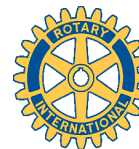




## Joining Hands



### Mission Statement

Christians, Rotarians and Likeminded Individuals  
providing recovery assistance to victims of hurricanes, tornados, floods and  
other natural or man-made disasters occurring in the United States

**2014 WAS ANOTHER BUSY YEAR, with building missions in both Aurora North Carolina and in Crisfield Maryland. Ninety-seven Volunteers came together from Churches, Rotary Clubs and Technical Schools to rebuild storm damaged homes and to restore broken lives.**

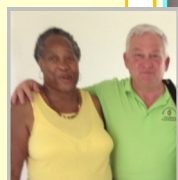
### **AURORA NORTH CAROLINA**

In the Spring of 2014, a team returned for our fourth mission with the North Carolina United Methodist Conference Recovery Ministries. This time we worked in Aurora on the south side of Pamlico Sound. The city of Aurora covers one square mile and boasts a population of 520. Aurora has a history of attracting fossil hunters eager to discover what's buried under the city — prehistoric fossils. But in August 2011, Hurricane Irene created havoc along the East Coast, causing building damage to residential, commercial and church properties. Now people come to Aurora to rebuild rather than dig up.



Our project was to assist financially and with volunteers in the building of a new home for Diane, whose modular home was swept away by Irene. After the storm, Diane moved to her father's home. When her father passed away, Diane and her sister had hopes of inheriting the house, only to learn that their father had a reverse mortgage on the property and there was no remaining equity. Additionally, Diane lost her job through no fault of her own; the housekeeping contractor she worked for lost their contract.

The newly constructed house is now home to both Diane and her sister, who is on kidney dialysis.



Diane with  
NCUMC Sptd.  
Cliff Harvell

### **CRISFIELD MARYLAND**

Following Storm Sandy, New York and New Jersey got most of the attention. But small, coastal towns were also devastated. In Crisfield Maryland, located on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Somerset County, tidal flood waters of the Bay came into homes and businesses. Over 1,000 homes qualified for restoration assistance.

Crisfield, built on oyster shells, was founded in 1666 and by 1904 became the second largest city in the state, after Baltimore, fueled by the seafood industry and agriculture along with the ability to ship product via the railroad.

Today, its 2700 residents are facing the reality of rising water levels and more severe storms. How does a town with a living history in the seafood industry and a culture that spans many generations of watermen, survive and move forward? With open minded long-range planning that includes homes elevated 2-3 feet above the newly established flood projections; restoration of marshlands and off-shore barriers; a new city dock fortified to withstand higher waters and turbulent storms. In the end, the preservation of a way of life that is forever tied to the water.



Working under the guidance of Ben Botti, Peninsula-Delaware Conference Sandy Recovery, Joining Hands worked on several homes.



Read Mark and Diane's story on page 4





Dauphin County Technical School  
Crisfield Maryland, March 2014  
Students: Marshall Everett, Whitney Faust, Kacey Fry, Kayla Lucas, Zach Logan, Autumn Pate, Tyquan Reddick, Jailene Santiago, Sofia Tadych, Hannah Welter and Cameron Williard  
Advisors: Bob Brightbill, Tim Carroll, Sharon Deiling, and Connie Kennedy



Team to Crisfield, April 2014  
(L to R) Glenn Walz, Dena Ament, Clarence and Susan Asbury, Carol Lee Tieman, Alan Patton, Wil Burkhart, Dave Lawrence



Team to Aurora North Carolina  
May 2014  
(L to R) Peg Sennett, Chris Erickson, Jan Johnson, Trudy Groves, Jayne Lee, Wayne Lee and Lorraine Mason



Dauphin County Technical School, to Crisfield Maryland, September 2014  
Students: Jennifer Becker, Matt Boyer, Clayton Farly, Whitney Faust, Noah Ganer, Alex Hain, Leah Hughes, Brandon Jordon, Andriy Leycock, Zach Logan, Cody Negrete, Autumn Pate, Jailene Santiago, Christian Taylor, Angelina Valequez, Cameron Williard, and Anne Zelonis  
Advisors: Bob Brightbill, Tim Carrol, Sharon Deiling and Connie Kennedy



Cumberland Perry Technical School to Crisfield Maryland  
October 2014  
(Front L to R) Travis Lawyer, Nathan Shank, Wyatt Seig  
Back L to R) Laren Baker, Gwendolyn Anderson, Kylie Bastiany, School Director Justin Bruhn, Baylee Jenkins, Advisor Ann Burk, Saige Fickes, David Thompson, Sydney Kemrer, Stephanie Stoner



Team to Crisfield, October 2014  
(L to R) Henry Ely, Tim Lehman, Jim Greene, Phil Lehman  
Missing from the photo: Clarence Asbury, Susan Asbury, Dan Flint



Team to Crisfield MD, Oct 2014  
(L to R) Sue Boyne, Tom Gruber, Shirley Cleaver and Dave Lawrence



Team to Crisfield Maryland, October 2014  
(L to R) Deb Dupler, Jan Johnson, Mary Collins, Chris Erickson, Claudia Summerson, Cindy Selby, Nate Dupler, Sara Newcomer. Missing is Lorraine Mason



Team to Crisfield Maryland, October 2014  
(L to R) Glen Walz, Dena Ament, Ruth Daugherty, Eudora Roseman.  
Missing from the photo: David Ament, Connie Brown, Wil Burkhart, Rich Wurst







**Crisfield Maryland project.** Diane and Mark, along with their children, Timmy, Rachel and Noelle, were proud to live in a home built by Diane's great grandfather, with additions added by her grandfather and father.

Mark works as a prison guard and a crabber. Diane is employed in the Bakery at Food Lion. Rachel attends Nursing School in Salisbury and Noelle is in grade school. At the time of Sandy, Timmy was in the National Guard.

The family has experienced multiple tragedies starting with Sandy. During the storm they had extensive roof damage and the power went off. That night there was an unusual high tide. Although the family is a distance from the water, they had four feet of tidal surge in their yard. During the night, Mark got up to check the house and found water in the first floor bedroom up to his knees. He woke the rest of the family. They were unable to leave the home as debris from the storm was piled as high as the fence.

The next day, their son arrived with the National Guard. He brought them high power fans and they worked at drying the house, removing walling, flooring and other water damaged items. They tried to stay in the home but the mildew and decaying odors were too strong. They moved to a motel to decide what they needed to do.

The family received some FEMA money that was used to replace the roof and to help secure a place to rent. Diane said one of the hardest times was ripping out her grandfather's handmade cherry cabinets.

Like many other homes, vandals broke in, holding parties and ransacking personal items.

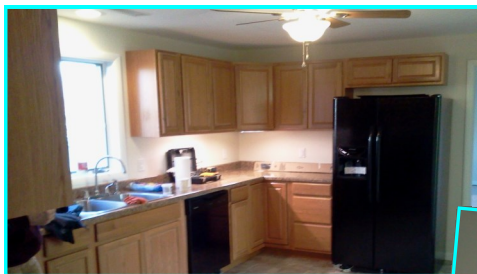
The worst blow was the death of their 28 year-old son, Timmy, who died suddenly December 18, 2013, from a massive heart attack. Soon after, Diane and Noelle were robbed at gunpoint. Poor Noelle watched as her mother had a gun pointed to her head. After that, Noelle was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress and received counselling.

The family cannot believe that a group of volunteers from Pennsylvania would provide both financial and hands-on help. The house is now completed, a dedication was held and the family moved back into their home—where they can begin the process of rebuilding their lives. Diane shared, *We had watched other disasters on the TV and always assumed people got back into their homes within a few months. We quickly learned that was not possible. But once the restoration began, the work went faster than expected. Noelle was worried when Joining Hands volunteers coated the drywall in her bedroom with mud. She thought that was the finished product and didn't like the color or all those circles on the wall. And why were they putting mud on the walls anyway? But she got to select the paint colors for her closet, bedroom and play area; now she is thrilled.*

Please continue to hold the family in prayer as they deal with the changes in their lives and some ongoing health issues.



Diane, Mark and Noelle



**In addition to the two major projects in Aurora N. Carolina and Crisfield MD where Joining Hands provided volunteers and financial support, Volunteers also worked on eight other Crisfield homes during the seven work weeks.**

Work included installing and mudding drywall, painting walls and ceilings, installing insulation under crawl spaces, repairing joists and floor boards, framing, painting and installing trim, building a front porch, replacing roof shingles, installing gutters, caulking windows, cleaning up yard debris and installing flooring. Awesome achievements for a group of volunteers!

From the words of Ben Botti, Site Coordinator for Peninsula-Delaware Conference Sandy Recovery, *Crisfield is improving through the efforts of teams just like you. The community greatly appreciates the generous help, not only in the form of financial aid and food donations, but in people giving their time and talent to rebuild homes and restore lives. Most of all, the homeowners express that they are in awe that Christians are serving them without expectation of anything in return. One of the most important benefits of your service is just being the Christian Presence for the people of Crisfield. You are coming into their community as the body of Christ. Your feet are moving in to help—your arms are reaching out in Christian love. Praise God for all of you.*

This work was performed for very grateful homeowners who represented the core of Crisfield's economy—professional watermen and champion crab pickers.

Team Leader, Dena Ament, reported, *Crisfield has a charm about it; the people are friendly and warm. The surrounding countryside, with its marshes, lakes and river views, is beautiful. We were glad to be a small part of the reconstruction of this interesting town, where Super Storm Sandy's winds, heavy rains and surging tides took a terrible toll.*

**A Joining Hands** project is being planned for September—October, 2015.

A location has not been determined at this time; a decision will be made in May.

**Watch incoming emails for details.**



**You're invited to join our good friend, Bart Tucker, in Biloxi this coming August. For more information go to: <http://www.fullercenter.org/disaster-rebuilders>**



**BACK TO  
BILOXI**  
A Fuller Center Disaster  
ReBuilders blitz build  
marking the 10th anniversary  
of Hurricane Katrina.  
**August 24-29, 2015**

**WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN**

## **\$14,175 FINANCING FOR 2014 PROJECTS CAME FROM:**

- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hanover PA
- Rotary Club of Hanover, PA
- Rotary Club of Colonial Park, PA
- Rotary Club of Lancaster North East, PA
- Rotary Club of Paradise, PA
- The Better Than Average Foundation, Wrightsville PA
- Trudy Groves, Appling GA
- Peg Sennett, Hanover PA
- Carol Lee Tieman, Ocean Grove NJ
- Rotary Club of Carlisle, PA
- Pete and Sally Berlowitz, Columbia MD
- Rotary Club of Eastern York County, PA
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church Youth Group, Hanover PA



The Youth of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hanover, PA presented a check to Peg Sennett in the amount of \$275.18. The money was raised from the Youth's annual pie auction and will be used to purchase tools .

Through the coordination of volunteer, Carol Lee Tieman, Joining Hands received an awesome supply of Stanley tools, including hammers, demolition tools and utility knives, from the American Red Cross, Jersey Coast Chapter.

Many thanks go to Christopher Dempsey for offering us these much needed items.

## **MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE 501c(3) DONATION TO JOINING HANDS**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF COLONIAL PARK FOUNDATION  
118 E. ELM AVENUE, HANOVER PA 17331**

All donations go towards tools and building supplies for Joining Hands projects



### **JOINING HANDS LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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