



Bringing Help and Hope

"Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me. And they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' So they strengthened their hands for this good work."
Nehemiah 2:18

Disaster Times

PARTNERING FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

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Dickinson

On July 8, 2009, a tornado touched down in the south west portion of Dickinson impacting 154 structures. Bonnie Turner, Lutheran Disaster Response State Director, arrived onsite to assist on July 10 and with local organizations, established a volunteer center.

Residents who needed assistance registered, and then skills needed

to assist them were identified. Once volunteers who had the skills were available, they were bussed out to the site to help the resident. As volunteers completed jobs, they would call into the volunteer center and get new job assignments based on their skill.

The weekend after the tornado, 547 people volunteered throughout the

affected area. Along with helping 49 residents, volunteers also worked in the public areas and parks cleaning up branches and other debris.

An unmet needs committee was established to assist residents who had unmet needs such as materials or labor to repair essential living space.



Volunteer Reflection

Thank you to the volunteer's participation. ▼



In any disaster, volunteers play an integral part of the recovery. In the 2009 flooding across North Dakota, Lutheran Disaster Response* (LDR), on behalf of the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) assisted homeowners secure the help of volunteers by serving as the hub for homeowner requests and willing volunteers.

To aid in this process, a toll-free phone number (1-800-366-9841) and email address (ldrvolunteer@lssnd.org) were established. These tools remain operational today.

LDR has coordinated 920 volunteers who donated 6,925 hours to clean and repair 90 homes. At this time, some homes are still needing volunteers to rebuild damaged areas of their living space, predominately in the Jamestown area. These remain due to lack of

volunteers, waiting for electricians and plumbers to finish their work and/or waiting for financial assistance to purchase necessary materials.

In addition to cleanup and rebuild, LDR also coordinated fencing volunteers on behalf of the partners in Hands Across North Dakota (HANDS) and assisted livestock producers impacted by the flooding and ice from rivers and creeks. These producers were unable to complete the repair/replacement of fence lines on their own. Debris removal from fences was also needed. While approximately 13 miles of fences were completed, 20 miles are still waiting for volunteers to assist when the weather permits this spring. The same toll-free phone number and email can be used to volunteer to help with this effort. While skilled fencers are needed, there are

other tasks to be done to aid those skilled volunteers such as debris removal, finding old wire, setting posts and stringing wire. The producers are so grateful for any help in getting their livestock back into pastures and removing debris from hayfields, pastures and tillable fields.

The greatest need is in the Morton, Grant and Sioux counties where the scenery is beautiful and immense, truly a beautiful volunteer experience.

Volunteers bring healing, help and hope to those needing extra help. If you want to make a difference in someone's life, just volunteer! It will make a difference in your life too.

** Lutheran Disaster Response is a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota.*

If you would like to volunteer with clean-up, or rebuild please call 800-366-9841 or email us at ldrvolunteer@lssnd.org

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

As the water levels rose in the state's streams, tributaries, and rivers last spring, it was not only towns that were affected. Many farmers had to move cattle to higher ground, as their grazing land became inundated with water. As the water receded silt, grass, and other debris was left behind and tangled in fences that had managed to hold tight and not be pulled down river with the rushing currents.

Once the river water receded it was clear farmers would need assistance getting the fence lines cleaned, repaired, and replaced. Hands Across North Dakota (HANDS), a partner based organization that supports rural residents in North Dakota, reached out to farmers and ranchers. HANDS organized volunteers to assist producers with debris removal, repairing old fence line and posts, and replacing fence lines torn away by the flood waters.

HANDS targeted 21 counties across the southern portion of North Dakota. The targeted counties were those counties that requested EPC monies from the federal government. Applications were received from 7 out of 21 counties, mostly from Sioux and Grant Counties

where the Cannonball River rose out of its banks twice.

Volunteers came from Indiana and Canada, to help local volunteers help farmers and ranchers out. The majority of the volunteers were housed at Stone Butte Ranch where they stayed in cabins with beautiful views of the prairie. Food was provided for the volunteers to make breakfast each morning before leaving camp for the day. The producers who they were assisting provided them lunch, and Salvation Army cooked supper for them with food provided by LDR. A nice to a hard day of work.

A total of 10 producers received a total of 1,096 hours of volunteer help. Even with this impressive number of volunteer hours, not all work was completed before the winter. At this time HANDS is recruiting fencing help for this spring and summer. If you are interested in volunteering please call Sarah at **1-800-950-2901**.

Thank You

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to thank the Hands Across North Dakota for all the excellent help with debris clean-up and fencing.

You all were really a God-send, I didn't know or realize that there were people out there that really cared when a person was in dire need of help.

By the time we went through the first flooding, then a blizzard, and then the second flooding, we were devastated. It soon became a nightmare. I know now that there really are guardian angels.

Again, thank you for all the wonderful help. We still have a lot more work to be done, but every little bit helps a lot.

May God Bless,
Thanking you again,

Donna



Thank you to the volunteer's participation. ▲

If you would like to volunteer with fencing, please call 800-950-2901 or email us at swillgohs@lssnd.org

Case Management

Case Management & Unmet Needs Committee

In the aftermath of last year's spring flooding, the Resource Agency Flood Team (RAFT) activated. RAFT is a group of voluntary organizations who provide case management to people affected by the flood. RAFT provides case management to applicants, working with them to identify local, state, and federal resources available to assist them with getting their home back to a "new normal".

The United Methodist Church – Dakota's Conference oversaw all case management. Under this umbrella, Lutheran Disaster Response provided immediate supervision to the case managers on the eastern part of the state. The UMC also provided immediate supervision over the central and western parts of the state.

If clients still need assistance after all other resources have been exhausted, their case can be brought before a local unmet needs committee. An unmet needs committee is established when there is a local area that has significant damage from a disaster. As a result of the 2009 Spring Flooding, 7 local unmet needs committees were set up.

These committees distribute funds based on a fair and

equitable process.

Lutheran Disaster Response assisted with setting up the seven local unmet needs committees across the state. Once the committees are established, donations that are made to the community are used by the committee. As the case manager works the case, using a pre-established point system, the distribution of funds fair. For those clients who have unmet needs due to the disaster but do not have a local unmet needs committee, North Dakota Long Term Recovery assists.

North Dakota Long Term Recovery is very similar to other unmet needs committees. The committee requests funds from their ecumenical partners, and then distributes them in a fair and equitable way. Also, clients who have gone through a local unmet need committee can be brought to the NDLTR committee, but their points will be at a lower amount than those who have not been to a committee previously.

RAFT Case Management

When I was first approached about being a case manager for RAFT, I felt apprehensive. I was sure that I did not have the qualifications needed to do the job. I was assured that training would be given to all case managers before being assigned any cases. I was also told that if I agreed to be a case manager and then felt that it was not a good fit for

me, I could opt out. Well, with a backdoor open in case it didn't work out, I agreed to become a case manager.

Training was an intense two day affair with a great amount of information presented to be absorbed. My brain felt as if it was on "overload" but after being assigned my first case and meeting with that first client, I thought that just maybe I can handle this after all.

Being able to help people who were struggling with issues related to flooding was very rewarding and very educational. At times frustration set in when progress was not being made as fast as I thought it should, but then something positive would happen and things didn't seem so bad. As I did research to find answers or resources for dealing with issues, I also gained knowledge. It is amazing the information that is available if one is willing to dig for it.

I am thankful that I was able to be there for my clients. I was able to provide support for them and let them know that they were not alone.

If I brought a few smiles to faces, feelings of relief, or helped in some small way so things did not seem so bad, then it was well worth it.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF DRIVE

DATES	HOURS	SITES	ADDRESS
May 17-21, 2010	9:00 am-4:00 pm	Lutheran Social Services	1325 S. 11 th St., Fargo ND 58103
May 17-18, 2010	9:00 am-4:00 pm	Midwest Motor Express	77 9 th Ave. E., Dickinson, ND
May 18-19, 2010	9:00 am-4:00 pm	Midwest Motor Express	3320 2 nd Ave. W., Williston, ND
May 19-20, 2010	9:00 am-4:00 pm	Midwest Motor Express	5015 Main Ave E., Bismarck, ND
May 19-20, 2010	9:00 am-4:00 pm	Midwest Motor Express	1900 22 nd Ave. SE, Minot ND
May 20-21, 2010	9:00 am-4:00 pm	Midwest Motor Express	2215 N. Washington, Grand Forks, ND