situations like this, there is never enough, so we celebrate all that is accomplished with the resources available.

¹ Messenger magazine, January 2019, “‘Through God’s will’ Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria Survives and Grows” by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford. The online version, with additional articles, can be found at www.brethren.org/messenger/articles/2019/through-gods-will.html

Nigeria

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situation in Nigeria was a major point of discussion. With increased attacks by rural Fulani (a cattle herding tribe) and Boko Haram and an increase in kidnapping for ransom, security was deteriorating as the February elections approached. Partially due to this, the 2019 budget includes more security walls around the EYN HQ and Kulp Theological Seminary. A recent example of the security situation came in early February 2019 when Boko Haram began to increase its attacks further south into Adamawa State, toward Michika, which is only about 40 miles north of Kwarhi. This has increased the stress and fear of Brethren in the area, renewing memories of the attacks of 2014 and causing some to flee their homes.

The meeting closed with EYN General Secretary, Danial Mbaya, sharing that EYN appreciates the deepening partnerships that have developed out of this crisis. He said decreased budgets don’t change the desire for close relations and the importance of the partners’ presence in Nigeria, walking with EYN.

More information about the Nigeria Crisis Response can be found at www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis. Make sure to see the blog for recent updates.



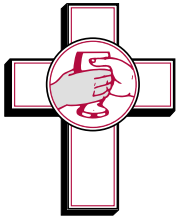
Displaced families in a Maiduguri camp

by Roy Winter



Despite the hardships, women laugh while preparing a meal in a camp in Maiduguri.

by Roy Winter



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CDS volunteers interacting with the children in a shelter in Panama City Beach, Florida following Hurricane Michael. by Kathy Duncan



CDS volunteer Laurene Holsinger provides a calm place for this little Hurricane Michael survivor to sleep.
by Kathy Duncan



In the Disaster Resource Center for Camp Fire survivors in Chico, California, this boy exclaimed to his young companion, "Get the hammer, we gotta fix this town that got burned down by fire!" by Patty Henry

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