



Brethren Disaster Ministries **BRIDGES**

Rebuilding Homes • Nurturing Children • Responding Globally

Vol. 21, Winter 2020

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is a program of the
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For more information on
Brethren Disaster Ministries
1-800-451-4407
www.brethren.org/bdm



Church of the Brethren

EDF grant supports district response to Puerto Rico earthquakes

During a thirty-day span at the beginning of 2020, eleven earthquakes over magnitude 5 rocked the island of Puerto Rico, including the strongest, a magnitude 6.4, on January 7. While the hardest hit areas were on the southwestern coast, tremors, some quite strong, were felt across the island for weeks in between and after. These earthquakes caused only minor non-structural damage to a few Church of the Brethren buildings which were located away from the epicenter. The greatest effect on Brethren members and their neighbors has been the uncertainty of when the shaking will end and the damage to power plants that have caused frequent power outages.

An initial Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grant of \$5,000 was sent to the Puerto Rico district to address immediate needs. The first purchases made with this funding supported families who had gathered on the property of Carmen Mercado, pastor of the Río Prieto Church of the Brethren, sleeping in tents and vehicles and preparing meals together. They were afraid to return to their homes because of the continued tremors and concerns for the structural safety of their houses. These families returned to their homes after they were inspected and cleared. District leaders are currently



Due to the continuing tremors after the January 7, 2020 earthquake that hit Puerto Rico, families in the Río Prieto area stayed in tents and vehicles because they were afraid to stay in their homes.

Photo by José Acevedo

identifying other needs and making plans to provide additional support to other areas. BDM will continue communication with the district to find ways to support their response efforts.

Responding to the call

by José Acevedo, Puerto Rico district disaster coordinator, and Raquel Acevedo

Since the largest earthquake rocked Puerto Rico on January 7, many organizations and government agencies have concentrated their assistance in areas along the southern coast, where visible structural damage occurred. However, very little was done in the mountainous, rural areas, where many Brethren churches exist, and where our brothers and sisters were experiencing not only property damage, but also the

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Home sweet home

by Darlene Miller, White Oak Church of the Brethren, Atlantic Northeast district

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam, be it ever so humble, there's no place like home." J.H. Payne

I had never heard of the little town of Nichols, S.C., before we went there with BDM to help rebuild homes damaged by the flood waters of Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. But after three years of working in that area, there are people and places that are now dear and familiar to us.

On our drive to Nichols, we enjoyed the rustic beauty of Page's Mill Pond, near the town of Lakeside, with water falling over the breast of the dam and the cypress trees standing like sentinels in the pond. We stopped to examine the novelty of a field full of cotton that was yet unpicked. We wondered at all the abandoned houses that would likely never hear the sound of laughter and families again and were sorry for those who had lost so much.

We worked hard from Mondays to Fridays hanging drywall, applying the needed compound to seams and screws, and sanding until the walls were smooth enough for bright, fresh paint. Plumbing, electrical work and insulation were all needed parts for fixing a house, too. Nice, new flooring was laid for the welcome return of work boots, sneakers or comfy bedroom slippers.

In January 2020, we worked at the home of Gladys, a dear, 93-year-old lady who is blind and has had to live in a nursing home since her house was flooded in September 2018. My friend Luanne and I thought it would be special to meet her, so after talking to her son, we arranged to meet him the next morning. He took us to her room and introduced us. What a sweet, lovely lady who loves her Lord! She was thankful for what we were doing to get her house fixed and was hoping to live there again soon. We asked if she likes to sing, and she sure does! She and her son sang a few songs for us with passion and heartfelt joy!

"You ought to take the Lord with you, everywhere you go... In your

home, all along, in the highways and the byways, you ought to take the Lord with you, everywhere you go!"

"I live in this moment because of you. I want to thank you and praise you too, your grace and mercy brought me through."

We found out that Gladys was the youngest of five sisters who all lived beside each other. Right down the road was Miss Diana, her niece, whom we had met and on whose house we had worked through the devastation of two floods. So, one day after lunch, we walked across the road and she invited us in to see her beautiful, finished house that she is enjoying—a dream come true.

If you are thankful for the comforts of home, and have never gone on a BDM work trip, please consider

Responding to the call

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emotional effects of being terrified to go back inside their homes.

Many local leaders and families expressed: "THANK YOU LORD, for we have not been forgotten!", when they saw a group of Brethren Disaster Ministries and district volunteers, led by Daniel Hershberger, a structural engineer who traveled from the Middle Pennsylvania district. They came to assess homes that had been damaged during the earthquakes for structural damage.

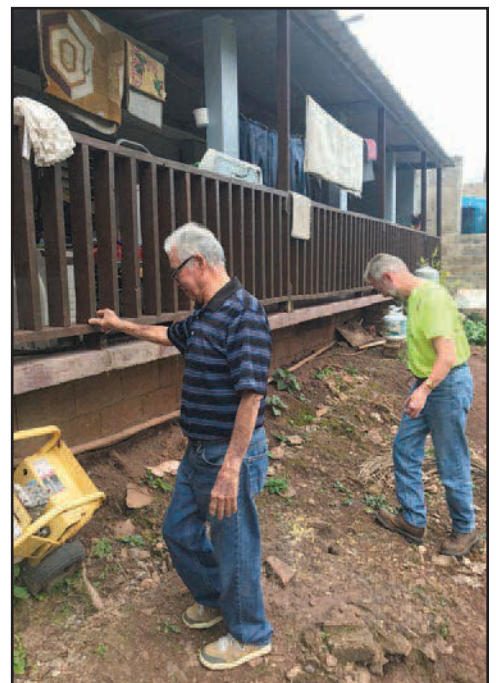
We began on Sunday and continued for five long days. Dan assessed over 50 homes and five of the Church of the Brethren churches. He was able to give many people reassurance that their homes were safe. We also suggested appropriate repairs and advised them to apply for FEMA programming to see if they qualified for funds for those repairs. We are so grateful that the Holy Spirit led brother Daniel to come to our beloved Puerto Rico to be His instrument for the week! Everyone has been so blessed by him. The many



Gladys (c) and her son (l), with Darlene Miller.
Photo courtesy of Darlene Miller

whether this is something the Lord is calling you to do. Willing hands and willing hearts are what's needed to get the job done!

cases he evaluated brought back peace of mind, which was key for fostering the recovery process. Thanks again, brother Daniel, for all of your help!



Daniel Hershberger (right) inspects homes in Castañer, Puerto Rico, with Alberto Gonzalez, a member of the Castañer Church of the Brethren. Photo courtesy of BDM

Rebuilding updates

Final Puerto Rico volunteer openings

The Hurricane Maria rebuilding site in Puerto Rico closes in May 2020. There are still some individual volunteer openings in March, April and May. BDM offers financial support for a portion of the travel expenses for Brethren volunteers. Contact Terry Goodger (410-635-8730 or tgoodger@brethren.org) in the BDM office for information.

Carolinas

The timeframe for the current rebuilding site in the Carolinas has been extended past the previous date in April. All groups who are scheduled for Project 1 from now until August 2 will continue to serve in North Carolina at the current site in Lumberton. There is still much work to do there. Project 1 will close for six weeks following the last group and it is anticipated that it will open in mid-September in a new location that has yet to be identified.

Jacksonville, Fla.

BDM's Project 2, located in Jacksonville, Fla., was open from September through December 19, 2019. The completion of the BDM site corresponded with the closeout of operations for our local partner, the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Volunteers and leaders served eight families. They also did extensive work on Camp TEAM Effort, where our volunteer housing was located, allowing the nonprofit camp to better host volunteers each summer so they can continue work in the area.

Project 2 new location

Project 2 moved to Tampa, Fla., in January 2020 and is scheduled to continue until our partner's grant funding is completed at the end of March. BDM staff and leadership are considering potential new locations for Project 2 for volunteers to start after Easter. Currently, the most likely location would be in the Dayton, Ohio area, where the Southern Ohio/Kentucky district

of the Church of the Brethren has already been working on cleanup and rebuilding in response to damage after over 15 tornadoes touched down in the state over the 2019 Memorial Day weekend. BDM is in close communication with local leaders working on the recovery to determine when work that would qualify for BDM support would be ready and to identify a firm housing location. More information will be shared as details are finalized in the coming weeks and months.

Disaster Project Leader Training

BDM held a Project Leadership Training in November 2019 at the Carolinas rebuilding site in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Nine trainers, two staff and 11 participants were part of this 10-day event designed to train construction and household leaders to serve on rebuilding sites for around a month

at a time. Future leaders are recommended by present leaders, who identify volunteers with strong skills in construction and/or group cooking/hospitality, as well as in leadership, to begin the process of discernment about a possible leadership role.

BVS Openings

Did you know that the BDM Rebuilding Program is one of the placement sites for Brethren Volunteer Service? You don't have to be interested in construction to be part of our program. We are also looking for participants with experience or interest in group cooking and hospitality and/or office related roles to help us run the administrative side of the rebuilding sites. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Jenn Dorsch-Messler (410-635-8737 or jdorsch-messler@brethren.org) for more information.

Wrapping up in Nichols, S.C.

by Jenn Dorsch-Messler

Brethren Disaster Ministries began working on Hurricane Matthew (2016) recovery in the town of Nichols, S.C., in September 2017. Many residents of Nichols are family members so when 90 percent of the town flooded after the storm, the impact was significant. They greatly appreciated BDM's support and, in turn, the survivors on whose homes BDM worked touched the hearts of many volunteers. BDM's initial housing site was at St. Johns AME Church in Nichols. It moved to Lumberton, N.C., in April 2018.

The strong connection that had developed made it even more heartbreaking when, in September 2018, we watched and experienced Hurricane Florence eerily bring the same stalled rain, causing flooding upriver that flowed into Nichols to flood 100 percent of the town. Some families had only recently moved into the homes that had been repaired

after Matthew, while others were still waiting to return home. This second devastating flooding brought a new call to action for BDM volunteers to travel to help residents, many of whom they already knew, to clean up and prevent more damage from mold.

Nine homes that had already been repaired were repaired again by BDM volunteers, with the last being finished in February. The materials for three of these homes were financed through two grants awarded to BDM through the One SC Fund, housed at the Central Carolina Community Foundation. Nichols has applied for FEMA mitigation funding to raise many homes in the town. If awarded, it could still take as long as two years to receive the funding. The work of the BDM volunteers brought these families home and they continue to hope that when the FEMA funding comes through

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Angels serving after forgotten storms

By Jenn Dorsch-Messler

From the very first week that Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers traveled to Tampa, Fla., in January 2020, they were a blessing to the homeowners they served. A disaster case manager from the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, BDM's local partner, shared these words from one of the first survivors who received help:

"It is so beautiful; you and the whole volunteer crew are angels. There is no way that I can thank you enough. Y'all have restored my faith in humanity. Thank you all!!"

The families that BDM volunteers and leaders are serving in the Tampa area have been waiting for these repairs since Hurricane Irma caused damage to their homes in September 2017. Because Irma wreaked its havoc right between Hurricane Harvey, which received great attention, and Hurricane Maria which caused great devastation as it worked its way across the Caribbean, these Florida residents have felt invisible to the wider world. For almost two and a half years they lived in damaged homes and felt forgotten in a world where more and bigger storms and events occur and awareness of their situation fades away. As part of the work done by BDM volunteers, one family had a new sink delivered and installed which meant that they no longer had to wash their dishes in the bathtub, as they had done for over 27 months.

While this project, and the previous project in Jacksonville, has required volunteers to travel longer and farther south, the work would not have happened if BDM was not there. Our local partners in both places were no longer receiving their own volunteers with enough regularity to complete the work. The regular, consistent, weekly Brethren volunteers is a gift both to our partners and to the homeowners

as funding deadlines loom and families are still not in safe, sanitary and secure homes. Thank you to BDM volunteers who listen to the

Lord's call to go where the most need is, reminding families that they are not forgotten and sharing Christ's love with everyone along the way.



BDM volunteers serve in the Tampa, Fla., area in January 2020.

Photo courtesy of Jerry Moore

Wrapping up in Nichols, S.C.

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their homes will be raised to prevent future flooding.

BDM received cases from, and worked very closely with, its partner, the Town of Nichols. In a recently received letter, Michaela Hufford, the disaster recovery coordinator for the town, shared the following addressed to BDM staff and volunteers:

"On behalf of the Town of Nichols' staff and administration I would like to thank each one of you for the dedication, hard work, compassion, and love you have had for our little town over the last three years. Your organization came in at a time when we were all heartbroken, vulnerable, and needed an extreme amount of help. Brethren Disaster Ministries helped heal our hearts, made us trust again, and helped in more ways than we knew we needed. To say that the BDM staff and volunteers are a godsend would be an understatement."

"This entire process would not have been possible without the selfless and compassionate volunteers and BDM as a whole. While we are sad to know that your time with us is coming to an end, we take solace in knowing that your organization will be helping and touching the lives of so many others and that this is not a goodbye but simply a see you later. A simple 'thank you' will never be enough so please know that we are forever grateful and indebted to you for all that the BDM staff and volunteers have done for us and our citizens over the years. Your organization has touched the hearts of many of our citizens and changed their lives forever."

Thank you to all the leaders and volunteers who helped us serve the residents of Nichols over many years. The work you did, the prayers you prayed, and the compassion you showed will forever be remembered in that small town in South Carolina.

Brethren Disaster Ministries 2019 Project Expenses

Status		Amount
	U.S. Projects	
Active	BDM and Puerto Rico district—Puerto Rico Hurricanes response	\$236,004
Active	BDM—Carolinas Hurricanes Matthew and Florence response	\$127,446
Active	BDM and CDS—Midwest flooding and tornadoes	\$2,865
Completed	BDM—Jacksonville, Fla., Hurricane Irma response	\$32,445
Completed	CDS local responses	\$868
Completed	2017 hurricane project site development: Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla.	\$7,190
Completed	Disaster Recovery Support Initiative activity in U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) and other locations*	\$74,122
Completed	BDM USVI Volunteer Response	\$8,640
*An additional \$162,766 in Community Foundation Grant funds were managed by BDM in USVI		
	U.S. total	\$489,580
	International Projects	
Active	CWS—Typhoon Hagibis response (Japan)	\$7,500
Active	Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development—Syrian refugee crisis response in Lebanon	\$40,000
Active	COB South Sudan Mission—relief for displaced families	\$27,500
Active	BDM—Nigeria Crisis Response	\$555,367
Active	CWS—Hurricane Dorian Bahamas relief	\$10,000
Completed	Hurricane Dorian Bahamas emergency relief	\$20,000
Completed	IMA World Health—Ebola outbreak (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	\$10,000
Completed	Shalom Ministry for Reconciliation—families displaced by violence (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	\$8,510
Completed	IMA World Health/Lutheran World Relief—Cyclone Idai response (Mozambique, Zimbabwe)	\$30,000
Completed	ACT Alliance—Cyclone Idai response (Mozambique)	\$40,000
Completed	Dominican Republic Church of the Brethren—naturalization of Haitians in the DR	\$5,000
	International total	\$748,877
	Total BDM Project Expenses	\$1,238,457

Brethren Disaster Ministries 2019 Rebuilding Responses

Project location	Disaster type	Weekly volunteers*	Total work days	Hours served	Value of service**	Families served
Rebuild Projects						
Carolinas	hurricanes	965	5,358	42,864	\$1,090,031.52	46***
Jacksonville, FL	hurricane	238	1,223	9,784	\$248,807.12	8
Puerto Rico	hurricanes	255	1,928	15,424	\$392,232.32	56 †
Short-term responses ††	hurricanes	15	153	1,224	\$31,126.32	2
Totals		1,473	8,662	69,296	\$1,762,197.28	112

* Includes repeat volunteers

** Estimated Value of Volunteer Service is \$25.43/hr for 2019 per IndependentSector.org

*** Includes homes affected by Hurricanes Matthew or Florence, with nine homes by both

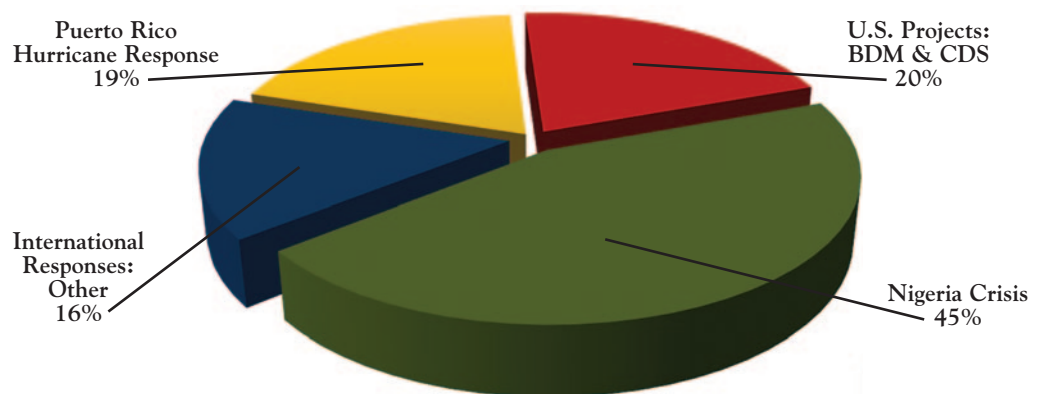
† Total families served: 33 families were provided materials only; 23 families were provided materials and volunteer labor

†† One short-term response (U.S. Virgin Islands)

Brethren Disaster Ministries 2019 Project Funding & Grants

Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) Total <i>Nigeria Crisis Fund (included in EDF Total)</i> <i>Hurricanes and Puerto Rico Hurricane Responses (included in EDF Total)</i>	\$2,002,935 \$170,752 \$98,146
CDS Program Grant Total (not included in EDF) <i>CDS UMCOR Grant (carry over from 2018 grant)</i> <i>CDS Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Grants</i>	\$31,131 \$16,131 \$15,000
Rebuilding Program Grant Total (not included in EDF) <i>One SC Fund housed at Central Carolina Community Foundation</i>	\$40,000
DRSI Program Grant Total (not included in EDF) <i>Partner Funding, Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI) a joint program of BDM, United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</i>	\$10,000

BDM 2019 Project Expenses



Upcoming 2020 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 2: 40th 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 15 & 16: 28th 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: 44th Brethren Disaster Relief Auction (Atlantic Northeast and Southern Pennsylvania districts)

Lebanon Valley Expo Center, Lebanon, Pa.; Information is available at www.facebook.com/BrethrenDisasterRelief, www.brethrenauction.org or 717-823-2745.

Annual Conference 2020

You're invited! BDM and CDS volunteers are invited to a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast during the 2020 Annual Conference on Thursday morning, July 2, at 7:30 a.m. in the Governor's Ballroom in the Amway Grand Hotel. **Registration is required.** Please contact the BDM office for more information and to register.

Annual Blood Drive—Don't forget to make room in your busy Annual Conference schedules to donate blood on Thursday and Friday, July 2 & 3, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Look for information on online registration to secure your time slot or register on-site at the conference.

See you in Grand Rapids!

Partners expanding CDS influence in the Bahamas

by Katie Nees, director, Child Life Disaster Relief

In September, Children's Disaster Services partner Child Life Disaster Relief (CLDR) was contacted to respond to the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian. The Bahamas Ministry of Health requested professional services focused on the psychosocial needs of the Bahamian children. CLDR kept in close contact with CDS as details developed prior to that deployment and CLDR rapidly deployed 12 certified child life specialists (CCLS) to work with the kids impacted by this disaster. The CCLSs were able to serve in various locations including a hospital clinic, an emergency department, two children's homes, two disaster shelters, and a weekly mental health event offered jointly by multiple organizations.

Of the 40 applications from certified child life specialists for this deployment, CLDR leadership chose volunteers based on years of professional experience plus CDS certification. Nine of the 12 deployed were CDS certified and they used their CDS training and deployment

experience, especially while working in the shelter locations.

The CCLSs provided direct coping interventions for children and teens for a total of 1,000 child encounters over four weeks. They observed typical reactions to trauma in the children including aggression, hyperactivity, hypervigilance, withdrawal, rescue fantasies, and regression. They provided developmentally appropriate and therapeutic play for children on all levels while also making intentional efforts to provide interventions for those with autism, cerebral palsy, and other cognitive, developmental, and physical limitations.

CLDR is deeply grateful for the partnership with Children's Disaster Services that makes deployments such as this possible. The CDS trainings, as well as leadership collaboration, has guided CLDR to be



The first CLDR volunteer team deployed to Bahamas, preparing for their first day with backpacks of supplies similar to CDS's Kit of Comfort.

Photo by Eileen Esposito

able to extend support to children and families in unique ways. We are looking forward to how we can continue to serve children and families in these varied environments after disaster.



CLDR volunteers cared for children in the Bahamas. The children maximized on every opportunity to play and often played out their experiences.

Photo by Ashley Zani

CDS Spring Trainings

CDS spring training workshops are well underway. Those still open for the spring are listed here. If you know someone who would enjoy working with children after disasters, please refer them to the website (www.brethren.org/cds/training/dates.html) to register for a remaining spring training. Fall trainings will open for registrations in June 2020.

March 27 & 28—Lombard, Illinois
York Center Church of the Brethren
1S071 Luther Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148

April 17 & 18—Tulsa, Oklahoma
Bethany Christian Church
6730 S. Sheridan Road
Tulsa, OK 74133

May 1 & 2—Victor, New York
Victor United Methodist Church
(Rochester area)
106 E Main Street
Victor, NY 14564

CDS updates

CDS partners with Red Cross chapter of Greater New York City

On January 24, CDS held a training for new local project leaders to begin a program for the Greater New York City (NYC) area. A team orientation session was held the same day. This special training event, in partnership with the Greater NYC Red Cross chapter, was held at their headquarters in Midtown Manhattan.

Red Cross requested this local level of support which will provide CDS support for children in reception centers and shelters in the city following disasters such as large apartment building fires, sewer breaks, and transportation incidents. CDS and Red Cross would like to use this local response model in other cities where CDS has a large concentration of certified volunteers. If you would like to be involved, please contact the CDS office.

I am very excited to be a part of this exciting new process! – NYC Project Leader, Danielle Berman

Red Cross partnership gives access to virtual trainings

Any CDS volunteers that have completed their Red Cross profile in Volunteer Connection are eligible to

participate in the Red Cross virtual trainings. Psychological first aid is a popular one for those responding in disasters and is a basic level training that is 90 minutes in length.

This is the course description: “This training provides a framework for understanding the factors that affect stress responses in disaster relief workers and the clients they serve, introduces the principles of psychological first aid and guidelines. Participants engage in practice exercises and a review of the course content.”

For more information on how to access these web-based trainings, please reach out to CDS staff.

Reminder to update contact information with CDS staff

If you have moved or feel you are not receiving periodic emails from the CDS office, please contact the CDS staff with your current



This Kit of Comfort, stored at the Greater New York City Red Cross chapter, will be used by the new local NYC team when deployed to disasters within the city. Pictured (l to r) are Katie Nees, CDS trainer; Brian Gerber, NYC Red Cross mass care lead; Lisa Crouch, CDS associate director; and Mary DeWitt-Dia, Red Cross, national partnerships manager.

Photo courtesy of Mary DeWitt-Dia, American Red Cross

information. Our correspondence is sometimes time-sensitive and with over 850 current CDS volunteers, we need your help to make sure the database stays current with your contact information.

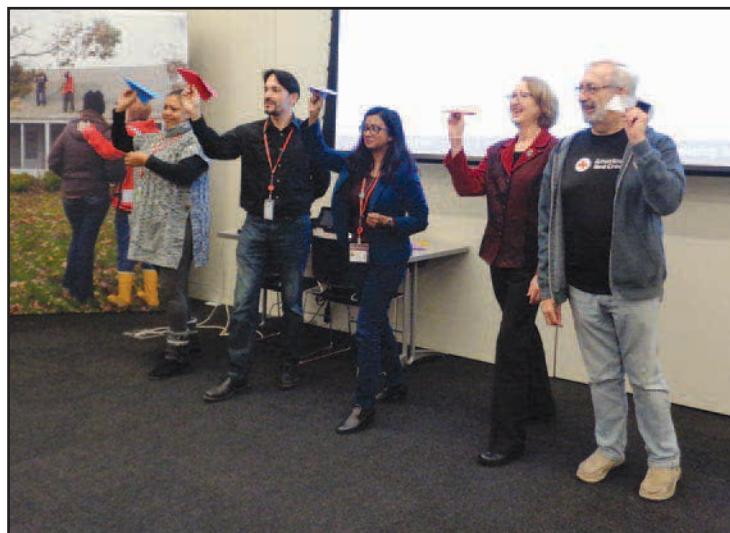
CDS normally sends out emails at least once per quarter, so if you are not receiving those, there may be a problem with your email address on file.



Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/cds.cob



A day of collaboration between CDS and the staff of Greater NYC Red Cross ended with an airplane folding contest amongst four teams. Team members worked together to come up with one plane that would fly the farthest. Participants really found joy in this activity. Photo by Lisa Crouch



Team Building the CDS way: A good old-fashioned paper airplane contest ended a great day of collaboration between CDS and the staff of Greater NYC Red Cross as the new pilot program to support children in disasters takes flight. Photo by Mary DeWitt-Dia, American Red Cross

Children's Disaster Services 2019 Response Statistics

Location	Disaster type	Volunteers*	Total work days	Hours served	Value of service**	Children served
Fremont, Neb.	flooding	2	4	32	\$813.76	50
Valley, Neb.	flooding	3	3	24	\$610.32	10
Davenport, Iowa	flooding	4	8	64	\$1,627.52	5
Jefferson City, Mo.	flooding	6	13	104	\$2,644.72	93
Dayton, Ohio	tornado	11	66	528	\$13,427.04	64
Independence, Mo.	flooding	7	15	120	\$3,051.60	17
Gilroy, Calif.	mass shooting	5	23	184	\$4,679.12	39
El Paso, Texas	mass shooting	6	46	368	\$9,358.24	35
Greenville, N.C.	Hurricane Dorian	12	48	384	\$9,765.12	6
Beaumont, Texas	Tropical Storm Imelda	13	85	680	\$17,292.40	185
Sylmar, Calif	wildfire	5	12	96	\$2,441.28	2
Total: 11 responses		74	323	2,584	\$65,711.12	506

*Includes repeat volunteers

**Estimated Value of Volunteer Service is \$25.43/hr for 2018 per IndependentSector.org

Children's Disaster Services 2019 Training Workshops

Date	Location	Type of training	Participants	Trainers*	Volunteer trainer hours***	Value of service**
Feb. 22-23	Oakdale, Pa.	Level 1	32	3	60	\$1,525.80
March 1-2	Redding, Calif.	Level 1	33	3	60	\$1,525.80
March 23-24	La Verne, Calif.	Level 1	40	3	60	\$1,525.80
April 10-11	Chicago, Ill.	Child Life Specialist	40	3	60	\$1,525.80
April 12-13	N. Manchester, Ind.	Level 1	40	3	60	\$1,525.80
May 2	New York, N.Y.	Level 1	26	2	40	\$1,017.20
June 10-11	Angola, Ind.	Project Manager	11	4	80	\$2,034.40
June 12-13	Angola, Ind.	Training of Trainers	13	4	80	\$2,034.40
Sept. 20-21	Ft. Lupton, Colo.	Level 1	21	3	54	\$1,373.22
Sept. 20-21	Roanoke, Va.	Level 1	33	3	54	\$1,373.22
Oct. 11-12	Portland, Ore.	Level 1	26	3	54	\$1,373.22
Oct. 11-13	Tampa, Fla.	Child Life Specialist	24	3	54	\$1,373.22
Oct. 18-19	Omaha, Neb.	Level 1	20	2	36	\$915.48
Totals	12 locations	13 trainings	359	39	752	\$19,123.36

*Includes repeat trainers

**Estimated Value of Volunteer Service is \$25.43/hr for 2018, according to IndependentSector.org

Hurricane Dorian response in the Bahamas

As previously reported, three Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grants totaling \$30,000 were used by partner agencies working on Grand Bahama and Great Abaco Islands in the Bahamas to provide emergency and long-term planning response to the massive destruction of Hurricane Dorian in September 2019. BDM continues to work with partners to determine how to support them as the response transitions from relief to long-term recovery.

In February 2020, four pallets of canned chicken were shipped from the Brethren Service Center to BDM partner Feed the Children to help their partners on the ground in the affected areas of the Bahamas. The chicken was canned by Brethren from the Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania districts.

As a follow-up to the previous grant, an additional \$25,000 EDF grant was sent to Church World Service to support their long-term

recovery program focused on supporting the vulnerable migrant population impacted by the storm. Other organizations are focused on Bahamian residents, leaving these migrants with limited assistance. The CWS response will include advocacy for the rights of migrants, humanitarian and housing assistance and other recovery activities.



Hurricane Dorian destroyed an estimated 13,000 homes in the Bahamas in September 2019.

Photo by Rachel Larratt, Church World Service



Canned chicken, provided by the Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania districts, being prepared for shipment to Hurricane Dorian survivors in the Bahamas. Photo by Terry Goodger

Nigeria Crisis Response: Abounding faith

by Roy Winter

The relief program in Northeast Nigeria continues to build on the successful work reported for the last five years. With the recent killing of a respected church leader, I want to focus on the demonstrated faith of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)

Is your contact information correct?

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!

leaders and members. This article is about faith in God, not the violence that reveals faith.

EYN is the largest group of Christians in Northeast Nigeria, with thousands of churches continuing to profess faith in God and Christ. As they rebuild churches burned by Boko Haram, they build back bigger to demonstrate their faith. They do this even though the terrorist violence is escalating again and Christians are being targeted.

The recent capture and eventual execution on January 20 of Rev. Lawan Andimi is an example of faith that should inspire us all. An ordained minister in EYN, he served as EYN district secretary for the Michika area and was chair of the Christian Association of Nigeria

(CAN) for the same area. This terrifying and heartbreaking killing will be remembered because of how Pastor Andimi's faith rose above his fears and condition. In a video released by his captors, in a calm and peaceful voice, this man of God declared:

"By the grace of God, I will be together with my wife, my children, and my colleagues if the opportunity has not been granted, maybe it is the will of God..... Be patient, don't cry, don't worry. But thank God for everything."

Many EYN leaders are demonstrating their faith by traveling to unsafe areas to be with their members, even in the suffering.

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Nigeria Crisis Response

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Some speak truth to power, including challenging governors and the Nigerian president to care for their people. This fervent faith is found everywhere EYN members are worshipping and rebuilding churches or building new churches where they have relocated.

In 2016 the EYN leadership moved back to their headquarters in Kwarhi, less than 50 miles from areas where it was unsafe for Christians to travel. This alone shows the determination of EYN to not give up on God and to return to their “ancestral lands”, proclaiming God’s kingdom even when under attack. This has been and continues to be a difficult journey for EYN members, and many are afraid. Many have experienced great loss and trauma that is unimaginable. Certainly, some have understandably lost hope and barely survive.

I believe that the way the U.S. Brethren have supported and walked with EYN and its members has made a huge difference. This incredible support has helped save lives, fed the hungry and allowed some to rebuild their lives. Even more importantly, the steadfast support, tangible expressions of solidarity, and ceaseless prayers have helped our brothers and sisters to keep their faith and hope alive and growing.

When the Nigeria Crisis started, we assumed families would already be home, their houses already rebuilt or being rebuilt, and their crops growing



Even though many Nigerian Brethren remain displaced, they continue to worship in temporary churches, like this one at an Internally Displaced Persons camp in Yola. Their abounding faith is strong and sustains them.

Photo by Roxane and Carl Hill

again by 2020. Instead, there are still millions of people displaced and still much need. Understandably, after six years fewer donations are being received (\$170,752 in 2019) for the response. The good news is that, even in this difficult situation, much of EYN and their members have recovered and rebuilt. Even with fewer resources from the U.S., EYN has more capacity to support their members.

The budget for 2020 reflects these funding realities and an intentional stepping down of the major crisis response work in light of EYN’s continued recovery.

Update: On February 21, as this Bridges was going to press, an attack on Garkida, in Adamawa State, highlighted the volatility of the situation in Northeast Nigeria and the need for flexibility in our support

of EYN. Insurgents burned three churches (including an EYN church), houses, the market and the police station. This incident targeted a very meaningful place: in 1923 the first Brethren worship service in Nigeria was held under a tamarind tree in Garkida. In response to the attack, an additional \$50,000 (above the stated budget below) will be allocated for an emergency response to new violence.



The pastor of the EYN Garkida #1 church stands in the damaged worship space which was set ablaze by insurgents on February 21. Just 36 hours later members of the congregation worshiped and praised God in this space.

What an abundant Faith! Photo courtesy of Joel Billi

Nigeria Crisis Response Budget 2020

Food, Non-food, & Medical	81,029
Home Repair, Water & Sanitation	60,543
Peace Building & Trauma	28,820
Agriculture & Livelihood	71,985
Education	13,052
EYN Strengthening & Capacity Building	29,571
USA staff travel, etc.	15,000
TOTAL	\$300,000



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Online BDM merchandise store

Brethren Disaster Ministries will be running an online store for a limited time from March 16 to April 3, 2020. This store will offer different items than what is found at the BDM project sites, such as a jacket and button-down shirt in both men's and women's styles, a tie die shirt, a blanket, a luggage tag, and a cinch backpack. All items



*Women's
jacket with logo*

will have the BDM logo included on them. The items can be purchased easily online during the sale and will ship directly to your home. Visit www.brethrendisasterministries.org during the sale to find the link to the store and make your purchase.



*Luggage
tag*



*Men's PFG
shirt with
logo*

www.brethrendisasterministries.org

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