



# Mennonite Disaster Service

Extreme weather made 2011 a historic year in Canada and the United States. There was a billion-dollar Mid-Atlantic blizzard, deadly droughts and triple digit heat, the most extreme tornado season of all time, devastating wildfires and massive rivers overflowed. The Eastern US was hit by Hurricane Irene, and then, adding insult to injury, Tropical Storm Lee redoubled the flooding. Canada saw major flooding in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec, with more acreage under water than ever recorded and strong tornados hit Ontario.\*

Hundreds of thousands of homes and business were affected, their losses compounded by a weak economy. There have been more than 700 US disaster and weather related deaths, most from the tornado outbreaks in the spring.

This year 5925 MDS volunteers responded to the needs with love and concern. These volunteers gave 26,357 volunteer days to the disaster stricken communities, a value of \$4,503,884.16 (based on a modest volunteer rate of \$21.36/hour\*\*.) Additional volunteers served in many Unit and Regional responses.

Unprecedented numbers are devoid of emotions until you look in the face of disaster survivors, city officials, first responders, emotional/spiritual caregivers, and other disaster response partners. As one of our volunteers in Alabama wrote, "The emotions of the people show plainly on their faces. I have seen grief, pain, frustration, joy, relief, and gratefulness etched in the face of each and every person I have met and know that such emotions were probably mirrored in my own countenance."

The presence of MDS has already made a huge impact this past year. God is on the move and it is our duty to align our witness and work with God's. The coming year will be busy. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Report on 2011 by Kevin King, Executive Director

\*Weather information from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

\*\*2010 volunteer rate value from [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)

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## 2011 AT A GLANCE

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22 Binational Projects

6173 Volunteers

200 Long-term

5706 Short-term

163 Summer Youth

104 RV

703 Clients Served

Clean ups 485

Minor repairs 146

Major Repairs 38

Houses rebuilt 34

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