



Mennonite Disaster Service

2013 AT A GLANCE

12	Binational Projects
4,277	Volunteers
286	Long-term
3,692	Short-term
213	Summer Youth
86	RV
323	Clients Served

Clean ups	75
Minor repairs	175
Major Repairs	59
Houses rebuilt	14

God’s faithfulness was manifested in countless situations this year through MDS.

I see God’s grace at work when I read reports from our disaster response sites. Long after MDS leaves a community, the volunteers are still remembered. In a recent letter from Karen Griffen of Julian, CA, (recipient of an MDS-built home after her home was destroyed by wildfires) she writes: “[MDS volunteers] turned our nightmares into blessings...the world is a far better place because of your work. We love our Mennonite home and tell everyone who sees it the story of its creation. Thank you all for restoring our faith.”

Significant weather events in 2013 where MDS volunteers turned “nightmares into blessings” include: February - Hattiesburg, MS, tornados; April - Illinois floods; May –Texas and Oklahoma tornados and floods in Alaska; June – Colorado and Arizona wildfires and Alberta floods; September – Colorado floods; November – Illinois and Indiana tornados. In addition to these disasters MDS continued to respond to the floods in Minot, ND, and Duluth, MN, wildfires in Bastrop, TX, and floods and damage from Hurricane Sandy in New York and Maryland.

In 2013, 4,277 MDS volunteers worked 24,912 days, a value of \$4,412,413 (based on a volunteer rate of \$22.14/hour*). Additional volunteers served in many Unit and Regional responses. If MDS would list this value on our financial statements as an expense, our overhead percentage would be under 12%. It is important to note that most all of our staffing at the project level is filled by volunteers.

“I know you are in the business of raising houses, but you also raised spirits, including mine,” wrote one homeowner from Marseilles, IL. I pray that MDS will remain faithful to our mission in 2014 as we continue to “touch lives and nurture hope, faith and wholeness”, as our Mission Statement conveys.

Kevin King
Executive Director

**The estimated US national value of volunteer time for 2012 is \$22.14 per hour from www.independentsector.org*

