

2009 ANNUAL REPORT LEND A HAND

OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

It is with prayers of praise, thanks and celebration that we conclude our 20th year of mission to those in need because of natural disasters.

From our beginnings in 1989 in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Hugo.....through many years of ad hoc response as other disasters, Lend A Hand awoke, responded and then went dormant for periods of time. During those years, LAH was under the umbrella of Christian Churches United. Our ecumenical underpinnings were framed and nurtured during that time and we represented dozens of Christian denominations.

Hurricane Katrina, in August, 2006, changed everything, however. CCU was unable to provide the administrative support because of the volume of volunteer response. After three months, it became clear that new relationships must be developed. The Presbytery of Carlisle stepped forward and offered office space and equipment with the proviso that LAH provide the workers to manage the program. In Jan. 2007, LAH became a mission outreach of the Presbytery. We have been in continuous operations since then, sending work groups throughout the country as needed.

THE 2009 STORY

We were truly blessed this past year.

- With the exception of Hurricane Ike, we experienced no major disaster in 2009. We did, however, respond to a regional flood issue in West Virginia, as well as continuing efforts in Iowa, Texas and Mississippi. .
- We were able to continue the work in Oakville, Iowa. A total of 91 homes have already been re-constructed and the goal for 2010 is to work on 42 additional homes.
- We humbly received the Governor of Iowa's "Group Volunteer for 2009" award for our efforts in Oakville.
- Bill Charron, our Iowa group leader received the Governor of Iowa's "Individual Volunteer of 2009" award.
- LAH was prominently mentioned in the PCUSA's Mission Yearbook of Prayer.
- LAH was prominently mentioned in the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance magazine, MOSIAC.
- We were able to purchase a low mileage, 1992 Ford Econoline 15 passenger van from one of our congregations. This purchase enabled us to reduce the costs per volunteer for our trips.

As in 2008, this has been a challenging year. We again experienced a drop in the total number of trips and the number of volunteers. **In 2009, we scheduled 8 trips....down from 14 in 2008. Our volunteers averaged 22 per trip, down from 28 in 2008, 37 in 2007, and 45 in 2006.**

So, too, our finances were down for the year. In 2008, we received \$29,000 in donations. **In 2009, the number dropped to \$8,600.....a decline of \$21,000!** Even so, with the use of our van and some private vans that were made available to us, we ended the year with a very modest surplus of about \$3,500, revenues less expenses.

Using vans decreased our Bus leasing from \$72,000 in 2008 to \$29,000 in 2009....a \$43,000 savings! Without this decrease, we would have had to cancel trips!

Additionally, because the vans permit us to drive longer days (bus drivers, by law, can only drive for 10 hours) we were able to drive straight through to our destination on occasion.....reducing our motel costs from \$19,000 to \$9,000....another \$10,000 savings.

Destination	trips	vols.	Statistics		
			Hours	FEMA savings	Homeowner savings
Beaumont, TX	2	64	2,560	\$50,944	\$64,000
Oakville IA	4	68	2,720	\$54,128	\$68,000
Delbarton, W VA	1	11	440	\$ 8,756	\$11,000
Ocean Springs MS	<u>1</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>\$24,676</u>	<u>\$31,250</u>
	8	174	6,970	\$138,504	\$174,250

Total savings to Communities and homeowners.....\$312,754

Additionally, 64 LAH volunteers worked one day at Camp Krislund and provided over 500 hours of volunteer labor.

We presently have 618 volunteers listed on our email site and 84 on our Postal Service list, totaling 702 individuals who continue to receive our notices of mission opportunities. That, overall, is our greatest blessing! To have faithful, committed Christians who stand ready to respond to calls for help for those in distress is of great comfort to us. . Praise GOD!