

Crossnore Presbyterian Hurricane Relief and Recovery - January 12, 2025

Over the past four months since Hurricane Helene devastated the mountain communities of Western North Carolina, we have raised \$117,000 **(from individuals, churches, and foundations) and more contributions continue to come in. Thanks be to God!** Contributions have come from all over the country and even as far as Canada! We have spent over \$40,000 on relief and recovery projects. That leaves us with a balance of \$77,000 and we are still receiving donations. Thanks to everyone who has donated in every way: money, time, and resources! God is good! FEMA, Samaritan's Purse, churches, service groups, and businesses are continuing the ongoing work of rebuilding lives and homes. Because of the deep relationships our congregation has fostered over the years with the non-profit organizations in Avery County, we are using our funds and volunteers to help meet the direct needs of those who have lost everything, those who are beginning to rebuild their homes, and those who cannot pay their rent, mortgage, or fill their propane tanks. Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte is paying for a part-time assistant, Bobbie Willard, who is assisting our church with hurricane relief and recovery projects and Covenant is also splitting the cost of these projects. What a great gift!

Below are some of the highlights of how our donations have been used in the past couple of months:

- Home goods have been purchased for 11 low-income residents whose Linville Cove apartments were flooded. Reaching Avery Ministry, Volunteer Avery County, and Covenant Presbyterian Church are providing furniture and appliances. The residents will hopefully return to their newly renovated apartments by the end of January.
- 9 culverts were purchased and the non-profit, Bridges for Avery, installed the culverts enabling residents to access their property by car. As of the end of December '24, over 45 culverts have been installed.
- A new roof was installed for a family whose damaged roof was not covered by FEMA or insurance (our church, Reaching Avery Ministry, Grandfather Community Foundation, and Covenant Presbyterian Church shared the cost)
- Our church is covering the extra cost of rent for a family who had to move to a more expensive apartment because their landlord would not remediate the mold on their walls due to the hurricane.
- A 50-gallon water heater was purchased and installed in a home that was flooded and is now renovated.
- Sheet rock, tape, and mud were provided to rebuild walls in a house that was flooded.
- A stack dryer was purchased and installed for a home that was flooded and is now renovated.
- Materials were purchased to winterize a camper trailer for a family waiting for a permanent home.

We are working very closely with Avery County Habitat for Humanity, Reaching Avery Ministry, Volunteer Avery County, and other non-profits to learn about the real needs we can address and how to share our resources to cover larger projects. With financial assistance from multiple non-profits, James Eury was hired in December and will be responsible for evaluating, confirming needs, and referring to appropriate services. This will help streamline resources to Hurricane Helene survivors for short-term or long-term services. There will be so much more to report as we continue to support our sisters and brothers who are recovering from the worst natural disaster in Western NC in their lifetime. **Please continue to keep them and all those who are assisting in your prayers.**

Thanks again for your support!

Blessings,
Pastor Kathy

Additional "Avery County" Hurricane Information, Relief, and Recovery Efforts:

- 90 buildings were destroyed, 145 buildings received major damage, and 241 buildings received minor damage.
- It will take millions of dollars to clear out and clean up rivers and streams in counties hit by the hurricane.
- Appalachian Service Project is providing funds and volunteers to help build five homes and plans on building more homes.
- A Thanksgiving meal for 2,000 people in Avery County was prepared by a Lion's Club from Ohio.
- Eric Church is promising to provide 100 Clayton mobile homes.

- Grandfather Country Club and Elk River County Club are providing grants for hurricane victims.
- Eseeola Lodge used its kitchen and dining room for a temporary Senior Center through December.
- Avery Habitat for Humanity paid the monthly mortgages for its homeowners and the monthly salaries for the staff who were not able to work after the hurricane.
- Covenant Presbyterian Church (Charlotte) filled the food pantry at Reaching Avery Ministry a week after the hurricane and is coming to Avery County on a regular basis to volunteer in hurricane recovery.
- Hay and feed for livestock and horses were delivered by the truckload.
- Pack mules delivered medicine and supplies to homes that could not be reached by car.
- The Italian Restaurant opened the morning after the hurricane and fed over 500 people.
- Feeding Avery Families continues to provide food even though MANNA Food bank, their main provider, was destroyed in the hurricane.
- Fire Departments and churches cooked meals daily and provided basic resources for weeks after the hurricane.
- Avery Humane Society gave away free pet food that was donated to them.

FEMA Hurricane Relief and Recovery for 39 North Carolina counties and tribal members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians as of January 3, 2025:

- \$7.5 million in public assistance grants to Avery County.
- \$295 million approved to 143,000+ households and individuals beginning their recovery. That includes money to help rent a home or apartment as survivors begin their recovery.
- \$307 million in Public Assistance funding approved to support community recovery.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration is still accepting low-interest loan applications. To date more than 10,000 loan applications have been received, with 2,639 approved for more than \$192 million. Of that, \$34.5 million in low-interest disaster loans have been paid directly to North Carolina survivors.
- FEMA is providing multiple temporary housing options to meet North Carolinians' individual needs. The first step to receiving housing assistance is applying with FEMA.
- More than 5,400 households are using Transitional Sheltering Assistance hotels and motels.
- FEMA has contracted with 15 commercial parks to be able to place units and the agency is working with 16 other parks for potential contracting purposes.
- More than 2.4 million cubic yards of debris has been removed from public rights of way by FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and contractors.
- More than \$36.7 million in federal unemployment benefits have been provided to more than 6,200 survivors.

Samaritan's Purse provided and continues to provide a wide range of assistance to hurricane survivors, including:

- Relief supplies: Delivered tons of supplies, including generators, cold weather clothing, and water
- Volunteer teams: Deployed thousands of volunteers to clean up homes, remove debris, and tarp roofs
- Airlift operations: Coordinated hundreds of relief flights to deliver supplies to remote communities
- Ground transportation: Delivered supplies by vehicle to remote areas
- Emergency field hospital units: Set up units with triage support, oxygen, and medicine
- Water filtration units: Set up units in areas where the water pipeline network was destroyed
- Rebuilding: Plans to replace manufactured homes, repair stick-built homes, and construct new stick-built homes
- Furniture assistance: Provide furniture assistance
- Church grants: Provide grants to churches