

UMCOR and VIM, and collecting and assembling UMCOR cleaning, hygiene, and school kits right at the HUB.

While summer is a season when natural disasters aren't as widespread as they are in the spring or fall, the sad news is that many people near and far are still in need of help from the past spring flooding and ongoing natural disaster occurrences.

This time of year, when donations to the UNY Mission Central HUB are drying up, disaster relief demand hasn't. The UNY Mission Central HUB needs your help. Here's how:

1. Prayer—that is number one. Pray for the victims of natural disasters and their families. Pray for



the workers and volunteers at all Mission HUBs and VIM teams across the nation. Pray for the many churches connecting and being the hands and feet of God. Pray for each other to be what God made us to be.

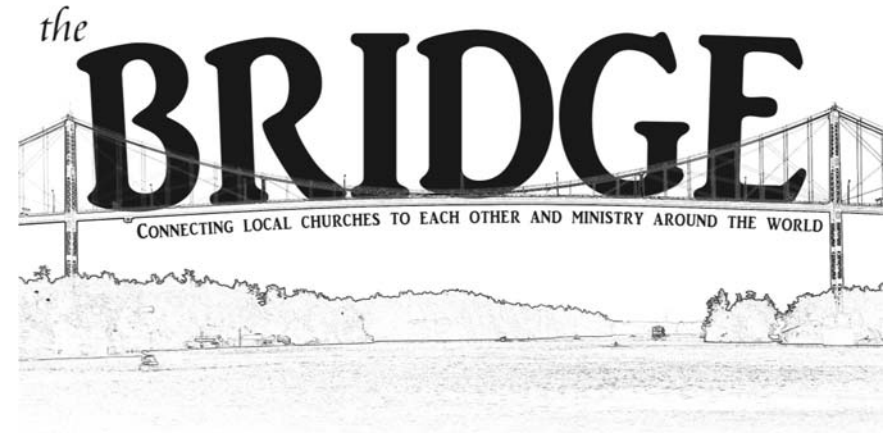
2. Monetary donations—by giving monetary donations, the UNY Mission Central HUB can order UMCOR kit supplies at wholesale prices in bulk and save costs.
3. Volunteer—donate your time to UNY Mission Central HUB. Bring your group in to assemble or verify kits.
4. Volunteer for mission work. Take a class for ERT at the UNY Mission Central HUB. Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYMissionCentralHUB> to learn more or call the UNY Mission Central HUB at 315-898-2064.

Thank you for your past and future support.

The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York Conference and the world. For more news and stories visit:

www.unyumc.org

Learn more about the UNY Mission Central HUB and other mission work of the Upper New York Conference on the Conference website:
www.unyumc.org.



The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

A look inside!

God's grace after the storm in Pennsylvania

Page 2

The UNY Mission Central HUB needs your help

Page 2

God's grace after the storm in Pennsylvania

By MaryBeth Ingalls, Mission Volunteer Coordinator

Editor's Note: MaryBeth Ingalls was just certified as an ERT two weeks before her first ERT trip. She went on her first mission trip as an ERT to Smalltown, PA. from May 20-22 with a team of 12 volunteers from the Upper New York Conference. Montrose UMC hosted the group and East Bloomfield UMC provided the food. The specific town of the home the team worked on has been changed as

has the residents' names to protect their identities. MaryBeth's story exemplifies how being an ERT is about so much more than relief and recovery—it's about fellowship and feeling the presence of God.

A few weeks ago, I decided to do the training to become an ERT. I have a lot of experience doing mission work and I have also been a volunteer firefighter, so I thought this was just up my alley. The next thing I know, only a couple weeks after this training, I'm asked to join a

recovery team traveling to Smalltown, PA. I am picked up by a van filled with strangers, but within minutes, it's as though I have known them my whole life.

We worked underneath (yes, literally underneath) a modular home that needed insulation and plastic ripped out and replaced. In August 2018, a creek uphill from the home flooded with hundreds of gigantic rocks tumbling down and flood waters so deep that cars in the neighborhood floated away.

The resident of this home, we'll call her Jennifer, was livid with God. She was so mad. Jennifer grew up in poverty and worked very hard to make a decent living and her home was a token of all her hard work and dedication over the years. Jennifer lived with her husband and 14-year old daughter; we'll call her Evie.

The insulation underneath the home was water-logged and could become toxic. We wore Tyvek suits, face masks, and safety glasses as we crawled into this small space to rip out the insulation. There were points where we had to squeeze our bodies in small spaces and maneuver our bodies like contortionists to rip out insulation or install the new insulation. This was hard, bruise-provoking work, but it was so worth it because I witnessed acts of God like I never have before.



On the second day of this trip, Jennifer came out to speak with us and said, "You know, I have been so angry with God after this storm but seeing you all doing this work joyfully was amazing. I saw some light and felt hope for the first time in ages. I haven't prayed in decades and last night I prayed for 20 minutes."

That's what we do as ERTs—we bring the heart of Jesus.

To read about more God-moments MaryBeth had during this trip, visit <http://bit.ly/Godsgraceafterthestorm>.

Keep watching Conference communication channels for ERT training opportunities as they are scheduled.



The UNY Mission Central HUB needs your help

While summer is a time of rest, renewal, and a whole lot of vacationing for Upper New Yorkers, our UNY Mission Central HUB is buzzing with hard work

thanks to the UNY Director of Missional Engagement, Mike Block, and UNY Mission Volunteer Coordinator, MaryBeth Ingalls. These two dedicate their heart

and time (even when not at work) to helping others...no matter what the weather is.

Some of the major projects that Mike

and MaryBeth engage in are wheelchair-ramp building, mission trips with

Continued on page 4