



The mission of WELS Christian Aid and Relief is to share Christ's compassion with people who are suffering as the result of disasters or other hardships. There is

a lot of suffering in this world and, therefore, many opportunities for God's people to help. In this update, we'd like to share three examples of how, with your support, we are sharing Christ's compassion through our congregations and missions all around the world.



Example #1: Disaster Relief

When people think of our disaster relief program, they often think of our

deployments here in the States to clean up following a hurricane or tornado. In addition to relief work done close to home, we also assist with disaster relief efforts in our world mission fields. Recently we worked with the WELS One Africa Team and **All Saints Lutheran Church in Nigeria** to help 100 families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by a windstorm in April 2024. A \$24,000 grant helped to provide materials (cement, sand, wood, roofing sheets) for rebuilding and food to sustain the workers.

Example #2: Humanitarian Aid

Each year we provide grants in partnership with WELS Home and World Missions to supply basic needs to people in our mission fields all over the world. Recently, **Risen Savior**, a mission congregation in **Lakewood Ranch, Fla.**, received a \$2,500 humanitarian aid grant for their "Day for Hope" program. They were able to serve more



than 100 children with backpacks, school supplies, \$100 worth of gift cards for clothes/shoes for school. Each family also met with Pastor Free who shared the gospel with them and invited them to Risen Savior for worship. More than 50 volunteers from Risen Savior helped with the event and contributed more than \$7,500 in support of it.

Example #3: Community Care and Compassion

St. Matthews in Niles, Ill., received a Community Care and Compassion matching grant in support of their "Camp Compassion Event." Seventy-one children gathered to learn four stories of God's compassion to us and through us. The children who attended helped assemble 125 compassion packets. Each packet included: one pair of socks, one Chapstick, one electrolyte packet, one \$5 bill, two granola bars, three hand wipes, a cross necklace made by the kids, an encouraging note written by the kids, a card that provides information on where to find assistance, and a card that says, "Return this card to St. Matthew's for a meal and God's Word." All these items went in Ziplock bags and St. Matthew's members now have them to give to someone in need as opportunities arise throughout the year.



Community Care and Compassion limit increased

Since 2022 our Community Care and Compassion matching grants program has encouraged self-supporting congregations to share the compassion of Christ in their communities with matching grants of up to \$2,500 annually. Recently, our Commission raised the maximum amount to \$4,000. We pray this will encourage even more participation among our congregations as they share Christ's compassion with those in need. For more information, please visit wels.net/relief.



New Disaster Relief logo



When we deploy volunteers to help a church and community clean up after a disaster, it's important to identify clearly who we are. This assures

local emergency management officials and community members that we are a legitimate organization that has come to help, and not some fraudulent group that is there to take advantage of people during a time of weakness. For this purpose, we have created a new disaster relief logo. This logo will be printed on vehicle magnets, hats, safety vests, t-shirts, and other items to help identify who we are. The name "WELS Disaster Relief" was chosen rather than "WELS Christian Aid and Relief" because it is shorter and simpler.

To learn more, make a donation, or volunteer, visit wels.net/relief and like us on Facebook at fb.com/WELSCChristianAidandRelief. If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact Director Rev. Daniel Sims.



Need a speaker?

Want to learn more about the vital compassion ministry of WELS Christian Aid and Relief? Need a speaker for your church, school, or group? Speakers are available, including preachers for a Sunday service or Mission Festival. You can request one at wels.net/relief or by contacting Pastor Sims. We'd love to meet you and "share our stories."