



Mennonite Disaster Service

“Love Awakens Hope”

Elizabeth Wilder, a Disaster Management Program student at Hesston College, describes what she saw happen at Ms. Elaine’s house in High River, Alberta, “The love of God transformed a vision and construction materials into a basement, and that transformed a basement into a symbol of hope”.

Hope was awakened by many acts of love. In 2014, 4,181 volunteers worked 26,111 days, a value of \$4,710,424 (based on a volunteer rate of \$22.55/hour*). Additional volunteers served in many Unit and Regional responses showing love to their neighbors in a practical way.

Sandra Lynn Price, chair of the Mississippi VOAD says of MDS volunteers arriving on scene to the Louisville tornados, “When our Mennonite friends are with us, we know we will be okay.”

This past year didn’t have multiple billion-dollar disasters as in the past several years. Nor did it see a major hurricane like 2012’s Super Storm Sandy that caused over \$65 billion in damages. But there were some unique disasters and officials say there may be more to come. Last February saw the massive mudslide in Oso, Washington, wiping out 49 residences and killing 43. Historic snowfall covered New York. Straight-line winds caused damage in multiple locations.

Although other types of disasters dominated the news – cyber stealing, threats to power grids, the Ebola virus epidemic and gun violence and unrest – the multiple tornados, wildfires, and floods that didn’t make the national news made this year the “worst year” for those affected by these disasters.

MDS volunteers left their homes and traveled to the many locations where disasters descended uninvited. This report shows the efforts of these caring workers who cleaned out basements, cut up tree limbs, laid new foundations, and built sturdy houses.

Thanks to your financial support, MDS is financially sound, is equipped with willing volunteers, and with the prayers of many so we can keep rebuilding hope!

To God be the glory,

Kevin King
Executive Director

*www.independentsector.org

2014 AT A GLANCE

3,636	VOLUNTEERS	
376		LONG-TERM	
2,874		SHORT-TERM	
261		SUMMER YOUTH	
125	RV VOLUNTEERS	
463		CLIENTS SERVED	
CLEAN UPS			175
MINOR REPAIRS			227
MAJOR REPAIRS.....			.25
HOUSES REBUILT...			..36