

DISASTER MINISTRIES

2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

# Introduction

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 40 disaster assistance grants totaling more than \$600,000 to assist and accompany communities engaged in immediate response activities and long-term recovery work in 2025. 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).

## Highlights

**40**

**GRANTS  
APPROVED**

**18**

**STATES  
SUPPORTED**

**\$600k**

**ALLOCATED**

# Support Allocation



## Distribution by State

STATE	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Alabama	\$20,000	3.28
California	\$10,500	1.72
Florida	\$200,250	32.82
Illinois	\$20,000	3.28
Indiana	\$3,000	0.49
Georgia	\$27,500	4.5
Kentucky	\$40,000	6.55
Maryland	\$20,000	3.28
Mississippi	\$20,000	3.28
Missouri	\$4,600	0.75
North Carolina	\$122,092	20
Oklahoma	\$10,000	1.64
Pennsylvania	\$7,875	1.29
South Carolina	\$20,000	3.28
Tennessee	\$40,000	6.55
Texas	\$40,000	6.55
West Virginia	\$1,500	0.24
Wisconsin	\$3,000	0.49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$610,317</b>	

# Summary of Activites

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## Westside LTR Group



1/21/25

Westside Long-Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to support survivors of the flooding that affected the west side of Chicago in 2023. This funding supported a project director to strengthen their capacity for recovery assistance and improving their partnership with City officials and agencies charged with carrying out recovery efforts. This funding also provided stipends for those who were conducting muck and gut activities.

## Recover Hardee



1/21/25

Recover Hardee received a long-term repair and recovery grant to support unmet needs of survivors of Hurricane Ian (2022) in Hardee County, FL. This funding assisted with construction materials needed for repairs and rehabilitation of homes to ensure they were safe, sanitary and secure.

## Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church



1/21/25

Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church, in St. Pete Beach, FL, received a solidarity grant which was matched by the Florida Conference in response to Hurricanes Helene (2024) and Milton (2024). This funding was to replace pew bibles, hymnals, musical instruments, and furnishings for some of their community rooms.

## Oklahoma United Methodist Church Disaster Response (OKUMCDR)



1/21/25

Oklahoma United Methodist Church Disaster Response received a Long-Term Repair and Recovery Grant to support survivors of a Derecho Wind event (2023) in Tulsa and the surrounding area. This grant supported costs of roofing materials that were installed by volunteers when possible or skilled contractors when necessary.

## CrossRoads Missions



1/21/25

CrossRoads Missions received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant which purchased a 3-stall shower trailer for volunteers doing recovery work in Johnson County, TN over the next 18-24 months. Upon completion of recovery work, it will be redeployed to another high priority area of Tennessee.

## Community Recovery Team



1/21/25

Community Recovery Team received a Long-Term Recovery Seed Grant to cover database and office supplies costs to establish the Long-Term Recovery for the 2024 San Diego flooding. This database will allow for easier collaboration between the Long-Term Recovery Group, the San Diego VOAD and the CA VOAD.

## Woodland Hills Community Church



2/18/25

Woodland Hills Community Church received a solidarity grant to support the creation of cleanup buckets and hygiene kits to assist in the continuing efforts to aid the victims of the recent Los Angeles County, California wildfires – in particular the Altadena area, severely burned in the Eaton Fire.

## Indiana Kentucky Conference - Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (IKC-DPRMT)



3/25/25

The Indiana Kentucky Conference Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair grant to respond to flooding (2025), as well as continue rebuilding efforts in eastern Kentucky (2023).

## Hope Disaster Recovery



3/25/25

Hope Disaster Recovery received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to repair five homes that were damaged from flooding (2024), a derecho (2024), and Hurricane Beryl (2024) in Southeast Texas. These homes are part of a larger initiative that will serve over 200 people with case management including physical needs as well as coping with depression and hopelessness.

## Hope DeSoto Long Term Recovery Group, Inc



3/25/25

Hope DeSoto Long Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery Seed Grant to support survivors of Hurricane Milton (2024) in DeSoto County, Florida. This seed grant funding is to raise awareness for 5,000 families on how to apply for assistance, and assisting 100 families with applications for case management services.

## Dreaming Stone Arts and Ecology Center



3/25/25

Dreaming Stone Arts and Ecology Center received a grant to support scholarships for UCC-related staff and volunteers to attend a Sanctuary Medicine training held in North Carolina in April 2025. The intention of this training was to gain a deeper understanding of the roles that churches can play in times of crisis or disaster. This training included preparedness practices and readiness to address crisis conditions with the necessary skills and supplies.

## Griffin/Spalding County Georgia Long-Term Recovery Group



4/15/25

Griffin/Spalding County Georgia Long-Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to serve 15 homeowners still struggling to recover from tornadoes (2023) in southwest Spalding County, GA. Some of these are minor repairs; others requiring contractors for roofing, plumbing, and electrical work.

## Clarksville Montgomery County Long-Term Recovery Group



4/15/25

Clarksville Montgomery County Long-Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to assist with building 20 new homes in Clarksville, TN, replacing those destroyed by an EF3 tornado (2023). This funding is to support unmet needs including land surveying fees, building material purchases, and major repairs that are needed on existing homes.

## United Way of South Sarasota County LTRG



5/13/25

United Way of South Sarasota County received funds to purchase equipment to support their disaster recovery case management services. These case management services are essential for ensuring recovery for underserved survivors of Hurricanes Helene (2024) and Milton (2024) in Sarasota County, Florida.

## Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church



5/13/25

Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church received a Ministry Capacity Rebuilding Grant to provide support after Hurricanes Helene (2024) and Milton (2024). This funding was designated to rebuild the church's thrift store facility which was severely destroyed, restoring a long-standing ministry of the church that serves the broader St. Pete Beach community.

## Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas



5/13/25

Lutheran Disaster Response of the Carolinas received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to help replace private access bridges washed out by extreme flooding, in Ashe and Henderson Counties in NC, caused by Hurricane Helene (2024). The focus is on survivors without the resources to repair or replace their bridge without financial assistance. Priority is given to bridges that access residences of the elderly, those who have special needs, disabilities, etc. and those serving multiple families.

## High Country UCC



5/13/25

High Country United Church of Christ received a Ministry Capacity Rebuilding Grant to provide support after Hurricane Helene (2024). This funding was designated to establish a sustainable volunteer housing site for volunteer groups traveling to NC to help rebuild houses in the neighboring communities that were impacted by Hurricane Helene.

## Saron Church



5/28/25

Saron United Church of Christ, Linton, IN received a solidarity grant to purchase gift cards to be distributed for basic needs supplies for those who were impacted by devastating tornadoes (2025).

## Yancey Long Term Recovery Group



6/18/25

Yancey County Long-Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery Seed Grant to establish a permanent office for the Yancey Long-Term Recovery Group, providing space for case workers to meet with families and providing a more coordinated effort, and purchase hardware and software for the LTRG to build capacity. This LTRG is a collaboration serving Yancey County, Avery County and Mitchell County in North Carolina.

## Unleashing Potential



6/18/25

Unleashing Potential, a CHHSM organization, received a solidarity grant to provide 8 members of their staff with grocery cards to help replace food that was lost as a consequence of the St. Louis tornadoes (2025).

## Smoky Mountain Long-Term Recovery Group



6/18/25

Smoky Mountain Long-Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery Seed Grant to fund operational expenses including phone, computer, operations funds etc., as well as community outreach and case management, serving multiple counties including Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Graham, Clay and Cherokee Counties in North Carolina.

## Henry County Relief Aid Collaborative



6/18/25

Henry County Relief Collaborative received a Long-Term Recovery Seed Grant to set up infrastructure including bookkeeping and establishing a 501c3 to support tornado survivors (2023) in Henry County, Georgia.

## First Congregational UCC, Asheville, NC



6/18/25

First Congregational Church of Asheville received a Ministry Capacity Rebuilding Grant to rebuild the church structure from damage caused by hurricane Helene (2024). This grant will help restore and enhance the church's ministry and outreach in downtown Asheville. Rebuilding will also incorporate hardening the infrastructure to mitigate impacts of future storms.

## Collier Disaster Alliance, Inc



6/18/25

Collier Disaster Assistance received a Long-Term Recovery Seed Grant to create a permanent cloud-based gateway for Disaster Case Management and the Long-Term Recovery Group. By creating an online platform it streamlined their ability to provide services to hurricane Helene (2025) and Milton (2025) survivors in Collier County, Florida.

## Church of the Isles UCC



6/18/25

Church of the Isles United Church of Christ received a Ministry Capacity Rebuilding Grant to support reopening community spaces in the church damaged by Hurricane Helene (2024). In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the church offers some of the only usable spaces in Pinellas County. Reconstruction will incorporate hardened infrastructure to mitigate impacts of future storms.

## Pilgrim Congregational, St. Louis



7/3/25

Pilgrim Congregational Church, St. Louis, Missouri, received a solidarity grant to install tarps to cover the damage church roof, preventing future water damage to the church interior, until permanent roof repairs could be made. This was to support the church after tornadoes affected St. Louis (2025).

## United Way of South Sarasota County



7/29/25

United Way of South Sarasota County received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to support six uninsured or underinsured households affected by Hurricanes Ian (2022), Idalia (2023), Debby (2024), Helene (2024), and Milton (2024) in Sarasota County, Florida.

## Penn Northeast Conference, UCC



7/29/25

Pennsylvania Northeast Conference received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair grant to assist with the reconstruction expenses of a private bridge serving four households in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County, PA after being washed out by a severe storm (2023).

## St. John UCC, Germantown, WI



9/2/25

St. John UCC in Germantown, WI received a Solidarity Grant to fund cleanup, repairs, and restoration to the lower level of the church caused by severe flooding which occurred in August 2025, restoring the building to a safe, functional, and welcoming space for worship, fellowship, education, and community outreach.

## Western Maryland LTRG



9/23/25

Western Maryland Long-Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Repair and Recovery Grant to support the purchasing of building materials to repair damaged homes and re-build an anticipated 10-14 new homes in Allegany County, MD affected by major storm flooding that occurred in May 2025.

## Taylor County Strong LTRG



9/23 /25

Taylor County Strong Long-Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to purchase building materials and support construction, repair and recovery work for 5-10 families in Taylor County, FL recovering from damage caused by Hurricane Helene (2024).

## Spartanburg County Long Term Recovery Group



9/23/25

Spartanburg County Long-Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to repair 10-20 homes of individuals who are elderly, disabled, those with limited income and uninsured or underinsured in Spartanburg County, SC, and were significantly affected by Hurricane Helene (2024).

## Hope Pathways Inc



9/23/25

Hope Pathways Inc received a Long-Term Recovery Seed Grant to support software and long-term recovery capacity to help streamline the data collection component of case management for residents impacted by Hurricanes Helene (2024) and Milton (2024) in Manatee County, Florida.

## Hope Disaster Recovery



9/23/25

Hope Disaster Recovery received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to repair five homes that were damaged from flooding (2024), a derecho (2024), and Hurricane Beryl (2024) in Southeast Texas. These homes are part of a larger initiative that will serve over 200 people with case management including physical needs as well as coping with depression and hopelessness.

## Fresh Start for Pasco Inc.



9/23/25

Fresh Start for Pasco County received a Long-Term Recovery Seed Grant to support office supplies, volunteer stipends and building materials for those who are uninsured or underinsured in Pasco County, Florida, and were affected by Hurricanes Helene (2024) and Milton (2024).

## Back Bay Mission



9/23/25

Back Bay Mission received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair grant to purchase construction materials necessary for repairs, and unmet needs. This funding will cover five low-income homeowners (with a focus on seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families with children) in the six lower counties of the Mississippi Gulf Coast affected by Hurricanes Zeta (2020); and Ida (2021) and the 2024 Moss Point tornado.

## Abide Community, Inc.



10/21/25

Abide Community Inc received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to assist survivor households impacted by the 2025 tornadoes in Dallas, Chilton, Hale and Talladega counties of Alabama. This funding will support unmet needs including repair/rebuilding work and replacement of lost/destroyed household goods as identified by a Disaster Case Manager.

## Maryland VOAD



11/25/25

This grant is to support the 2026 Mid-Atlantic Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Regional Conference in March 2026. The conference involves the leadership and members of Delaware VOAD, District of Columbia VOAD, Maryland VOAD, Pennsylvania VOAD, and West Virginia VOAD. The Conference will serve all of the new Keystone Conference, Central Atlantic Conference, and part of the Southern and Heartland Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

## Lee County Unmet Needs Long Term Recovery Group (Lee County LTRG)



11/25/25

Lee County Unmet Needs Long Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to rehabilitate homes of 4-10 low-to-moderate income households in Lee County, Florida that suffered damage from hurricanes Milton (2024) and Helene (2024). Funding will be used to provide repair and rebuild support, household goods, and other critical recovery resources to help families return to safe, habitable homes.

## Henderson County Long Term Recovery Group



11/25/25

Henderson County Long-Term Recovery Group received a Long-Term Recovery and Repair Grant to fund the critical unmet needs of 25 households in Henderson County, KY whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged by the April 2025 flooding. Those served are uninsured or underinsured homeowners and renters with a prioritization of those who are elderly residents, people with disabilities, low-income families, and households with children. The immediate focus will be on helping each family secure safe, stable housing—either through repairs, rebuilds, or relocation assistance.

### LEGEND



TORNADO



HURRICANE



TRAINING



WIND



FLOOD