

2017 At A Glance

THANK YOU to the many congregations, individuals and volunteers who chose to be a part of disaster recovery ministry in 2017. Your support of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) enables us to witness the healing love of Christ to families affected by disasters. Through your gifts, action and prayers, you stand in the GAP for disaster survivors and help the Church with responses around the world. Your financial gifts of love enabled us to program more than \$4 million to meet immediate and long-term recovery needs of disaster survivors and to provide a witness of caring around the world.

HURRICANES HARVEY, IRMA & MARIA

PDA was able to respond swiftly to record-breaking back-to-back hurricanes thanks to your faithful generosity. The Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network (FLAPDAN), a collaboration between the 6 presbyteries in Florida and supported by PDA, was equipped with disaster preparedness plans, which will aid the long term recovery process.

From the time Hurricane Harvey hit to the end of 2017, **\$604,645** was granted to international partners, presbyteries and synods affected by Harvey, Irma and Maria. PDA will be involved with these recoveries for years to come.

PDA host sites will be set up in 2018, contact the PDA Call Center to book your mission trip—pda.callcenter@pcusa.org/866-732-6121



Left: Irma hits Havana by ACT/ Yasser Exposito



Right: Port Aransas, TX by ARC/ Chuck Haupt

Internationally, your gifts enabled response to disasters and civil conflicts in **22 countries**. Your gifts helped support:

- Immediate and ongoing response to earthquakes in Mexico and Nepal
- Ongoing response to Hurricanes Sandy and Matthew, and immediate response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean
- Emergency relief assistance to more than 4,000 displaced South Sudanese
- Relief and recovery assistance to the Rohingya people displaced by conflict and affected host communities in Bangladesh
- Restoration and rehabilitation of two schools in Aleppo; schools in Lebanon for more than 200 Syrian children living in refugee camps; rebuilding/repairing the homes of 25-30 Syrian families living in Homs



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

pcusa.org/PDA

PDA@pcusa.org

Quick Figures

\$4.153 million granted across the globe

\$1.7 million granted nationally

\$2.4 million granted internationally

7,136 work team volunteers served 13 states
email pda.callcenter@pcusa.org to book your mission trip

418 National Response Team Members spent **2,122** days in the field in **70** presbyteries

110 Presbyterian Women trained in Disaster Preparedness

102 grants in the U.S.

- 21 floods
- 3 refugees
- 46 hurricanes
- 7 tornadoes
- 12 fires
- 4 storms
- 9 human-caused/trauma

Photos left to right: Hurricane Irma in Cuba by ACT/Erick Coll, South Sudan by Laurie Kraus, PCUSA co-moderator Jan Edmiston by Laurie Kraus, Rohingya refugee by ACT/Paul Jeffrey



Nationally, PDA was present in 43 states* through NRT deployments, blue-shirt volunteers, grant disbursements and PW Disaster Preparedness Trainers**. Your gifts supported:

- Ongoing compassionate response to the unaccompanied children and border crisis
- Immediate response to human-caused disasters and public violence in Charlottesville and Las Vegas, as well as fires in TN, MT, TX, KS and CA
- Long term support for flooding in WV and LA, and Hurricanes Sandy and Matthew
- Continuing support for the Fresh Flint Festival in Flint, MI

****Disaster preparedness:** In 2015, PDA began a collaboration with Presbyterian Women (PW) to help congregations and presbyteries prepare for disasters. Members of the NRT designed a curriculum for disaster preparedness and plan to train members of PW from each presbytery in the U.S. So far, there are 110 trainers in 26 states. The next training is being offered at the Churchwide Gathering of PW 8/1/18; the application deadline is 7/7/18. For more information, see pcusa.org/PWDP



L to R: Hodges Blvd PC by Joel Roberts; volunteers from Tabasco, Mexico in NC by Laura Lupton; PUSH week by Laura Lupton; PDA Advisory Committee co-chair Sally Campbell-Evans in Baton Rouge

Refugee ministry: The flux of refugee and asylum movements and changing circumstances within the U.S. make for a very dynamic ministry context for local communities. Presbyterians are stepping out as leaders among their interfaith colleagues and developing strategic partnerships with local nonprofit organizations and immigrant communities to welcome newcomers and protect long-term neighbors now faced with the possibility of deportation. In 2017 PDA supported local initiatives in AZ, TX, NH, MI, CA and more through individual consultations, the deployment of NRT members and grants. Presbyterian churches have a long history of involvement with refugee resettlement. It is estimated that as many as 800 PC(USA) congregations supported or volunteered with resettled refugees across the U.S. In 2017, PDA provided basic funding to the Church World Service Immigration & Refugee program for both national operations and their network of local resettlement offices. In 2017, PDA also responded to refugee and Internally Displaced People crises in Syria, Lebanon, South Sudan, Serbia and Bangladesh.



In 2017, PC(USA) released free downloadable artwork for We Choose Welcome yard signs and a new resource guide from the Office of Public Witness to help congregations build and deepen relationships with refugee community members and to advocate with them. Access these resources at pcusa.org/WeChooseWelcome

Story ministry

In 2017, PDA released the award-winning documentary *To Breathe Free*, which follows the 5-year journey of a Syrian family fleeing war in Homs to the refugee camps in Jordan and starting a new life in Washington, D.C. Using home movies, phone video, family photos and interviews with family members and former refugees, this short documentary gives an intimate and unique perspective not seen in current media reporting on the refugee crisis. *To Breathe Free* captures the intersection of individual narratives from a family fleeing the Vietnam War in 1970, to the Syrian Conflict in 2017, to the families who help create a new home in our nation's capital, giving voice to our common humanity and the struggle that binds people together.

Both the film and study guide, as well as other films and resources on gun violence, immigration detention, Flint, and other timely issues, at pcusa.org/StoryProductions



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* includes U.S. territory Puerto Rico