

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Seek & Serve

Episcopal Relief & Development
Healing a hurting world

A Publication of Episcopal Relief & Development - August 2011

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Ready to Serve in the USA

This was a horrific spring for people in many parts of the United States, especially in the South and Midwest where a mix of deadly tornadoes and catastrophic flooding took many lives and cost people their homes and livelihoods.

As always, Episcopal Relief & Development jumped in to help, assisting with emergency relief in many

disaster-stricken dioceses, including Alabama, West Missouri, Kentucky and North Carolina.

Yet as important as this work is, the greatest value of Episcopal Relief & Development's U.S. Disaster Program lies before and after the immediate crisis.



Ed Edahl/FEMA

Damaged property and debris are piled together after devastating tornadoes plowed through Chattanooga, TN.

To prepare for and mitigate disasters, Episcopal Relief & Development works with targeted dioceses to conduct training, build capacity, develop response plans, and recruit volunteers for the *Ready to Serve* national skill database. There is a wealth of talent in parishes across the country, including attorneys, social workers, doctors and nurses, police, firefighters, and retirees with long



Courtesy of Melodie Woerman/Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

Hugh Shields (right) talks with Bishop Martin Field of the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri outside Shields' home in Joplin. The shell of St. John's Hospital is in the background.

What makes Episcopal Relief & Development's U.S. Disaster Program singularly effective is that parishes and dioceses take the lead.

careers in these and other areas. Any diocese in need can tap into this database through Episcopal Relief & Development and request volunteer help with expertise in whatever areas are needed.

This is already happening in the wake of the spring tornadoes and floods — especially as the first wave of response ends and the scope of the need becomes clearer. People need plenty of help, whether they are

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

To Seek and to Serve Christ in All Persons

As you have surely noticed, we have renamed this newsletter *Seek & Serve*, a title that reflects our Baptismal Covenant to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.”

The newsletter's new name also reflects our mandate, found in the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” His point, of course, was that when we serve others, we serve Him.

That is why Episcopal Relief & Development seeks out those in need and serves them in order to serve Christ, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

We do this when we come to the aid of those who lost loved ones or their homes in the disastrous tornadoes and flooding that have hit so much of the U.S. in recent months, as you'll read in this issue of *Seek & Serve*.

We do this when we assist in providing clean drinking water and sanitation to families in Latin America, when we help farmers in Africa gain the tools to feed their families and generate a reliable income, and when we support women in Asia with micro-credit so they can start their own independent businesses.

We do this in our own communities by providing tools for educating, involving and mobilizing fellow parishioners on behalf of those in need. We do this in our churches through Sunday school and youth curricula aimed at generating among our next generation an understanding of global inequities and our moral obligation to help those who suffer.

And we do this through the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund, as we work at the grassroots level within the Episcopal community to help deliver seven million nets to families in sub-Saharan Africa by the end of 2012.

So as you read the pages of this newsletter and examine how we put our collective faith into action, I hope you'll see how supporting Episcopal Relief & Development is one way you can fulfill our Baptismal Covenant. When our Church asks if we will seek and serve Christ, we answer, “I will with God's help.” And you do this through your support of Episcopal Relief & Development, because that is precisely what we do.

Thank you for all you do for “the least of these” and for your devotion to our faith.

Yours faithfully,

Robert W. Radtke, President

Teaching the Importance of Service

Episcopal Relief & Development has developed a number of online tools and curricula to expand our support of congregations as they teach their youth how to “seek and serve Christ in all persons.”

The Abundant Life Garden Project is a children's curriculum that shares the ministry and work of Episcopal Relief & Development with elementary school-aged children. Five modules titled Water, Seeds, Soil, Animals and Harvest teach children about the abundance and bounty that God has provided in Creation, and our responsibility to care for and share this gift.

Real Heroes versus Rita Mosquito: A Children's Program on Malaria introduces children to malaria and how it is prevented, and empowers them to

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rebuilding homes, addressing financial losses, navigating through social service and insurance bureaucracies, or getting businesses and farms back on track.

This is when Episcopal dioceses and parishes step in to fill the void, thanks to the support of Episcopal Relief & Development. For example, the dioceses of East Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina and East Carolina are helping parishes and diocesan social service agencies provide support to tornado victims. This can involve anything from negotiating with leasing businesses for payments of rented appliances or furniture that no longer exist to arranging for needed medical or dental care. It can include pastoral counseling, assistance with finding a new home, or working to pull together the financing so underinsured homeowners can rebuild.

What makes Episcopal Relief & Development's U.S. Disaster Program singularly effective is that parishes and dioceses take the lead. They are on the ground and understand what people need. Episcopal Relief & Development provides resources and technical assistance, while coordinating efforts and mobilizing *Ready to Serve* volunteers. This unique, grassroots-based approach — which also characterizes Episcopal Relief & Development's work all around the world — maximizes the positive, long-term impact that this kind of assistance can have on the lives and futures of disaster survivors and their communities.

participate in the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund. This fund is a church-wide campaign inspiring Episcopalians to help fight the spread of malaria by increasing awareness and raising \$5 million for *NetsforLife*®, a program partnership active in 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The goal is to teach children that they can help build and be part of a worldwide community of malaria prevention.

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Act Out: Empowering Youth to Heal a Hurting World is an intensive educational program for middle and high school students that focuses on issues Episcopal Relief & Development addresses like economic opportunity, hunger and access to clean water. The curriculum can be adapted to a variety of settings, such as weekly youth group meetings, camp programs or retreats.

To find out more about our Christian Formation Programs and the resources we have available visit our website at www.er-d.org/formation.



The Abundant Life Garden curriculum teaches children to tend the earth and share its bounty.

The Matthew25 Legacy Society Member Profile: Carol Anne Brown

Carol Anne Brown, active Episcopalian, former Episcopal Relief & Development Board Member and member of the Matthew25 Legacy Society recently said, "Being as involved as I have been, and continue to be, is a great joy!"



Carol Anne Brown, shown here with her son Kevin, husband The Very Rev. Don Brown and daughter Meredith.

Former Episcopal Relief & Development Board Member Carol Anne Brown and her husband, The Very Rev. Don Brown, are deeply involved in the life of the Episcopal Church and have been supporters of Episcopal Relief & Development since the days when it was known as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief.

To take their commitment to our work one step further,

Carol Anne and Don became members of the Matthew25 Legacy Society in 2005, when they included Episcopal Relief & Development in their estate plans. Through planned giving, members of the Matthew25 Legacy Society help ensure that Episcopal Relief & Development can continue its important work for years to come.

Being as involved as I have been, and continue to be, is a great joy!

When asked about this decision, Carol Anne said, "The reason Episcopal Relief & Development matters so much to me is that it is our Episcopal Church at its very best, doing the work of the Gospel. Working to heal a hurting world matters! Don and I are committed to being donors while alive...the extension of that is to be sure Episcopal Relief & Development is in our estate plans so our gifts will be able to continue after our deaths. Having Episcopal Relief & Development in our estate plans was a family decision. Our two adult children happily endorsed the plan."

To learn more about joining the Browns as a member of the Matthew25 Legacy Society, call the Episcopal Relief & Development office at **1.212.716.6355**, toll free at **1.855.312.HEAL** or via email at externalaffairs@er-d.org.

An Exceptional Gift from an Exceptional Child

When six-year-old Hannah, a young member of St. George's Episcopal Church in La Cañada, California, heard about the tsunami that devastated northern Japan, she approached the emergency as she did most things in life — with questions and compassion.

A week and a half after asking her mother Katie about the disaster and praying for guidance, Hannah announced that she would have a bake sale to help out. She told her mother, "Mommy, I was talking to God about what to do, and God said I should have a bake sale! I'm going to bake brownies and sell them for \$1 each at church, and send the money to Japan. Those poor people are going to need homes, and I need your money to help them." Katie asked why her money was needed. "Well, I have to buy the supplies," Hannah pointed out.

Hannah's compassion and vision are inspiring, and we're very grateful that she has entrusted us with these funds.

With Katie's help, Hannah made several dozen brownies, along with a sign that read, "Brownies for Sale. All money goes to help Japan." At church that Sunday, Katie shared about Hannah's bake sale during service. The Rev. Amy Pringle, St. George's rector, stood up, announced she would buy the first brownie for \$100, and challenged the congregation to help Hannah out. "If we can't support a six-year-old in something like this," she said, "I don't know what we're doing in church today."

At the bake sale table, people were handing Hannah fives, tens and twenties for their brownies. She tried to give them change and was confused when they wouldn't accept it. When all 53 brownies were gone, Hannah was excited to find she had raised \$428. Then a thought struck her. "I don't know how I'm going to get the money to Japan," she told her



St. George's Church in La Cañada, California is blessed to have a young member like Hannah.

mom. Katie reminded her that they had talked about the Red Cross and she said, "But I don't know those people." Katie then suggested giving the money to Episcopal Relief & Development, and she quickly agreed.

A note enclosed with the checks described how church members went all out to buy "these exceptional brownies from an exceptional child," and concluded with, "She knows you'll put this to good use." It was signed, "The (Teary) Rev. Amy Pringle."

Hannah's compassion and vision are inspiring, and we're very grateful that she has entrusted us with these funds. We have made sure that this gift from her heart will support people in Japan affected by this disaster. Hannah has truly set an example of what it means to live out our Baptismal Covenant vows to 'seek and serve Christ in all persons' and 'love our neighbors as ourselves.'

Support the *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund

The *NetsforLife*® Inspiration Fund is off to a great start! Dioceses around the country are taking part in this ambitious grassroots campaign to support *NetsforLife*® and the distribution of 7 million insecticide-treated nets in 17 countries affected by the disease. But to meet our goal by the end of 2012 we need everyone's help. To find out how to get your church involved, go to www.inspirationfund.org or contact Joy Shigaki, Director of the Inspiration Fund by email at jshigaki@er-d.org or by phone at 212.922.5267.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Our Corporate Matching Gifts program is a great way to make your gift go even further. In fact, Corporate Matching Gifts can double, and sometimes triple, your gift. Check with your company's Human Resources department to confirm whether or not your employer matches gifts. If they do, request a copy of their matching gifts form and complete it following their guidelines. Mail the completed form to: **ATTN: Donor Services, Episcopal Relief & Development, 815 Second Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10017 or fax it to 212.687.5302.**