



After the Hurricanes...

Strengthening Communities

UMCOR's Long-Term Response

Photo: Tyrone Turner/UMCOR

“It’s not just about what United Methodist gifts are doing for individual families, but how UMCOR strengthens communities.”

Bishop Edward W. Paup, President, UMCOR Board of Directors

UMCOR ADVANCE # 982523
Hurricanes 2005

A COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE

UMCOR’s response to the year of the hurricanes—Dennis, Katrina, Rita, Stan, Wilma—and their unimaginable devastation was both swift and comprehensive, and it will continue for years to come. UMCOR has released some \$60 million of your gifts to support annual conferences, national mission institutions, international work teams and additional staff in their response efforts. Storm Centers in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi came online as conduits for UMCOR’s long-term response. These centers coordinate relief efforts throughout their regions—supplies, volunteers, and other resources as needed. International response in Central America continues as farmers receive assistance in restoring their fields and replanting crops.

KATRINA AID TODAY

UMCOR is also managing a \$66 million grant from FEMA, intended to provide case management to 100,000 families affected by Hurricane Katrina. Nine national partners and 15 local agencies are part of the consortium, Katrina Aid Today, led by UMCOR. As of early June 2007, Katrina Aid Today had delivered nearly \$50 million in services to over 130,000 individuals.

“EACH VOLUNTEER IS A BLESSING”

Even though Miss Tonya and her family live north of Interstate 10 in Biloxi, Miss., they felt the devastation of the wind and water of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Their house on Paradise Lane took five feet of water from the storm surge even though it had been raised two feet after a 1988 hurricane.

With their own resources and help from family, Tonya and her husband began the clean up and raised the house an additional ten feet themselves. But then they realized how big a job the rebuild would be. She got connected to case manager Julie Duncan at Camp Seashore. Ms. Duncan, a worker with Mississippi United Methodist Katrina Response, helped with supplies and volunteer teams.

Tonya keeps a record of the names and addresses of all the volunteers who have worked on her home, from the team that gutted the house to the Amish team of 17 that re-roofed it. “I’ve met so many wonderful people,” she said. “Each one is a blessing.”

Teenagers affected by the storm

She worries about her two teenagers, now sixteen and thirteen, and how they have been affected by the storm. “I’m trying to keep things normal,” she explained, “but nothing is the same – this is not normal.” Both kids were out of school for three months, and now attend classes in makeshift buildings. Her son is a talented baseball player, who hopes to field a team even though many families have left the area.—*Susan J. Meister, UMCOR Gulf Coast Communications*

UMCOR’s WORK IN THE GULF COAST

Alabama-West Florida

UMCOR is helping shrimpers along the Alabama coastline who lost their livelihoods. Reconstruction is in full swing. A volunteer wrote: “Families have found themselves inundated with many stresses beyond

RELIEF SUPPLY SHIPMENTS

UMCOR Sager Brown shipped some 500 truckloads of relief supplies into the Gulf Coast area after hurricanes swept through nearly two years ago.

VALUE \$7.6 million

CONTENTS Health kits, flood buckets, fresh water, shovels, brooms, and other aid

BENEFICIARIES Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, Mississippi



Photo: Tyrone Turner/UMCOR

those of everyday living.... In most situations being available, attentive, understanding and supportive have been greatly appreciated by clients.”

Mississippi

Four regional offices in Mississippi are managing all of the recovery efforts in that state. Seed money has gone to summer camps for children who survived disasters. More than 10,000 volunteers have worked at recovery—rebuilding, repairing, and providing comfort to many.

Louisiana

Six recovery stations are providing long-term case management services and direct aid to families in Louisiana. Some 7,000 families are being served, with more anticipated in future.

Texas

“From Friends to Family” is a campaign to dramatically increase the numbers of families being served through the Texas conference. Rebuilding, case management and direct aid are all being offered.

Florida

The Florida Annual Conference, already active in the southern part of the state from 2004 hurricanes, expanded its work to include survivors of hurricanes Wilma and Katrina. Conference workers are coordinating and funding Long Term Recovery Committees in the region so that unmet needs may be addressed. Local church disaster training has provided new skills to some 1,400 individuals and churches.

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