COVID-19 Response – U.S. Churches

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) requested an additional allocation of $75,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to continue funding of the domestic COVID-19 Relief Program.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 tracking system, as of May 28, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had expanded to 213 countries and territories. In the United States, the resulting health crisis and necessary restrictions are impacting all sectors of life, including Church of the Brethren congregations and districts. Even as some states start to reduce restrictions and reopen businesses, the economic hardship continues for at-risk groups.

The Church of the Brethren responded with a broad COVID-19 relief program designed to assist Church of the Brethren congregations and districts, global Brethren congregations, and partners in providing relief activities in their communities. This included a COVID-19 relief grant program financed by the Emergency Disaster Fund. This allocation supports the domestic part of the grant program, designed to help U.S. Church of the Brethren congregations and districts provide humanitarian relief for vulnerable people in their congregations and communities.

An initial $60,000 grant for domestic relief provided grants to 14 congregations. Most of the grants support basic human needs of food and shelter for out-of-work and marginalized people. Some requests included program plans for 3- to 5- month interventions.

Funds from this allocation will be distributed to congregations and districts through a grant application and approval process. Recognizing that predicting incoming requests is difficult, the $75,000 is intended to support the program through July 2020.

Prior EDF grants for this appeal:
$60,000 on April 17, 2020

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Roy Winter, associate executive director, Brethren Disaster Ministries; Ed Woolf, treasurer; David Steele, general secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Lauren Seganos Cohen, Thomas Dowdy, Carl Fike, Lois Grove, Heather Gentry Hartwell, Dava Hensley, John Hoffman, Paul Liepelt, Diane Mason, John Mueller, Joel Peña, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, Christina Singh, Patrick Starkey, and Carol Yeazell.

Nancy Miner, recorder

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