



First WV VOAD Bridge Built!

The first WV VOAD Bridge is built! Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteers led by Peter Thiessen, MDS project director from Okotoks, Alberta, began preparation for the Plumley bridge on December 1st and finished construction on December 9th. The entire construction project took less than 6 work days. The intent behind the WV VOAD Bridge Project is to provide WV families with safe and resilient private

water crossings. The footers for the first bridge were dug behind the creek bed to insure that the flow of water will not be obstructed. MDS funded the construction of this bridge along with donations and discounts from local partners. Local contractor, Barry Harless donated the use of the heavy equipment, Duane Showalter with Broadway Metal Works donated a portion of the rebar, Steve and RD Stowers donated mix cement, and Alger's Excavation donated Woven Geotex to construct the first bridge. All donations big or small will help resiliently bridge the gap in WV. The WV VOAD Adopt-A-Bridge Program enables businesses and organizations to sponsor or co-sponsor a bridges



in the WV community. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Monday December 14th at the Plumley bridge construction site. A representative of Senator Joe Mansion's Office, WV Department of Homeland Security, Lincoln County Floodplain Manager, WV VOAD, MDS, members of the Plumley family and local media were all in attendance. MDS volunteers completed a second bridge in Lincoln county this December, closing 2015 out with two WV VOAD Bridge Project

Bridges. WV VOAD continues to work closely with the families in all counties affected, local and state government and floodplain managers on permits needed to repair and rebuild bridges damaged by spring storms. Permits are completed for the next five bridges and construction for three of those bridges began on Monday January 11th. We look forward to many more ribbon cutting ceremonies in 2016! Learn more about the WV VOAD Bridge Project, view pictures of the first bridge construction, and donate to the WV VOAD Bridge Project by clicking on the following link:

www.wvvoad.org.



In This Issue

- **First WV VOAD Bridge Built**
- **Disaster Preparedness Tips**
- **Your Organization Can Help**
- **Tools for Teams**
- **Long Term Recovery**
- **A Special Thank You**

Disaster Preparedness Tips: Recognizing Hypothermia

Signs of Hypothermia

- Shivering, drowsiness
- Confusion, fumbling hands
- Memory loss, slurred speech

What to Do

- Get the victim into warm shelter
- Remove wet clothing
- Use skin-to-skin contact or electric blanket if available under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels or sheets.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible





Your Organization Can Help

YOUR ORGANIZATION can help highlight the need for Stafford Act assistance in the event of a disaster by illustrating the scale of the event and limitations that impact your ability to address survivor needs. Below is information from the FEMA Damage Assessment Operations Manual on what should be recorded and how it can help show impact. To read the FEMA Damage Assessment Operations Manual follow this link: fema.gov

Emergency Sheltering- Information related to individual shelters, number of schools closed, facilities being used as a shelter, number of residents provided with hotel rooms as part of a sheltering program, support provided by government and partners to assist with emergency shelter, assistance and services

required to support people with access and functional needs in emergency shelters, and the location and population of shelters established to support household pets can help estimate the number of people displaced from their homes and serve as a gauge that can illustrate the magnitude of the disaster.

Mass Feeding- Recording the number and location of fixed feeding sites (by county), the number of vehicles providing mobile feeding, jurisdictions being supported by mobile feeding, number of meals served, and the partners involved in feeding operations information can be helpful in illustrating the scope of the disaster especially when government assistance is required or feeding operations are maintained for more than 72 hours.

organizations are providing client casework assistance, the number of cases opened, number of clients served in cases, number of mental health contacts, types of assistance requested, presence of resources to meet the needs of clients, number of cases expected to be referred for substantive repair or rebuild assistance, and number of cases with unmet needs is helpful in illustrating the disaster impact to survivors in a community.

Bulk Distribution- The quantity and type of assistance provided through the distribution of emergency supplies can also show the scale of an event. Information that should be recorded includes: bulk distribution used to address a critical life saving or sustaining need, number of bulk items distributed, general categories of items distributed,

general categories of items (cleanup kits, shelf-stable meals, medicine), government assistance required, jurisdictions serviced by bulk distribution, volumes of distributed items by type.

Referral Services- Increased call volume and the general type of services requested may also assist with identifying areas of unmet need. Keep track of the number of calls received following the disaster as compared to average call volume, zip codes of the caller, general types of assistance requested, and the presence or absence of a service provider to refer callers to for their need.

All quantifiables and disaster response activity reported to the WV VOAD is passed along to the state to help illustrate the severity of the event and need for Stafford Act assistance.

Information related to individual shelters described in the table below:

Jurisdiction	Shelter Name	Shelter Location	Date Opened	Date Closed	Peak Population	Current population

Tools for Teams



WV VOAD member agencies and volunteers now have access to needed tools for rebuilding and repairing homes damaged by disaster thanks to generous donations of \$1,000 each from the Ohio Conference of the United

Church of Christ, Presbytery WV and Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church! The Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety also granted \$3,400 to purchase a 12'x6' tool trailer to store the new tools in and haul

to work sites. The tools purchased from the donations will improve efficiency as we work together to get displaced WV families back into safe, sanitary and functional homes.

Long Term Recovery Progress

By: Brooke Powell, WV VOAD Disaster Case Manager

After months of bleaching, maneuvering around disintegrating floors, and desperately trying to rid the air of any mold, what was once a home now serves as a reminder of tragedy for a Marrowbone Creek family in Kermit, WV. On March 4, 2015 the husband, wife and their two sons fled from danger to seek higher elevation as water swallowed their mobile home. Family members took refuge in their vehicle while water crept into every room of their

home. Five inches of water stayed stagnant in the home for 2 days, contributing to the deterioration. The family of four have lived in their home for 15 years and now are coping with the reality that their home is uninhabitable and poses serious risks to their health. With a FEMA Individual Assistance declaration denied and the family's low fixed income, the only option left is to reach out for help. With no family in the area other than their sister, who was also

flooded, their resources and support are slim. Making this family's strife even harder to bear is their son's physical impairment and own decreased health. In their own fight towards recovery the family has torn down underpinning to try to dry out insulation under home, ripped up carpet to get rid of any trapped moisture, and put down plywood over areas where the floor is disintegrating, as well as hanging up curtains to block off hazardous areas of their home. After months of working with the

family to find the best solution to meet their needs, WV VOAD and Mingo County Long Term Recovery have arranged for the family to soon move into a new home. The Mingo County Long Term Recovery Group is coordinating volunteer teams throughout the next few months to help fulfill the long term recovery plan. Keep up to date with this family's recovery progress and others on the WV VOAD webpage: wvvoad.org and Facebook page.

Long Term Recovery Updates

- World Renew arrived on January 14th and will be working in Mingo, Logan and Wayne County on flood recovery
- The United Church of Christ (UCC) is working with Mingo County Long Term Recovery to help with Mingo County's recovery from spring flooding. The UCC will also be working on Kanawha County's recovery from Christmas day flooding.
- Church of the Brethren will be arriving in February to help with recovery needs in Boone, Lincoln and several other counties.

Christmas Day Flooding Families Affected

Kanawha-44

Cabell-1

Lincoln-3

Roane-1

Putnam-1

- 17 homes with major damage or destroyed and 33 homes with minor damages

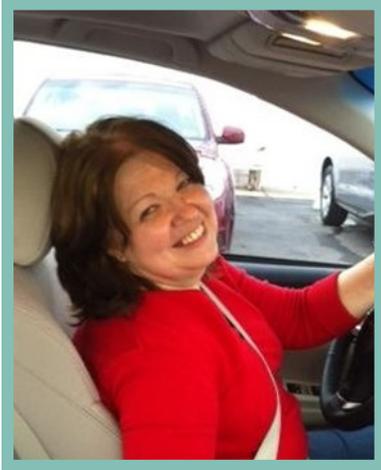
American Red Cross-Opened cases and provided clean-up kits, comfort kits and shovels.

American Baptist Men-Mucked out homes

United Church of Christ-Clean-up kits

United Methodist-Clean-up kits

WV VOAD and member agencies are developing long term recovery plans for the families affected by Christmas day flooding



 **A Special Thank You**

Member agencies of WV VOA would like to wish Joann Fleming their best as she retires on January 28th.

Joann became involved with WV VOA in August 2008 and has been very active in all phases of response for the eight years she has been involved. Joanne served on the WV VOA Board of Directors for three years and has been instrumental in growing the organization and expanding the services provided. Joann will truly be missed by all that have worked with her. God Bless you Joann!!

**Your contribution to our lives
Will never be forgotten
Your love for us all these years
Has spoilt us rotten
Your encouragement all this time
Has kept us motivated
Your cheerful company has
Always kept us satiated
We are sad and grumpy
To let you leave like this
We wish you a happy retirement
May your life be full of bliss
~anonyms**



West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster is a humanitarian association of independent organizations that may be active in all phases of disaster. Its mission is to identify unmet needs and facilitate efficient streamlined service delivery to those imperiled or impacted by disaster while eliminating duplication of effort through cooperation, coordination, communication, collaboration in the four phases of disaster: preparation, response, recovery and mitigation. West Virginia is a member of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

TO SUBMIT ARTICLES, PICUTRES, IDEAS, AND INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL CHRISTINE WILBERT BY CLICKING ON THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW:

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