

# MID-YEAR REPORT

*This report conveys the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)  
from January 1, 2020-June 30, 2020.*



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

[pcusa.org/PDA](http://pcusa.org/PDA)



Richard Caldwell

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is living into the [Matthew 25 invitation](#) by:**

- supporting the **eradication of poverty** through grants to vulnerable populations for COVID-19 and other natural and human-caused disasters.
- working to **end systemic racism** through centering Black, indigenous and communities of color and refugees in our grant-making.
- promoting **congregational vitality** through the development of commuter volunteers, spiritual and emotional care for pastors during the pandemic and grants to help congregations to respond in their own communities.

## DOMESTIC RESPONSE

- Prior to COVID-19, PDA deployed National Response Team (NRT) members who would travel into presbyteries following a disaster. Now, NRT members are virtually deployed to support presbyteries as they prepare for or respond to a disaster.
- PDA is supporting the South Carolina Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team (SC-PDAT) as they work to strengthen cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration among the five South Carolina presbyteries. Their goal is to build local capacity throughout the state to prepare for and respond to disasters. PDA has been working with a similar network in Florida (FLAPDAN) since 2005.
- Additionally, PDA is supporting presbyteries in disaster-prone areas as they recruit, train and prepare volunteers who are willing to respond to a nearby disaster. These "commuter volunteers" will provide their own transportation to the work site and return home the same day, eliminating the risk of spreading COVID-19 in the close quarters of a Volunteer Host Site.
- **47 grants outside of COVID response were disbursed, totaling \$1,305,307.**

## QUICK FIGURES

**Total dollars granted:  
\$4,119,770**

**487 grants disbursed**

**Grants to 57 countries**

**Total dollars granted for  
COVID response:  
\$2,522,682**

**SUPPORT OUR WORK**

[pcusa.org/GIVE-PDA](http://pcusa.org/GIVE-PDA)

designate gifts to DR000148



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**



PDA is a ministry of  
One Great Hour of Sharing

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- Internationally, PDA is working with ACT Alliance, Presbyterian and community-led partners to respond to natural disasters. PDA is assisting partners in developing protocols for how to safely respond to disasters in a COVID-19 environment.
- PDA is working with Presbyterian World Mission and the Presbyterian Hunger Program to extend COVID grants to partners outside PDA's existing network.
- **10 grants outside of COVID response were disbursed, totaling \$291,835.**

## REFUGEE MINISTRY

- In February, PDA Associate for Refugees and Asylum, Susan Krehbiel, joined the Southern Border Travel Study Seminar organized by Presbyterian Peacemaking. Krehbiel served as a resource person for the 20 Presbyterian participants as they reflected on their two days at the U.S./Mexico border and actions they could take. In the same trip, Krehbiel met with 5 local partners across Southern California to learn more about their ministries and how PDA and the PCUSA can support them.
- PDA's refugee ministry is adapting to the requirements of COVID-19 precautions, participating in and hosting webinars and other online gatherings, such as virtual town halls and ecumenical meetings.
- PDA developed [guidance](#) on asylum accompaniment in a COVID-19 environment.
- **12 grants outside of COVID response were disbursed, totaling \$182,420.**

## EMOTIONAL & SPIRITUAL CARE

- Due to the pandemic, PDA ramped up the Emotional and Spiritual Care program. PDA is working with the Presbyterian Mental Health Ministries office and the Mental Health Network, which was established after the 223rd General Assembly.
- Recorded and live Building Resilience [webinars](#) are available for general audiences and faith leaders in English and Spanish.
- PDA presented 20 Faith Leader Support webinars for Presbyterian leadership and faith partners.
- Emotional and Spiritual Care tips are shared regularly on social media.
- In January, a full-day resilience program was offered to volunteers working in long-term recovery from the 2019 Woolsey fires in Los Angeles.

## STORY PRODUCTIONS

- In January, PDA's newest feature-length documentary, [Flint: The Poisoning of an American City](#) launched on streaming services and video-on-demand. It is available on Amazon Prime, Google Play, Apple TV+ and Video on Demand across major cable providers.
- Over 50 screenings of *Flint* were canceled due to COVID, so PDA hosted their first virtual screening and panel in May to discuss water justice in a time of pandemic and how many communities are fighting COVID-19 without access to safe, affordable drinking water. This panel brought together faith leaders who are working in their communities, from Detroit and Flint to the Dakotas to Georgia. Faith leaders shared their stories and experiences and participants learned how to be involved with water justice.
- Coming soon: *Trouble the Water: Conversations to Disrupt Racism and Dominance*, a documentary series and e-course developed in collaboration with the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Visit [pcusa.org/troublethewater](https://pcusa.org/troublethewater) for more information.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE



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OUT OF CHAOS, **HOPE**

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PDA is grateful for partnerships with the Presbyterian Mission Agency Executive Director, who made \$300,000 available for [Matthew 25/](#) Continuity of Ministry Grants, in addition to World Mission and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, who PDA continues to work with to ensure a comprehensive response globally and in the U.S. The PC(USA) office of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People helped frame the parameters of the grant program and ensured that congregations of color and those systemically excluded and affected would be made aware of the opportunity to extend their mission through these grant funds.

## DOMESTIC

Domestic COVID-19 grants are comprised of Assistance Grants, Refugee Grants and Matthew 25/Continuity of Ministry Grants.

- 22 Domestic Refugee Emergency Grants totaling \$133,500
- 87 Domestic Matthew 25/Continuity of Ministry Grants totaling \$444,750
- 234 Domestic Assistance Emergency Grants totaling \$1,017,850

## INTERNATIONAL

- 87 grants totaling \$926,528 were disbursed in 56 countries.
- Many international grants support WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) projects, which are critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19, in addition to addressing emergency and ongoing food insecurity. Additionally, some partners launched education and communication initiatives to share news and prevention instructions in remote communities.

## QUICK FIGURES

**Total dollars granted for  
COVID response:  
\$2,522,682**

**430 grants disbursed**

**Grants to 56 countries**

**483 U.S. churches  
supported**

**SUPPORT OUR WORK**

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# LOOKING AHEAD



**PRESBYTERIAN  
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OUT OF CHAOS, **HOPE**



Jugeli Nepal



Bill Branch



Laura Lupton

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is developing resources you can engage with at home to learn how your gifts are at work around the world. Follow PDA on social media so you do not miss out on any of these resources!

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**Read our blog: [pcusa.org/PDAblog](https://pcusa.org/PDAblog)**



ACT/Gregg Brekke



ACT



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