

Crisfield Continues to Rebuild a Year After Sandy

By Joe Pinto

The recovery effort in Crisfield and Somerset County is an ongoing, somewhat tedious process yet progress is occurring. It is almost one year since the devastating flood swept through Crisfield and some other low-lying areas of Somerset County.

Immediately after the storm, several community volunteers started looking at ways to respond to the disaster. Since FEMA did not declare Somerset County a federal disaster area for two months after the flood, the responsibility to address immediate needs fell to volunteers and faith-based organizations. A few months after the disaster, the Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee (SCLTRC) was formed to maximize partnership efforts to respond and bring to recovery almost 2000 households adversely affected by the storm.

In April 2013, the Diocese of Easton hired a part-time Grant Coordinator to administer a grant provided by Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD). This enabled the Episcopal Church to become part of the SCLTRC and partner with the United Methodists, Lutherans, United Way, Catholic Charities, Red Cross, Life Crisis Center, Mennonites, local, county government representatives and community

volunteers. This ongoing effort with the strong partnerships has resulted in bringing relief to many families and households devastated by Sandy.

The Episcopal Relief & Development monies are being used for a variety of projects to assist in the recovery of residents of Crisfield and Somerset

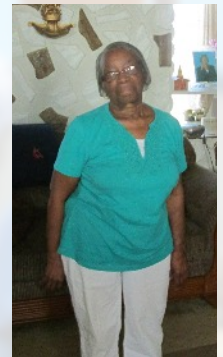


A crab representing each of the 50 states races in the Governor's Cup during Crisfield's 66th annual Hard Crab Derby on August 31, 2013.

and state



Money given to Crisfield has helped people who needed a few things. Ms. Peggy DeHaven (left) and Sedonia Brown (right) have been helped by the Diocese of Easton.



Case manager, Latsha Wallace, and construction manager, Ken Wermuth, (left), and Lynette Cottman, volunteer coordinator/office manager (right), work hard to help citizens of Crisfield.



*All Crisfield photos credited to Maggie Michaud unless otherwise noted

County. The projects range from replacing a washing machine, repairing replacing a furnace/HVAC system, roofing, all the way to partnering in building a new house. To date, about 60 individual beneficiaries have been reached with the ERD monies. In addition to providing funds, several teams of volunteers from several dioceses, including Easton, have assisted in the recovery efforts.

While much has been accomplished, there is a lot to be done to bring the Crisfield community to full recovery. It will probably be another year or more before all households are recovered.

Joe Pinto is the Crisfield Coordinator for the Diocese of Easton and worships at St. Andrew's, Princess Anne, Md.



Ruth Fountain's house (above) and Charlie Adams' house (below) were torn down after the news that they were unlivable. The Diocese of Easton, partnering with the Lutherans, have been working to rebuild Ruth and Charlie's homes. The picture on the left shows the groundbreaking on June 9, the picture on the right shows the progress as of September 19, 2013.





Fr. Mike Lokey and members of St. Paul's, Marion, work to fix the house (below) after being devastated by Hurricane Sandy (above).

Above Photos: Joe Pinto



A landmark of Crisfield was the wooden pier in downtown. After extensive damage from Sandy, the pier was torn down. In an effort to keep Crisfield culture alive the city has begun to construct a new pier on the site of the old one.



More projects are underway. Work has begun in rebuilding Marilyn Ruddy's home (left). Her home was condemned and torn down in August. The diocese partnered with the Mennonites group to rebuild the home. Other money has been used to help homes like the one on the right.

