



courtesy of Child Life Disaster Relief

Emergency Disaster Fund grants

■ **\$10,000** supports Brethren Disaster Ministries' work to complete the rebuilding of four homes in York County, Pa., following Tropical Storm Ida. This is a collaboration with the districts of Southern Pennsylvania, Middle Pennsylvania, and Atlantic Northeast, which are coordinating volunteers.

■ **\$15,000** supports training models and resource development by Child Life Disaster Relief, a partner organization of Children's Disaster Services (CDS).

■ **\$5,000** supports families connected with the Maui (Hawaii) Economic Opportunity, Inc.'s Head Start center in Lahaina, who were affected by last year's devastating wildfire. The grant includes a donation of \$4,646.28 from Virlina District designated for programming in Maui. As CDS had completed its work there, it iden-

tified Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., through contacts with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Global Food Initiative grants

■ **\$15,402.06** supports an aquaculture project of Iglesia de los Hermanos Comunidad de Fe (Community of Faith Church of the Brethren) representing Haitian Creole-speaking churches in the Dominican Republic.

■ **\$4,000** is given to a grain mill project of the Church of the Brethren in Burundi, serving a community of about 3,000 people and likely to produce income for the church as well as some church members.

■ **\$2,500** supports a maize mill project in Uganda, aiding Hima Church of the Brethren to purchase a second motor to hull and grind grain.

■ **\$1,500** helped seven people from l'Eglise des Freres d'Haiti (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) receive training in Syntropic farming, which has proven effective in reforestation with fruit and forestry plants.

CDS deploys to Lake Isabella

From Aug. 9 to 13, Children's Disaster Services (CDS)

deployed a team of three volunteers to Lake Isabella, Calif., to serve 20 children in a local assistance center. This deployment was in response to the Borel fire, which started July 24 after a vehicle went over the edge of Highway 178 in Kern County, Calif., and caught fire. Borel was the second largest wildfire in California in the 2024 wildfire season, burning more than 59,000 acres before 91 percent containment on Aug. 10.

In the last few years, CDS volunteers have responded in several states during wildfires. These have included the 2023 wildfire in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, where 13 CDS volunteers served 457 children during 6 weeks of deployment; the Marshall Fire in Lafayette, Colo., in January 2022, serving 25 children; and in 2021, 3 wildfires in Santa Clara and Oroville, Calif., and 1 in Boulder, Colo. In 2018, CDS responded with 3 separate teams to the Camp Fire that destroyed the town of Paradise, Calif.

Staff increase translation efforts

A team of denominational staff has begun coordinating work on translation efforts in order to increase the number of printed resources and provide more interpretation at events. The group, which began meeting last year, is identifying the highest priorities for projects, assembling style guides for use by different translators, and locating funding beyond individual departments.

The staff team is working toward an organizational practice of translating resources into Spanish and Haitian Creole and is exploring ways to generate new funding sources for this work. The team also is developing a network of translators and a glossary of terms to maintain consistency and Brethren identity

across different translators.

The team set a priority for two projects in Haitian Creole: One is translation of *Manual del Pastor*, a Spanish-language compilation of selected material from *For All Who Minister*. Another is translation of Chapter 4 of the *Church of the Brethren Manual of Organization and Polity*, with the intention of translating the entire manual once updates are finalized. The manual already exists in Spanish.

Convened by Nate Polzin, executive director of Discipleship and Leadership Formation, the team also includes Founa Badet, Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, Wendy McFadden, and Traci Rabenstein.

Brethren Faith in Action grants

■ **\$5,000** helps Antioch Church of the Brethren in Rocky Mount, Va., to upgrade its sound system. The church had been streaming worship services using a system installed more than 20 years ago.

■ **\$5,000** jumpstarts Columbia City (Ind.) Church of the Brethren's new Feed the Need ministry, an outreach project extending the congregation's commitment to being present in the downtown.

■ **\$5,000** aids Gospel Assembly of Lehigh in Lehigh Acres, Fla., to purchase a van for its ministries. The congregation offers an array of activities for youth and children.

■ **\$5,000** aids Iglesia Cristiana Elohim in Las Vega, Nev., to purchase musical equipment and develop promotional resources to establish the church's presence in its neighborhood.

■ **\$5,000** supports Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Ind., as it has hosted a family from Nicaragua seeking asylum in the US. The congregation has supported asylum-seekers for several years, including people from Guatemala and Colombia.

■ **\$5,000** helps Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren in Westminster, Md., to install new flooring in the fellowship hall, replacing asbestos tiles. Outreach activities in the fellowship hall include a weekly food pantry.

■ **\$5,000** aids Nuevo Comienzo Church of the Brethren's outreach ministry to Hispanic people in Kissimmee, Fla., the majority of whom are low-income families who are challenged economically.

■ **\$5,000** has helped expand the outreach capacity of West Charleston Church of the Brethren in Tipp City,



Brethren Volunteer Service

The Summer 2024 unit of Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), Unit 335, completed orientation Aug. 5 at Camp Colorado in Sedalia, Colo.:

(front, from left) **Carla Sornig** of North Rhine Westphalia, Germany, is working at Abode Services in California; **Henry Schenk** of Bavaria, Germany, is at Abode Services; **Calvin Brown** of Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Ind., is serving at Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland; **Tom Hurst** of McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethren is at Corrymeela Community; **Isabel Kruse** of Huntingdon, Pa., is working with Greenhill YMCA in Northern Ireland; (back) **Rachel Johnson** of Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren in Quarryville, Pa., is working with FaithX and Brethren Volunteer Service at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill.; **Kate Ruebke** of Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren in Weyers Cave, Va., is at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Arkansas; **Svea Lembcke** of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, is serving at Camp Stevens in California; **Lauren Hazel** of Brownsburg, Ind., is working with Greenhill YMCA in Northern Ireland; **Katelyn Hoffmann** of Pfullendorf, Germany, is serving with Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center; **Jan Hurst** of McPherson Church of the Brethren is working at Corrymeela Community; **Melika Rassoli** of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, has been at L'Arche Syracuse in New York.

Ohio, in support of the immigrants and refugees who make up 35 to 40 percent of the active congregation.

■ **\$4,676.19** helps the Church in Drive in Saginaw, Mich., to upgrade its audiovisual system. This ongoing project integrates online participants with the church's in-person activities beyond Sunday worship.

■ **\$3,000** has funded Potsdam (Ohio) Church of the Brethren's six community outreach events in 2024.

■ **\$2,500** helps Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center, a camp in Mid-Atlantic District near Sharpsburg, Md., welcome youth from Hagerstown (Md.) Girl's Inc. Since 2021, about 80 girls have attended day camp each summer.

■ **\$500** has supported Topeka (Kan.) Church of the Brethren's Living Nativity outreach event last winter—part of the congregation's Jesus in the Neighborhood initiative.



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