

Seek & Serve



Episcopal
Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

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Mobilizing for Disaster Relief

This past year has seen more than its share of natural disasters around the world, from the massive earthquakes that hit Japan and New Zealand to epic floods in the northeastern and midwestern United States. This has placed unprecedented demands on Episcopal Relief & Development's disaster response program.

Episcopal Relief & Development is meeting the growing need by responding in ways that take advantage of our greatest strengths so that we can have the greatest impact on people recovering from a disaster. There are five aspects of our program that make it unique, innovative, and singularly effective.

WORKING THROUGH — AND STRENGTHENING — DIOCESES AND PARISHES.

Episcopal and Anglican churches are on the ground. They know first-hand what people's needs are. They have the capacity to deliver services to survivors, and Episcopal Relief & Development helps them build it further.

For example, after Hurricane Irene's torrential rains caused a dam to burst in Tuxedo Park, New York, flooding much of the small town, St. Mary's Episcopal Church was home to the first community meetings where residents identified what needed to be done. The church immediately distributed gift cards that flood victims could use to meet their basic needs, and, with assistance from Episcopal Relief & Development, St. Mary's is now focusing on longer-term plans to restore and maintain electricity and heat to damaged homes.

PLANNING AND PREVENTION

Episcopal Relief & Development is actively providing dioceses and parishes with the training and planning tools to prepare for disasters and to take proactive steps to minimize damage.

Sri Lanka is a good example. There, Episcopal Relief &



By "training the trainers" we're helping the Diocese of Colombo in Sri Lanka better prepare for the next emergency.

Development is supporting a training-of-trainers program organized by the Diocese of Colombo to strengthen its capacity to respond to natural disasters, which hit the island nation with disturbing regularity. The broad range of participants — women and men, laity and clergy, Tamil and Sinhalese (the two main ethnic groups) — will then conduct disaster response training in their communities, expanding the ability of Church leadership to act more effectively in future emergency situations.

We do not consider our job done once rubble is cleared and people have roofs over their heads.

FILLING THE GAPS

Huge international organizations like the Red Cross come in immediately to provide food, shelter and medical aid on a short-term basis. Episcopal Relief & Development meets needs they cannot, such as helping people navigate governmental and non-governmental bureaucracies, providing spiritual care and pastoral counseling, and supporting longer-term rebuilding efforts.

After the Gulf oil spill, for instance, Episcopal Relief & Development supported local initiatives in Louisiana and Mississippi to assist residents submitting claims to the Victims Compensation Fund and offering essential mental

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

Drawing Inspiration from Children

Sometimes, we just need to act more like our children.

Children like Andrew Jelson, a 12-year-old from the small town of Sealy, Texas. Thanks to his leadership, St. John's Episcopal became the first church in the Diocese of Texas to donate more than one net per family to save the lives of children in sub-Saharan Africa. St. John's has 41 families and Andrew was able to raise \$552, enough to fund 46 nets, each of which will save lives.

For Andrew, this was personal. His mother was born in Zambia and his grandfather had contracted malaria while living in Africa in the 1960s. But it was also about inspiration — about mobilizing his fellow congregants to put their faith into action more fully. He spoke passionately from the pulpit, sent emails, and collected the funds on two Sundays.

Andrew did much more than earn his Boy Scout "God and Church" award. He set a powerful example for every diocese, church, and parishioner about how, together, we can meet the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund's goal of raising \$5 million by the end of 2012.

So did Deirdre and Brenna, the two young lemonade-selling sisters at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable, Massachusetts, whom you'll read about in this issue of *Seek & Serve*.

Following in their footsteps and working to achieve the Inspiration Fund's goal is critical to advancing Episcopal Relief & Development's mission to heal a hurting world.

NetsforLife® has passed the test of experience, proving itself to be perhaps the single most cost-effective strategy for saving children from the scourge of malaria. Plus, it has many other positive impacts because it's built on a foundation of empowering and uniting communities to come together to distribute the nets, install them, and create a culture of net usage. This unique combination — saving lives, improving health, increasing school attendance, and building communities — unleashes the enormous untapped economic and personal potential of people who have, until now, been locked out of the abundant life.

NetsforLife® is currently on target to distribute seven million nets as part of Phase Two, but that's not cause for complacency. Rather, it should spur us to redouble our efforts to achieve *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund's goals, because we know that millions more children will be reached and protected as a result. In doing so, all of us should seek to emulate children like Andrew, Deirdre and Brenna as we fulfill our Baptismal Covenant.

To learn more about how to join us in the fight against malaria visit www.inspirationfund.org.

Yours faithfully,

Robert W. Radtke, President

The Joy of Service

Each month St. Mary's Church in Barnstable, Massachusetts holds a unique Eucharist called the Joy Mass. Elements of the service are explained so that children and adults alike will better understand the liturgy. Each Joy Mass ends in a rousing song.



Rev. Mark Anschutz celebrates a Joy Mass with the children of St. Mary's Church.

The Rev. Dr. Mark Anschutz has used these special celebrations to introduce his congregation to the importance of the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund, which is raising awareness about malaria prevention and funds to support Episcopal Relief & Development's efforts to distribute insecticide-treated nets in 18 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The children of St. Mary's have given over 150 nets to their friends in sub-Saharan Africa, and they continuously work to send even more.

Two young sisters named Deirdre and Brenna took these lessons to heart by organizing a lemonade stand so that they could help buy nets to protect children in Africa from contracting malaria. Their humble gesture has inspired virtually every

Helping Ivorian Refugees in Liberia



For most of the past three decades, the Liberian people have endured two civil wars, coups, assassinations, and seemingly endless political violence. Today, under the presidency of Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the country has achieved much greater stability, though it still suffers from rampant poverty, poor health (including malaria), population displacement, and other after-effects of so many years of unrest.

Ironically, Liberia is now where the people of another country torn by civil war are coming for sanctuary. Refugees from the Ivory Coast have been crossing the border into Liberia, where post election violence earlier this year has led to one million people fleeing their homes. In July, more than 3,000 residents of the Bahn Refugee Camp were suffering from malnutrition, disease and squalid living conditions, with people sleeping on mats on wet mud floors. The number of refugees has now doubled to over 6,000 and more are arriving every day.

Episcopal Relief & Development has been active in Liberia for many years, where our *NetsforLife*® program is making important headway in fighting malaria and saving lives. So when the Diocese of Liberia decided to help the Ivorian refugees, they requested an emergency grant from Episcopal Relief & Development, which we swiftly provided.

After visiting the camp this summer to assess its needs, the Diocese of Liberia delivered 350 four-inch thick mattresses to reduce pregnant and breastfeeding mothers' exposure to cold, muddy floors which left them susceptible to airborne diseases. They delivered bags of used clothing for 680 children in part because lack of clothing was preventing them from attending school. And they delivered thousands of cans of sardines and luncheon meat to provide protein that had been missing from the refugees' diet.



Mattresses are just one of the essential items we're helping the Diocese of Liberia provide to Ivorian refugees who have fled from their country.

This successful relief project marked a new stage in the Diocese of Liberia's efforts to build its capacity to mobilize and engage directly in development initiatives, a process

Refugees from the Ivory Coast have been crossing the border into Liberia, where post election violence earlier this year has led to one million people fleeing their homes.

Episcopal Relief & Development is strongly supporting. The diocese will further expand its work in the months to come with a new project building hand pumped wells at schools. This will free children from the burden of walking long distances to fetch water, a task that reduces the time they spend in classrooms and puts them at risk of crime and assault.

THE JOY OF SERVICE, from page 2

child in the parish to take action themselves, and now hundreds of dollars are being generated in the name of the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund.

One family sold flowers for Easter, and during a parish car wash, the children of St. Mary's set up a lemonade stand and raised \$60 for *NetsforLife*®. Others among the congregation have established their own lemonade stands, always giving what they make to the fight against malaria.

The adults, seeing the enthusiasm of the children, are getting involved as well. The Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's awarded a grant to *NetsforLife*® to show their

support for the work of these small but industrious leaders.

The children of St. Mary's have given over 150 nets to their friends in sub-Saharan Africa, and they continuously work to send even more.

Words cannot describe the light in the eyes of these children and the sense of joy and satisfaction they take in making these gifts. In addition, to the small parish of St. Mary's Church, they have become a splendid icon to all — old and young alike — of what it means to simply live out the Christian faith. For this, we are deeply indebted to Deidra and Brenna for their resourcefulness and simple goodness, and for teaching all that, "A child shall lead them."

MOBILIZING, from page 1

health services. We are also working to expose gaps in services to rural areas, and help parishes and communities develop a road map for meeting residents' needs in the future.

STAYING FOR THE LONG RUN

We do not consider our job done once rubble is cleared and people have roofs over their heads. Episcopal Relief &



Severe flooding caused by Hurricane Irene overwhelmed communities in the Northeast.

Development's mission is to empower disaster survivors to emerge in a better place than before, with greater opportunity, a stronger infrastructure, sturdier housing and a more sustainable local economy.

Nearly seven years after the Indian Ocean tsunami, more

than six years after Hurricane Katrina, and nearly two years after the devastating Haiti earthquake, Episcopal Relief & Development remains in hard-hit areas implementing long-term development plans.

U. S. PARTNERS IN RESPONSE

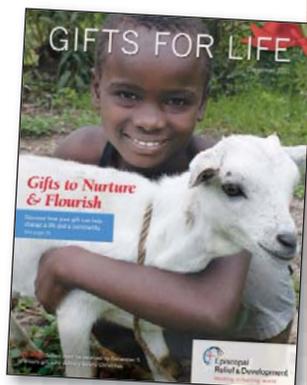
Episcopal Relief & Development has organized a small team of clergy and parishioners who have volunteered to go into disaster-stricken communities to help each congregation identify their unique assets and abilities, and match those to their community's unmet needs.

One such Partners in Response group recently traveled to flooded parts of North Dakota, visiting churches in Minot, Bismarck and Spirit Lake Nation — a Sioux reservation near the Canadian border. The team met with vestries, interested congregation members, flood survivors, local Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs), and other relief groups. They helped each congregation craft a plan to reach out not only to their own members, but also — with the help of funds from Episcopal Relief & Development — to reach out to those hardest hit in the larger community, especially the most economically vulnerable. Every plan was unique and tailored to the specific circumstances of each particular church. And in every case, the process helped these communities of faith grow stronger.

These five elements of Episcopal Relief & Development's disaster response program show that, above all, partnership is key. The overall goal of our disaster work is to transform the feelings of helplessness that inevitably accompany natural disasters into a strong sense of empowerment toward building a better future.

Gifts to Nurture and Flourish: *Gifts for Life*

Episcopal Relief & Development's *Gifts for Life* catalog offers you a special way to share the joy of giving during the Christmas season. Purchase a gift in honor of a friend or loved one through this unique gift catalog and not only will your gift directly impact the lives of those in need, it will help entire communities break the cycle of poverty. From food and water to medical care and small business loans, *Gifts for Life* help more than individuals and families — they provide entire communities with sustainable resources for the future. Visit our website at www.er-d.org/GiftsForLife.



Bishops Blend: Coffee and Tea with a Difference

This Christmas, enjoy Bishops Blend gift boxes! Bishops Blend, a premium line of coffees and teas offered by Episcopal Relief & Development and Pura Vida, is triple-seal certified Fair Trade and organic. It's great for home, office or church, and makes a great holiday gift as well. Let your friends and family know about this great-tasting way to change the world one cup at a time. Order gift boxes today on our website at www.er-d.org/BishopsBlend.



Matching Gift Challenge to Raise \$1 Million for Global Needs

Until November 30, any donation made to Episcopal Relief & Development will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000. This means a total of up to \$1 million for relief and development programs in the places that need them most. Give today and double the impact of your support!

Combined Federal Campaign



If you're a federal employee or retiree who participates in the Combined Federal Campaign, you can designate Episcopal Relief & Development as the recipient of your donation. To make a gift in 2011, just designate your gift to CFC #80416 by December 15th. (In some cases the listed charity will be Global Impact, our umbrella organization, which then allocates a portion of the gift to Episcopal Relief & Development.) For more information on the CFC, visit www.opm.gov/CFC/.