

WORDS OF HOPE

2005 ANNUAL REPORT





The Rev. Chris Blanchard salvages communion chalices for his friend, the Rev. Darryl Tate, from Tate's parsonage in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. The chalices, a gumbo pot and the top to Tate's wedding cake were all that could be salvaged from the home. Tate's church, St. Luke's United Methodist, sustained heavy damage.

U.S. DISASTER RESPONSE

In best practice, domestic and international disaster response employs a model of significant participation by disaster survivors in their own recovery. Survivors and caring relief workers partner in all phases of response—from the early weeks of the emergency to the long-term rehabilitation of the community. UMCOR values the outcomes of partnerships with and the self-sufficiency of survivors. Training in disaster response is a specialty of UMCOR.

EMERGENCY	LOCATION
Hurricane Dennis	AL, FL (Florida and Alabama-West Florida conferences)
Hurricane Katrina	LA, MS, AL and the whole US
Hurricane Rita	LA & TX (Louisiana and Texas conferences)
Hurricane Wilma	FL (Florida conference)
Wildfires	TX and OK (Oklahoma Indian Missionary, Oklahoma, Central Texas and North Texas conferences)
Tornadoes	IN (South Indiana conference), GA (South Georgia conference), WI (Wisconsin conference)
Severe Storms	KY (Kentucky conference)
Fires and Flooding and Mudslides	CA (California-Nevada and California-Pacific conferences), Arizona (Desert Southwest conference), Wisconsin (Wisconsin conference)
Floods	TX (Southwest Texas conference), NY, NJ, PA (New York, Troy, Greater New Jersey, and Eastern Pennsylvania conferences), MT (Yellowstone conference), ND (North Dakota conference)
Continuing Recovery	Hurricanes of 2004 (Western Pennsylvania, Western North Carolina, Florida, Alabama West Florida conferences); Hurricane Isabel (North Carolina conference)

HURRICANE KATRINA

Hurricane Katrina’s devastation continues to stun visitors to the US Gulf region. The disaster is so large that even the energies of tens of thousands of volunteers has barely scratched the surface. The people of the United Methodist Church have created a multitude of responses—full scale case management, church “adoptions” of families, interfaith financial assistance, and congregational welcomes to newcomers. In the midst of loss and destruction, the church continues to “be the hope.”

UMCOR Disaster Response workers were welcomed in the Gulf region as true blessings in a time of great need. They were almost constant companions in the affected annual conferences, providing psychological and social support. Some of their other work:

- Training and mentoring for conference leadership in developing recovery programs that will last up to 4 years.
- Establishment of storm centers and regional recovery centers
- Training of case managers
- Accompanying new Regional Recovery Centers in their set-up and day to day operations.
- Encouragement, care for tired workers, advice on thorny issues, assistance with hiring procedures.

Ella Doyle lifts her head in prayer and tells fellow parishioners to “hold your head up. God’s got a better day coming,” during an outdoor worship service at Hartzell Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Slidell, La., where the sanctuary was ruined by storm surge from Hurricane Katrina. Doyle rode out the storm in a boat with her husband and two sons.



Mike DuBose UMNS

VOLUNTEERS: THE NUMBERS

12 disaster volunteer mentors worked in MS, LA and the TX Conference following Katrina and Rita. Florida Recovery is interacting with 25 recovery locations where 8,455 cases are being handled.

CALL CENTER	VOLUMES
UMCOR Volunteer Hotline	2207 calls (1142 calls in September)
Louisiana Recovery Call Center	handled 4,578 teams
Mississippi Recovery Call Center	handled 1,056 teams
Florida Recovery Call Center	handled 879 teams

TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE TOTAL VOLUNTEERS MANAGED: 59,200	
Hurricane Katrina	52,310 volunteers from their own conference 448 from outside the conference
Hurricane Rita	6,250 volunteers from their own conference 192 from outside the conference

KATRINA AID TODAY

In proposing a national consortium of voluntary agencies to address the needs of the most vulnerable Hurricane Katrina survivors, UMCOR integrated a public and a private process. The United States government and the church both called on UMCOR to help qualifying families achieve sustainable recovery from the hurricane’s devastation.

WHY UMCOR?

UMCOR was a logical lead because of its extensive experience in working with disaster survivors in the USA and around the world. The agency was already working with FEMA in training post-Katrina workers for evacuees being housed on a large ship in the Gulf of Mexico. UMCOR has partnered for years with United Methodist annual conferences in post-disaster recovery efforts, and provided significant services to families and individuals affected by 9/11 through a large church-funded program called Love in the Midst of Tragedy.

IMPACT OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Hurricane Katrina is the most destructive storm to ever hit the US. Its impact was so widespread and intense that it left many Americans in acute distress. Katrina survivors urgently require help to rebuild their shattered lives. The applications and forms to address basic needs like housing, transportation and employment are confusing and can be intimidating.

- Navigating the system of government and private recovery support can be overwhelming. Survivors of disaster often don’t know their rights or whom to trust.
- Disasters and displacement can diminish people’s ability to make choices for themselves.
- Some survivors will continue to have significant unmet needs after personal resources, insurance, and immediate disaster-related government benefits are exhausted. They need an action plan to map their road to self-sufficiency.

SOLUTION

Katrina Aid Today is a consortium of nine social service and voluntary organizations, led by UMCOR, dedicated to helping survivors navigate the system to recover from this tragic disruption of their lives.

- Our specially trained managers are helping about 100,000 families identify sources of support, develop personal recovery plans, acquire access to services and take appropriate actions to rebuild their lives. Unmet needs addressed may include housing, employment, childcare, insurance counseling, and access to public and private funds. The approach is comprehensive and may involve multiple services and referrals.
- The nine organizations have nationwide reach and large volunteer networks, and some have access to special groups such as differently-abled persons or those who speak languages other than English. All have in-depth experience in the type of assistance being offered by Katrina Aid Today.
- UMCOR, as the lead agency, will manage a grant made possible through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the United States Department of Homeland Security. Value of the grant is \$66 million, to be passed on to participants in the consortium for advancement of the recovery process for 22 months. Funding for the grant came from international donations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Engaged in a transparent proposal process, with an emphasis on fairness and open access, to select the nine providers.
- Created standardized forms and required use of a standardized data collect system, so that duplication of effort for both partners and clients can be avoided.
- Started up program Dec. 15, 2005—six weeks from grant award date—with agencies operating in 29 states.

KATRINA AID TODAY CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

Boat People SOS, <i>Falls Church, VA</i>	Odyssey House of Louisiana, <i>New Orleans, LA</i>
Catholic Charities USA, <i>Alexandria, VA</i>	Salvation Army THQ, <i>Atlanta, GA</i>
Episcopal Relief and Development, <i>New York, NY</i>	Society of St. Vincent De Paul, <i>St. Louis, MO</i>
Lutheran Disaster Response, <i>Chicago</i>	Volunteers of America, <i>Alexandria, VA</i>
National Disability Rights Network, <i>Washington D.C.</i>	

NEW JERSEY HEART PROGRAM 9/11 LONG TERM RECOVERY

The New Jersey Heart program concluded its final months of providing assistance to those affected by September 11. As of December 31, 2005 they distributed \$1.7 million in direct assistance through their own case management plus \$1,082,906 through the coordination unmet needs table. In addition, they provided program support to other agencies involved in long term recovery in the amount of \$161,379. The total amount of the grant received was \$4,500,000.

SUCCESS STORY

LIFE-CHANGING ASSISTANCE

She is elderly, the only caretaker for her severely disabled son. She, the son, and a teenage grandchild were sleeping on the floor since being displaced from a shelter. She became so ill she required a month's hospitalization. Her life changed for the better when a caring worker from Katrina Aid Today visited her in the hospital. The worker made sure the son received home doctor visits, and requested deliveries of furniture, fresh produce and groceries to the apartment. When the landlord refused to accept rent vouchers, the worker helped the elderly householder to contact FEMA and arrange for direct deposit of rent money.

Now the worker, who is with consortium partner The Society of St. Vincent DePaul, visits at the home every few days to review progress. This elderly member of the community is on her way to recovery, now that she has received this life-changing assistance.

Adapted from a report by Mary Ann Hernandez, Society of St. Vincent de Paul director of social services.



SOUTH ASIA TSUNAMI

SRI LANKA:
“METHODIST WELLS HAVE
THE SWEETEST WATER”

The Rev. Tahir Wijaya, pastor of the Methodist Church in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, takes a break from cleanup duties at the church to recall how he survived the Dec. 26 tsunami that devastated the area. A delegation of mission and communications leaders of the United Methodist Church visited areas of Sumatra, Indonesia, near the epicenter of the earthquake that triggered the waves.

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE

Giving to the South Asia Emergency has allowed UMCOR to make a life-saving, robust and extended response in countries affected by the 2004 tsunami. Notable are partners in Sri Lanka and India.

Replacement of small business essentials like lace-making bobbins, sewing machines, boats, and engines...Driving instruction school to train fisher folk as taxi drivers...Temporary shelters—these and other programs are the work of UMCOR and a key partner, the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka (MCSL). Other Methodist partners in Singapore, Great Britain, Australia, Germany and many generous donors in the US have joined the MCSL in its process of knitting a community of many faiths back together.

The MCSL has been collaborating with UMCOR in Trincomalee and Batticaloa through their existing network of community social programs among the Tamil. The MCSL is one of the very few organizations able to work effectively with the Tamil partisans known as LTTE and the government. In “uncleared territory” controlled by the LTTE, 98 houses have been assigned to MCSL to be rebuilt. About a third had been started by year-end. Each house, designed by an MCSL architect, is 680 square feet with an additional 150 square feet in a roofed veranda. Church workers have built 40 wells—and the local claim is that the Methodist wells have the sweetest water! The church also provided a small ferry for pedestrians and bicyclists, consisting of three canoes lashed together and covered with planks. They pay a small stipend to an operator, so village residents have access to schools and businesses.

In Kiran, the MCSL has encouraged creation of fishing societies in a three-year plan for income generation and community development. The societies share resources like the nets and boats provided by MCSL. A review of marketing practices led to a plan to improve the roads near the main commercial center so that fisher folk can improve their incomes. In a town called “Small Bay” (at least in English), the district church compound is host to about 60 displaced low caste families. They have provided temporary shelter, and have argued successfully with the government to prevent the people from being relocated into a swamp area. With their own resources they have purchased 14 acres of land, along with purchases by the Catholic Church and a civic group. They have been granted permission to build 100 houses on the land.

In Colombo, the MCSL established the Methodist Relief and Development Society (MRDS) to coordinate the church’s long-term recovery plan. A Crisis Corps Volunteer, secured by UMCOR, has helped the new office set up procedures, financial records and templates for proposals by the local church workers. New office equipment was secured with UMCOR assistance to update the entire MCSL Headquarters, along with simple remodeling to provide more privacy and quiet.

INDIA:
CHENNAI AND ANDAMAN
ISLANDS

The Methodist Church of India, Madras Regional Conference (MCI), used an UMCOR grant for ministries in income generation, tutoring, food security, scholarships, and housing repairs and rebuilds. Work is nearing completion on the Andaman island housing project. Training classes for single women in practical subjects like tailoring are full and graduates are succeeding. The tuition center is providing children with meals and tutoring after school and they are responding well. The MCI is searching for personnel for the medical clinic in the slum area.

UMCOR also responded in Somalia and provided emergency assistance to 50,000 families in India through Churches Auxiliary for Social Action.

KASHMIR EARTHQUAKE

The worst earthquake in 120 years left hundreds of thousands of people homeless in the Kashmir valley. The death toll mounted to 87,000; thousands more sustained injuries. Access to remote villages has been severely hampered by the damage to roads, the harsh terrain, and the onset of winter. Humanitarian response was a literal race against time. UMCOR responded through partner agencies in both India and Pakistan:

INDIA

Churches Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) was instrumental in the response to the earthquake on the Indian side of Kashmir. CASA targeted 6,575 of the most vulnerable families in the Uri and Tangdhar sectors, where entire villages had been completely or partially damaged. All received kits with wool blankets and cloth, a tarpaulin, and cooking pots.

Ludhiana Christian Medical College (CMC) dispatched a team of doctors to Kashmir. They treated a total of 4,308 patients in 22 villages. Most suffered from fractures and dislocations; others required cleaning and dressing of wounds from minor injuries, cuts, and bruises.

PAKISTAN

International Blue Crescent (IBC) was on the ground in Pakistan days after the earthquake. After carrying out an initial emergency response, IBC with UMCOR funding set up tent settlements for 150 families. United Methodist donations also supported water and sanitation, a children's center, and temporary housing for school and health clinics.

Church World Service (CWS) distributed emergency supplies and food to more than 130,000 people. CWS also set up latrines and washrooms. Seven hundred families benefited from a psychosocial care program.

CENTRAL AMERICA:
HURRICANES

Countries of Central America were greatly affected by the series of storms and hurricanes that ripped through the region. UMCOR responded through partners in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

MEXICO

CESMACH is a coffee growing cooperative that works with UMCOR partner Equal Exchange in the Chiapas region. Tropical Storm Stan severely damaged their coffee crop and agricultural equipment as well as housing of the cooperative members. Through an UMCOR grant, CESMACH was able to provide food for 20 days for 620 people, as well as provide roofing for some damaged homes, and replace damaged agricultural equipment.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala was the hardest hit country in Central America. UMCOR responded with small grants to several partners: Rights Action, Children International, and Asociacion Civil Manos Campesinas. These grants provided food, water, and personal hygiene items for 400 people, as well as basic housing material and seedlings to reestablish the crops of coffee cooperatives.

EL SALVADOR

Action by Churches Together, an international alliance of aid agencies, assisted 3,313 affected families in the crisis phase with food and emergency supplies and psychosocial and health assistance. Another Equal Exchange partner, APECAFE, used UMCOR funds to aid 495 people (members of the coffee cooperative and their families) who were affected by Tropical Storm Stan through the construction of temporary housing, and the distribution of food and medicines.

HONDURAS

ACT provided food rations and hygiene packs for 1,000 families affected by Tropical Storm Gamma.

AFRICA FAMINE
AND DROUGHT

United Methodist giving enabled UMCOR to combat hunger in several African countries. Working through various partners, both United Methodist and secular, the agency delivered relief in emergency situations and longer-term food security programs.

CAMEROON

Reseau de Lutte contre la Faim au Cameroun (Relufa) is working in 17 vulnerable villages, helping to set up community granaries and cereal banks. Community members also received training in food supply management.

ZIMBABWE

UMCOR contributed to an ACT Appeal responding to the food crisis in Zimbabwe. This is an ongoing program benefiting 14,300 vulnerable people and extends to an additional 5,600 persons with special needs such as pregnant women, children under age five, or persons with AIDS. UMCOR also provided funding to Bishop Nhiwatiwa for use in responding to the needs of the most vulnerable in the wider church community.

MALAWI

The Malawi United Methodist Church received funding to assist vulnerable agricultural families. Seeds and fertilizers and irrigation foot pumps will help assure next year's harvest.