

WELS Christian Aid and Relief

Summer 2019 update

Our Calling

WELS Christian Aid and Relief serves as our synod's "ministry of compassion," bringing physical relief to victims of natural disasters in the form of cash grants, food, clothing, and medical supplies. Christian Aid and Relief also partners with WELS missionaries to support humanitarian aid projects to help build bridges to proclaim the gospel. The mission of Christian Aid and Relief is drawn from the Scriptural encouragement, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10 Because of all that Christ has done for us, we are eager to reflect Christ's love and compassion to those in need. We seek to personalize our efforts by conducting careful assessments and distributing our funds through our churches and missions. We bring in volunteers when requested to assist in the recovery effort.



Our Current Situation

Christian Aid and Relief is funded by the special gifts of WELS members. Thank you for your gifts of love!

From July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 our total expenditures for relief projects were \$633,056 with \$461,291 designated for domestic relief efforts and \$171,765 for foreign relief efforts. From July 1, 2018 to February 2019 our relief expenditures were \$501,872 total with \$278,332 designated for domestic and \$223,540 for foreign. In addition, \$466,212 was designated for Humanitarian Aid projects for fiscal year 2019-2020 which assist our missionaries in building bridges to proclaim the Gospel.



Our Current Situation continued

Humanitarian Aid Projects

At their June 2019 meeting, WELS Christian Aid and Relief approved \$466,212 for humanitarian aid grants for FY 19-20. These projects help our missionaries reflect Christ's love to people in need, and also open doors to share the Gospel. Major items include health clinics, borehole drilling to provide clean water, support for a women's skill center, home based care for the chronically ill and dying, food assistance to the needy adult literacy classes, food and nutrition to orphans, medical equipment, and health clinics. Grants have increased recently to more home mission congregations especially welcoming new legal immigrants in cross cultural situations.

Home Missions receiving grants this year are:

Las Vegas, NV Toronto, Canada Texas Denver, CO.

World mission fields receiving grants this year are:

Africa – Zambia, Malawi, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and

Central Africa Medical Mission

Asia Pacific Rim – Thailand and Indonesia

Europe – Russia, Albania, Bulgaria, Ukraine

South Asia

Latin America – Mexico, Haiti

Apache Mission - AZ



Criteria for humanitarian aid project – A world or home mission project that meets a community need and opens doors to share the Gospel as part of the mission's outreach to their community.



Medical and Financial Emergencies

Our committee also assists local congregations as they reach out to display Christian love and compassion to their members facing natural disaster, medical emergencies, and financial crisis. Contact our chairman, Pastor Robert Hein (robert.hein@wels.net), to learn more about how we can match or even exceed your local efforts. This includes supporting congregational efforts to provide aid and relief to your community recovering from a natural disaster.

Disaster Relief

Hurricane & Disaster Relief Update:

Christian Aid and Relief personalizes our efforts by working through our congregations and missions in the affected areas. We work through our pastors and synod and congregational leaders to make assessments and distribute aid. We bring in volunteers when requested to assist in the recovery effort. Thank you to our many willing volunteers for your labor of love!

Our Current Situation continued

Disaster Relief

Puerto Rico

Major opportunities to provide relief in the past year centered in Puerto Rico where, more than \$300,000 was granted to assist the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church of Puerto Rico. Funds and volunteers were provided to rebuild two churches and two parsonages, repair member homes, and offer ministry encouragement and worker training through Rev. Larry Schlomer Sr. Initially, groceries were distributed to families in need and \$5,000 was granted to provide meals for people in the church and community suffering from this disaster. This enabled members of the national church to provide meals for 50 people a day for four weeks. The new church in Humacao was dedicated February 10, 2019.



Texas

Volunteers from neighboring churches helped with initial flood cleanup efforts in several affected areas. Equipment from our relief trailers was put to good use. We were blessed with wonderful volunteers and project coordinators. They repaired a parsonage and church at Christ our Savior, Angleton, Texas; the school at Sienna Plantation Academy; and about 17 member homes in the Friendswood, Texas, area. Volunteers often express what a joy it is to serve Christ by assisting people in their time of need. Special thanks to Builders for Christ volunteers for their excellent reconstruction work. Builders for Christ is a ministry of Kingdom Workers.



Our Current Situation continued

Disaster Relief continued

Florida

Volunteers, with the help of our relief trailers, assisted with the cleanup efforts in several communities affected by hurricanes, most recently Panama City, Florida. Generators and equipment, rental assistance to those displaced from their homes, and financial grants to assist with the cost of repairs and replacement of furnishings were provided. More than 300 volunteers have repaired Amazing Grace church and parsonage in Panama City, along with homes in the community. Over forty student volunteers from Martin Luther College also played an active role in the recovery effort.



Antigua, Barbuda, and Dominica

Assistance was provided to families displaced from Barbuda, who are staying with members and friends of our WELS mission, St. John, Antigua. Twenty-nine families received \$18,000 in immediate aid so far. Funds were also distributed to assist families in Dominica affected by the hurricane. Assessment of opportunities to rebuild 13 homes in Dominica for families connected to our churches in Antigua and St. Lucia is ongoing.

Mazomanie

Homes in Mazomanie, suffered flood damage during the month of August 2018. Volunteers from St. Andrew, Middleton, Wisconsin and around the state offered their assistance to help those in need with the cleanup effort. Community outreach and assistance, under the direction of Pastor Kelly Huet, continued long after the flood waters receded. Thanksgiving Day meals were delivered and Christian Family Solutions came and made a trauma - crisis presentation to those who suffered loss.



Brownsville

On September 1, 2018, WELS Christian Aid and Relief helped coordinate a relief effort with St. Paul, Brownsville, WI to offer aid to St. Paul's neighbors who suffered damage from several tornadoes that swept through the area. More than 85 WELS members from sister congregations as well as community members joined together to help those in need. Two relief trailers were mobilized to bring in chainsaws, rakes, and other tools needed.



A Look Ahead

Annually, Christian Aid and Relief reviews humanitarian aid grant requests forwarded to us from the Board for World Missions and Board for Home Missions. These projects help build bridges for proclaiming the Gospel to the Gospel to the people we serve in our mission fields.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief continues to look for ways to improve its communication to the members of our synod. “Lifeline” videos have been developed so that those who support our work can see firsthand how their gifts are being used. Our Web page www.wels.net/relief continues to offer timely information and a convenient way to donate online for Christian Aid and Relief projects. Members can also find us on Facebook at Christian Aid and Relief. Committee members and volunteers also make presentations to various groups to “tell our stories”, letting WELS members know about the needs and opportunities to help people through Christian Aid and Relief. DVDs of lifeline videos and other written materials and photos are also available upon request. We are partnering with other WELS agencies, such as Kingdom Workers, Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service, and the Nurses Association to coordinate volunteers to assist in relief efforts when appropriate.

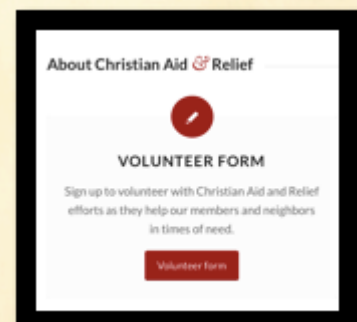


Action Items

- Pray for God to bless our ministry
- Visit wels.net/relief for more information, to view a lifeline video, or to become a partner of this ministry
- Remember our ministry with special offerings
- Contact us to schedule a presentation for your church, school, or organization
- Follow us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/WELSChristianAidAndRelief/>
- Sign up to become a WELS Christian Aid & Relief volunteer at wels.net/volunteer
- Donate to WELS Christian Aid & Relief - wels.net/CARgift

Committee Members

Staff Minister Tom Hering, secretary
Rev. Bruce Marggraf
Rev. Richard Warnecke
Mr. Dennis Palmberg
Mrs. Elizabeth Zambo, administrative assistant
Rev. Robert Hein, chairman and reporter (robert.hein@wels.net)



Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2019 – 2020

Christian Aid and Relief continues to partner with the WELS Board for World Missions, Board for Home Missions, WELS Missionaries, and our sister congregations of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference around the world in funding humanitarian aid projects which reflect Christ's love through acts of kindness to people in need and builds bridges to proclaim the good news of God's love through Jesus. Below is a list of humanitarian aid projects for FY 2019-20 totaling \$466,212. We praise God for all those who helped to fund these projects through their special gifts!

Albania

Christian Aid and Relief provides funding for Christmas and Easter food baskets for needy individuals in their congregation and in their neighborhoods. Invitations and information about the congregation are shared with the recipients of the baskets. Including providing Christian materials and a New Testament.



Bulgaria

Funding has been granted to provide packages with food products, along with Christian books and brochures, for visitors to major festival worship services. With the Lord's blessing this will help build bridges to share the gospel with more people and to maintain connections for ongoing ministry contact.

CAMM – Central African Medical Missions

The Central African Medical Missions in Malawi and Zambia receive funding from Christian Aid and Relief for medical supplies and nutritional supplements for infants. CAMM currently provides medical care at four clinics which also serve as LCCA churches. These humanitarian efforts help serve as a bridge for proclaiming the gospel.

Ethiopia

Funds have been granted to provide a borehole for clean drinking water to a community in Ethiopia. The borehole will serve as a gathering point for community members that they might feel welcome at the church, get to know the pastor/health educators/members and become interested in worship, classes and other church events.

Haiti

Funding has been approved to help equip orphanages with sewing machines at a community center where people will receive training and time on sewing machines. Such neighborhood participation at the institute will provide many opportunities for proclaiming the gospel in the community.

Indonesia

Funding has been granted to assist congregations in Indonesia to hand out staple food items to needy households in their neighborhoods. In some cases, books and school supplies will be given to needy children. The hope and prayer is that caring and sharing will provide a bridge with these people by letting them know the location of the source of the aid and by strengthening the churches' reputation and communication among their neighbors.

Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2019 – 2020 *continued*

Malawi

Funding by WELS Christian Aid and Relief for boreholes dug in Mayaka and Nagome are now functional for the people in these villages for drinking, cooking and cleaning. These two wells open the door for the gospel message to be shared by allowing permanent churches to be built. A vicar will be called with the well nearby to supply water for his family. Vacation Bible school and other programs can now be held knowing that there will be water for the children to drink. Water is such a basic human need and without it there is no life. What a blessing to be able to provide water and at the same time provide the living gospel message for the people of Malawi to drink so they may enjoy eternal life!



Mexico

Funding for the Costa Maya Ministries Education Center allows the mission in Mahahual to provide a place where the locals can come to hear the Word of God, receive a weekly meal and participate in Bible studies and other outreach opportunities.

Nigeria

Funds have been granted to Nigeria to help in the distribution of health care for people in great need, many of which are not members of the local church. The ability to offer care and provide humanitarian aid to Nigeria's unchurched will serve as a bridge for Christ the King and All Saints Lutheran Churches of Nigeria to invite villagers to church to hear the gospel. Funds will also be used to help offer pharmacy services and health education in rural areas demonstrating the loving care of Lutheran Christians. Aid will provide support for church members to visit rehab centers, hospitals, prisons, orphanages and health centers and to assist widows, widowers, and people with special needs.

Russia

Funding has been granted to Russia to provide food, clothing, hygiene items, school supplies, and medicine for the needy. These gifts will allow for the Law-Gospel pamphlets to be distributed and to invite people to Bible instruction classes. This will let the workers' light shine in the area and grow their reputation of helping those in need. Aid has also been granted to assist institutions such as hospitals, rehab centers, orphanages, and half-way houses. The government values this work and presence, which is very important as it opens the doors for Bible classes and Christian counseling. Through this ministry, Christian literature is left in public schools, rehab centers, and other institutions. These efforts provide additional connections to the local congregations as they reach out to the villages.

Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2019 – 2020 *continued*

South Asia

Funding was provided to locations in South Asia so provide medical equipment such as blood pressure cuffs, thermometers, hospital beds, baby warmers and glaucoma tests for hospitals. Funds have also been granted for a reverse osmosis plant and some borewell hand pumps to provide fresh water for thousands of people. Some funding supports health clinics, where workers minister to the physical and spiritual needs of those who receive care. Aid is provided to reach out to women in rural and remote areas to offer sewing and knitting classes so they can help provide for their families, especially since their husbands are often working in other countries. Aid also provides textbooks and other educational needs for higher secondary level students in several districts in the Himalayan area near the Tibetan border. This opens doors to train future leaders and teachers. Funds have also been granted to provide mosquito nets for victims of local flooding. These nets will protect people from mosquito-borne illnesses and even from snake bites. Some funding supports sharing good news through technology and computer labs. Aid in the form of food and warm clothes is provided to widows and orphans, who are often treated unfairly and may even struggle to survive. Other funding will provide smokeless metal stoves for many villagers who suffer from severe respiratory problems due to wood fires in homes. This project helps to gain the goodwill of the people in the community. Aid will also provide nutrition packs for mothers and newborn babies, who must leave their homes for nearly two weeks after giving birth. These new mothers will gather to learn how to care for themselves and their baby and to receive much needed comfort. Aid supports workshops provided to farmers who learn how to provide food and income for their families through off-season farming methods.

Funding has been granted to assist school children with education costs, including uniforms, books, supplies, etc. so that these young people can be built up to become future leaders. Funds were also approved to provide medical care for many families and assist with crippling debt. Funding has also been granted to train women in basic skills like knitting, stitching and embroidery. By learning these skills, women can then support themselves and be spared ill treatment in the public market place and work safely from home to receive income to support their families. Funding has been provided to help toward the cost of medical procedures needed by many families without the means to pay. Aid has also been granted for food distribution at selected times during the year.

Thailand

We continue to support the efforts of medically trained volunteers who travel to Thailand to set up week long medical clinics in our village churches. As these clinics draw people from both local and neighboring villages, they provide the missionaries and other workers with a unique bridge for presenting the gospel and for creating good-will presence for our churches through such care and service. Eye glasses and hearing amplifiers are two of the many gifts that are shared with the people. These gifts not only open their eyes and ears to the world around them, but open their hearts to a clearer understanding of the love that Jesus has for them through the witnessing of the unconditional love of those providing for their needs. VBS and ELS classes are offered and follow up contacts are made after the classes conclude.

Ukraine

Funding has been granted to provide food assistance for war refugees and help for orphans. This assistance serves as a good Christian witness to many people and shows the love of God to many in great need. It also provides for the opportunity to share the love of God to those who join in worship.

Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2019 – 2020 *continued*

Zambia

Christian Aid and Relief provides funding for home-based care that bridges the physical and spiritual care of the chronically ill and dying. This grant will help prepare the Christians in this ministry to better meet the needs of the community through acts of sharing God's gracious gift of salvation as they help those with AIDS, TB, Malaria, and other chronic and terminal illnesses. Funds have also been granted to support a literacy program. A person who is able to read and write is well positioned to do God's work more efficiently, especially where evangelism is concerned. The Central African Medical Mission in Zambia receives funding for medical supplies and medicines that help support the mission of communicating Christ's love and sharing caring concern for the physical needs of others. Another project will help touch the lives of people with special needs by providing wheelchairs, showing them the passion, love and mercy that Christ has for all people. This work of compassion is performed so the gospel may reach those in need.

Colorado

Funds were granted to assist a congregation with a school supply drive to help families in their community that struggle to meet the expenses of school start up. The school supply giveaway established and strengthened connections with local families and built a positive impression of the church, whose ultimate goal is to share the good news of Jesus with their diverse community.

Las Vegas, Nevada

In the Las Vegas, NV, area funding has been granted to assist in African refugee/immigrant Outreach. As new African immigrants arrive in this area, congregation members can welcome them, provide a welcome gift (cooking pots, dinnerware, toiletries, soap...), assist them in getting settled into the community, help with English needs, provide rides, and further assist with counseling, ESL training, etc. The intent of this ministry is to assist the refugee immigrants as they transition to life in America, using this opportunity to proclaim to them the gospel of Jesus through personal witness, worship services and Bible classes.

Texas

Congregations in several Texas communities have created outreach events that assist underprivileged families of school age children with much needed school supplies. In conjunction with backpacks and the supplies that are given to the children, Bible stories and videos are shared. Food for all is always part of the days' event, along with games and prizes for the kids. Parents receive information about the church and the programs that are offered throughout the year. Through this effort the congregations seek to encourage families to become a part of their church family and join in Christian fellowship and worship on a regular basis.

Toronto

Funds have been granted to Hope Lutheran Church in Toronto, Ontario, as they coordinate a Welcome Project. This project enables the congregation to provide valuable humanitarian assistance to newcomers to their area. The assistance can take the form of food, rental help, and guidance with other matters pertaining to their transition into the area. This project helps Hope Lutheran show Christ's love to new refugees.

God our Savior wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2: 3,4