



## Joy to the World: Your Compassion At Work



Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again: in church, you hear words of hope and peace, comfort and joy. But outside of the sanctuary, life feels anything BUT peaceful. The traffic, the crowds, and the very long to-do list make for added stress in a time that is supposed to be about family and celebration.

One of the things that can make the season feel hectic is the expectation of gift-giving. Many are feeling the final push to do last minute shopping, getting every item crossed off the list.

Here's the good news-- whatever holiday stress might be pulling you in a hundred directions, and whatever gifts you may still need to find--*you have already given the most important gift.* Through your support of Week of Compassion this year, our wider Church has responded to needs around the world. Through your gifts to Week of Compassion, families find new opportunities; communities grow stronger; and there is much to celebrate.

Look at the map below, and you'll get a glimpse of the places where our Church has responded through Week of Compassion in 2019. You will see that the sheer number of responses is overwhelming; and you will see that they cover a wide geographical range, spanning many cultures, climates and types of terrain.

What you may not be able to see on the map is the number of lives that have been transformed by this ministry--which is your ministry. What you may not quite be able to hear are the powerful stories of life, love and hope that people tell after having received support from Week of Compassion.

In the past year, our Church has responded to flooding in the Midwest and drought in India; to families separated at the Southwest border and to families in refugee camps in the Middle East. Disciples presence has been known in agriculture projects from Central America to Africa. Women have been empowered through vocational opportunities from Haiti to Iraq, and children have received education from South America to Eastern Europe.

You've also given the gift of clean water to families in Indonesia as they recover from a devastating tsunami and to families in Mozambique following a terrible cyclone. Your gifts have gone to support mental health for survivors of wildfires in Northern California and for children traumatized by storms and displacement in South Texas. And you helped churches rebuild following a hurricane in Puerto Rico, and a tornado in Missouri.

Through your compassion, you have given life and light in so many places, and transformed so many lives.

In this season of joy, there is much to celebrate in work that we have already done, together. As many of us gather around tables this season with our loved ones, I am grateful for you and your partnership. I am grateful for the ways in which we create tables of peace and reconciliation all over the world, each and every day. There is much to celebrate, and there is much work ahead to do together. This season, and all through the year, know that together, our Church is bringing joy to the world.

With Gratitude,  
Rev. Vy Nguyen  
Executive Director



## 2019 RESPONSES

Alaska - Earthquake Response  
Angola - Vocational Training  
Arizona - Flood Relief  
Arizona - Keeping Families and Children Together  
Arkansas - Fire Relief  
Bangladesh - Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Building for the Rohingya Population and Host Communities in Cox's Bazar  
California - Storm Relief  
California - Flood Relief  
California (4) - Long-Term Fire Recovery  
California - Storm Relief  
California (2) - Wildfire Relief  
Cameroon - Life-saving Assistance and Resilience-Building for IDPs in the Anglophone Regions of Cameroon  
Colorado - Storm Relief  
Colorado - Wildfire Relief  
Congo - Emergency Flood Relief  
DR Congo - Emergency Ebola Response  
Florida (3) - Hurricane Irma Long-Term Recovery  
Florida - Hurricane Barry Relief  
Florida - Hurricane Michael Long-term recovery  
Gaza - Emergency Relief  
Ghana - Girls Empowerment Club  
Haiti - Earthquake Rebuilding of Schools  
Honduras and Guatemala - Food Security and Risk Reduction support in Honduras, food security and nutrition support in Guatemala  
Hungary - Refugee Support  
Illinois - Tornado Long-Term Recovery  
Illinois & Wisconsin - Tornado Long-Term Recovery  
India - Drought Relief  
Indiana - Relief

Indiana - Fire Relief  
Iowa - Tornado Recovery  
Japan - Typhoon Hagibis  
Jordan, Iraq & Syria - Refugees Support  
Jordan, Syria, Iraq Jordan - Syrian and Iraqi Refugees emergency support  
Kansas - Refugee Fly in Support  
Kansas - Tornado Relief  
Kansas - Storm Relief  
Kentucky - Hurricane Michael Relief  
Kentucky - Fire Relief  
Kenya - Flood Relief  
Lake Chad Basin - Humanitarian Response  
Lebanon - Syrian Refugee Support  
Liberia and Sierra Leone - Youth Empowerment Program  
Louisiana - Long-Term Flood Recovery  
Louisiana - Hurricane Barry Relief  
Missouri - Flood Mitigation and Relief  
Missouri (5) - Flood Relief  
Missouri (10) - Tornado Relief  
Missouri - Tornado Relief - Food Supplies  
Missouri (2) - Storm Relief  
Missouri - Long-Term Flood Recovery  
Mozambique (2) - Cyclone Relief  
Mozambique - Cyclone Kenneth  
Mozambique, Malawi & Zimbabwe - Cyclone Idai  
Myanmar - Livelihood Support  
Nebraska - Flood Relief  
Nebraska (2) - Long term Flood Recovery  
New York - Long-Term Hurricane Recovery  
New York - Hurricanes Irma and Maria Long-Term Recovery, PR and USVI Hurricane Evacuees Living in New York  
New York (2) - Hurricanes Irma and Maria Long-Term Recovery  
North Carolina - Hurricane Florence Long-Term recovery  
North Carolina (5) - Hurricane Florence Long-Term recovery  
North Carolina - Fire Relief  
Ohio (3) - Tornado Relief  
Ohio (2) - Flood Relief  
Oklahoma - Fire Relief  
Oklahoma - Flood Relief  
Oklahoma - Storm Relief  
Oklahoma - Wildfire Relief  
Oregon - Flood Relief  
Pakistan - Drought Relief  
Palestine - Agricultural Support  
Palestine Territory - Humanitarian Response  
Phillipines - Typhoon Response  
Phillipines - Earthquake Relief  
Puerto Rico - Hurricane Maria Long-Term Recovery  
Puerto Rico (2) - Hurricanes Irma and Maria Long-Term Recovery  
Serbia, West Timor, Indonesia, Moldova, Republic of Georgia, Bosnia - Children and Education, Food and Nutritional Support, Women Empowerment Support  
Sierra Leone, South Africa, Middle East - Women Empowerment Support, Livelihood support, Conflict resolution and Peace building  
South Sudan - Response to Flooding Crisis  
Syria - Emergency Winter Relief  
Syria - Emergency Water Relief  
Tanzania - Women Health Support  
Tennessee (3) - Flood Relief  
Tennessee - Food Security  
Tennessee (2) - Storm Relief  
Texas - Storm Relief  
Texas - Flooding Recovery  
Texas (3) - Tornado Relief  
Texas - Hurricane Harvey  
Texas (2) - Storm Relief  
Texas - Hurricane Harvey Long-Term Recovery  
Texas (7) - Tropical Storm Imelda Relief  
Texas - Fire Relief  
Texas - Hurricane Harvey Long-Term Recovery  
Texas - Tropical Storm Imelda Long-Term Recovery  
Venezuela - Clean Water  
Vietnam - Improving Health through Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene  
Zimbabwe - Cyclone Reliefs

### **Mission**

*As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.*

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