

Disaster Ministries Activity Report 2024

Helping congregations and communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.







The National Ministries of the United Church of Christ's Disaster Ministries responds to disasters at each phase of recovery and focuses heavily on accompanying communities through long-term recovery efforts. When the situation saturates the media's attention in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, many organizations drop in quickly to provide urgent relief, such as shelter, feeding programs, and water distribution. In a disaster area, this often creates a crowded operating environment. During this phase of response, rather than deploy teams to the disaster area, Disaster Ministries accompanies local UCC churches, associations, conferences, and covenanted ministries as they work to meet the needs of their communities. This support often looks like grants to support local feeding and water distribution efforts. During this recovery phase, Disaster Ministries also serves as a central coordinating hub to collect and organize situational reports that help to connect local needs with life-sustaining resources.

In the weeks, months, and years following the initial disaster, communities often remain in a period of prolonged recovery as individuals wait to hear the status of their insurance claims (if they have insurance), approval of their rebuild plans and permits, and in the case of fire, decontamination. This can take months and often occurs after the public's attention has shifted to the next big news story. Yet, Disaster Ministries remains in communication with these communities to help establish long-term recovery groups (LTRGs) and support rebuilding and recovery efforts for those who lack other support structures.

Thanks to your support, Disaster Ministries of the UCC provided 35 disaster assistance grants totaling \$442,350 to assist and accompany communities engaged in immediate response activities and long-term recovery work in 2024. In addition to working with our local UCC congregations, associations, and conferences, Disaster Ministries also partnered extensively with ecumenical colleagues, Church World Service, and fellow members of NVOAD (National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters).

DISASTER MINISTRIES ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

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| Grants Awarded | Total Funding | Homes Rebuilt | Partners Engaged |
| 35 Grants Awarded | \$422, 350 Total Funding | 200 + Homes Rebuilt | 20 + Local & National |

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| \$45,000 | Liberty County Long-Term Recovery Committee, TX Supported building two tiny homes for individuals who have been unhoused since Hurricane Harvey in 2017. |
| \$16,350 | Bolivar County Long-Term Disaster Recovery, MS Supported Bolivar County, MS in rebuilding five homes after the July 2021 flooding that affected 145 residents. |
| \$20,000 | Indiana-Kentucky Conference UCC, Disaster Preparedness Ministry Provided building materials to support the work of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Disaster Preparedness Team to repair 37 homes and build three new homes and one garage that were impacted by tornadoes in 2023. These funds were supplemented by 128 volunteers contributing 6,351 hours of volunteer labor valued at over \$210,000. |
| \$20,000 | International Orthodox Charities (IOCC), KY Supported an ecumenical rebuilding effort of 12 homes in Marshall County, KY after an EF-4 Tornado in December 2021 damaged over 700 structures. This work was done in collaboration with American Baptist Home Mission Societies, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Week of Compassion of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). |

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| \$20,000 | <p>St. Paul's UCC, Douglassville, PA</p> <p>Support for survivors of flooding in Berks County, PA in July 2023. This project prioritized senior citizens, people with functional and physical needs, those who do not qualify for government funding, and families with young children. This project was supported by two Partners in Service with the United Church of Christ's Volunteer Ministries, along with other ecumenical partners including the Presbyterian Church USA and Lutheran Disaster Response.</p> |
| \$5000 | <p>Fresh Start Pasco Inc in New Port Richey, FL</p> <p>Supported rebuilding four households of the 6,000 survivors of Hurricane Idalia (2023) in Pasco County, FL.</p> |
| \$5,000 | <p>The Point au Chien Rebuild & Long-Term Resilience Partnership, LA</p> <p>Provided building materials and construction supplies to repair two homes in Point au Chien, LA for survivors of Hurricane Ida (2021) in collaboration with Mennonite Disaster Services</p> |
| \$3,000 | <p>Conway Village Congregational Church in Conway, NH</p> <p>Supported damage assessment, clean up, and restoration of the facility after flooding in December 2023 to ensure that they are able to continue their important ministry to their community.</p> |
| \$5,000 | <p>Taylor County Strong Long-Term Recovery Group, FL</p> <p>Supported the establishment of a registered 501(c)3, startup supplies, and initial case management support. As of their reporting in June 2024, the organization has assisted over 60 families with repairs to their homes in Perry, FL that were damaged in Hurricane Idalia in 2023.</p> |
| \$20,000 | <p>Muskogee County Disaster Recovery Committee, OK</p> <p>Assisted 11 families who experienced significant damage to their homes because of severe flooding and straight-line winds in Muskogee County, OK, in 2022.</p> |
| \$20,000 | <p>Monroe Strong Long-Term Recovery, MS</p> <p>Supported long-term recovery efforts from an EF-3 tornado in 2023 in Amory, MS and contributed to assisting 122 affected families with home repairs and complete rebuilds.</p> |

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| \$20,000 | <p>The Pointe au Chien Rebuild & Long-Term Resilience Partnership, LA Supported the construction of volunteer housing to help rebuild the homes of the Pointe au Chien Indian Tribe in Louisiana. Creating volunteer housing enables us to leverage volunteer hours for rebuilding and repair work. This grant helped support housing for over 250 volunteers who demolished three houses, repaired five homes, and built two new homes for survivors of Hurricane Ida (2021).</p> |
| \$20,000 | <p>Alabama West Florida – United Methodist Conference Contributed to the rebuilding of 52 homes in Alabama from tornadoes that impacted the area in March 2021, November of 2022, January of 2023, and January 2024.</p> |
| \$7,500 | <p>Clarksville Montgomery County Long-Term Recovery Group, TN Supported the outreach and marketing of the long-term recovery group for those affected by the December 2023 tornadoes to ensure that the community is aware of available resources and ongoing work.</p> |
| \$20,000 | <p>Greensboro UCC in Greensboro, VT Contributed funding for building materials to rebuild 82 homes impacted by severe flooding in July 2023.</p> |
| \$20,000 | <p>United Way of Sarasota County in Venice, FL Contributed funding for building materials and supplies to rebuild 125 households affected by Hurricane Ian (2022).</p> |
| \$10,000 | <p>Brightmoor Connection in Detroit, MI Contributed funding to rebuild 11 homes that were significantly impacted by severe flooding in Detroit, MI in June 2021.</p> |
| \$3,000 | <p>St. Peter United Church of Christ in Houston, TX Contributed funding for repairs following substantial damage to the main electrical box of the church, which was stripped away during a derecho storm in May 2024.</p> |

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| \$15,00 | <p>International Orthodox Charities (IOCC), KY</p> <p>Support for an ecumenical rebuilding effort of 12 homes in Marshall County, KY from an EF-4 Tornado in December 2021 that affected over 700 structures. This was a collaboration with American Baptist Home Mission Societies, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Week of Compassion – Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).</p> |
| \$7,500 | <p>Jacksonville State University (JSU), Department of Emergency Management Doctoral Program, FL</p> <p>Supported the establishment of a case management program for the residents of Ironton, a historically underserved African American community in Plaquemines Parish for 43 households affected by Hurricane Ida (2021).</p> |
| \$7,500 | <p>West Side Long-Term Recovery Group in Chicago, IL</p> <p>Supported the development of a 501(c)3, outreach and project management for significant flooding in Chicago IL in July 2023. West Side LTRG has identified 250 families that they are hoping to assist with repair and recovery work.</p> |
| \$7,500 | <p>Washington County LTRT, NE</p> <p>Support for case management and debris removal for 200 homes destroyed by an EF-3 Tornado in Washington County, NE in April 2024.</p> |
| \$20,000 | <p>Greensboro UCC in Greensboro, VT</p> <p>Contributed funding for building materials for 82 homes impacted by severe flooding in July 2023.</p> |
| \$7,500 | <p>Davidson County Long-Term Recovery Group in Madison, TN</p> <p>Supported the establishment and outreach of the Davidson County Long-Term Recovery Group to promote awareness and establish trust in Madison, TN to help those affected by tornadoes in December 2023.</p> |
| \$7,500 | <p>Southside Resilience and Recovery Coalition in Chicago, IL</p> <p>Supported the establishment of a registered 501(c)3, startup supplies, and administrative support for those affected by severe flooding in Chicago, IL in July 2023.</p> |

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| \$20,000 | <p>Collier Disaster Alliance, FL</p> <p>Supported rebuilding and repair work for those affected by Hurricane Ian (2022) in Collier County, FL. Seniors, veterans, individuals living with a disability, and those who are uninsured or underinsured were prioritized in the efforts.</p> |
| \$5,000 | <p>Rise Orange County Long-Term Recovery Group, FL</p> <p>Provided rebuilding supplies for individuals in Orange County, impacted by Hurricane Ian (2022).</p> |
| \$10,000 | <p>Lee County Unmet Needs Long-Term Recovery Group, FL</p> <p>Provided rebuilding supplies for individuals in Lee County, FL impacted by Hurricane Ian (2022).</p> |
| \$10,000 | <p>Taylor County Strong Long-Term Recovery Group, FL</p> <p>Provided rebuilding supplies for individuals in Taylor County, FL impacted by Hurricane Idalia (2023).</p> |
| \$20,000 | <p>Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LeARN), VT</p> <p>Provided rebuilding supplies for households in Lamoille County, VT impacted by significant flooding in July 2023, December 2023, June 2024, and July 2024.</p> |
| \$4,000 | <p>RIM Fellowship UCC in Atlanta, GA</p> <p>Hosted a “Stuff the Truck” event that helped provide food, water, blankets, flashlights, cleaning supplies, and diapers to people impacted by Hurricane Helene (2024). They worked directly with local churches in Augusta, GA to help provide supplies to the communities most significantly impacted.</p> |
| \$20,000 | <p>Appalachia Service Project, Central Appalachia</p> <p>Supported the creation of multiple shower trailers delivered to communities where people are living in temporary housing. Other trailers were delivered to support volunteer housing in areas impacted by Hurricane Helene (2024). This small investment provides a level of humanity supporting the basic needs of disaster survivors and allows volunteers to have long-term involvement in the community.</p> |

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| \$3,000 | Church of the Isles UCC in Indian Rocks Beach, FL Contributed to stabilizing and opening the church campus in the short term to neighbors and community partners/space sharers who relied on regular meeting space and social venue--a needed amenity following Hurricane Helene (2024). |
| \$7,500 | Land of Sky United Church of Christ in Asheville, NC Supported the establishment of a long-term recovery group in Buncombe County, NC to assist people who were affected by Hurricane Helene (2024). |
| \$3,000 | First United Church of Tampa, FL Assisted with debris and tree removal that posed a risk to the property due to Hurricanes Helene (2024) and Milton (2024). |



HANDS BUILDING

Hope
Together



Volunteers from the Indiana-Kentucky Conference UCC helped to repair 37 homes and build three new homes and one garage that were impacted by tornadoes in 2023. The efforts were supported by over 6,300 hours of volunteer labor.

