



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

JOINING HANDS – CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

In 2006, I wrote in our first newsletter:

The restoration work we have accomplished, since Hurricane Katrina hit the Mississippi coast in August 2005, continues to amaze me. We started in January 2006 with a thought, could we adopt a family? Could we tell them that we would do everything we could to get them back into their home? And after making the commitment, could we follow through with volunteers and financial support?

When I wrote those words I was thinking short-term; one to two years, then our work would be done. Volunteers would stop arriving; funds would stop supporting. I certainly could not imagine Joining Hands still being strong after ten years. Since that hot January in Biloxi Mississippi, Joining Hands has restored homes in Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Maryland. A total of 490 people have offered their hands, hearts and talents to assist those with no financial means to move back into their homes. Each year I'm amazed at what's achieved.

The story of Joining Hands seems impossible to believe. But my words from 2006 continue to ring true: *Early in 2006 I learned a lesson in regards to coordinating a restoration project – I learned not to worry. This has been God's project since the beginning and if Joining Hands is to continue – then Volunteers and financial donations will keep coming, as I believe they will.*

As we begin our second decade, climate trends indicate there will be no shortage of work. And if we follow God's lead, the Joining Hands mission will continue. Aging volunteers will be replaced with younger, more flexible folks; new churches will answer the call to financially support our projects; different Rotary clubs will adopt Joining Hands as a service project. We only need to keep our hearts open to the call.

Peg Sennett



Joining Hands recently returned to Crisfield Maryland to continue the work of restoring homes severely damaged by Storm Sandy. The storm struck on October 3rd, 2012. Long-term recovery, under the leadership of Ben Botti and Gordy Taylor from the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) Pen-Del Conference, started the following Spring. Since that time, 212 homes have been refurbished through the talents of over 3,000 volunteers. Funding for the projects came from the American Red Cross (\$500,000 grant), UMCOR (\$500,000 grant), and Volunteer donations (\$150,000).

Over a four-week period in September and October, 64 Joining Hands volunteers worked on three different homes. Skilled workers were needed in Carol's home. After UMCOR determined Carol's eligibility for services, it was discovered that the house had extensive termite and electrical damage. Joining Hands volunteers installed a new electrical system and removed and rebuilt an outside wall and windows. Work began on an interior section of the home, installing drywall/mudding, painting, and flooring so that Carol could return home.

Shirley's home was almost finished when Joining Hands arrived. Volunteers removed the kitchen floor and replaced it with new laminate flooring. A recent widow, Shirley is the son of Gordy Taylor.

Mary and Monte, retirees, needed new insulation and drywall. With no complaints, volunteers Bill Chicowski and Barb Landis worked under the house for two days to install vapor barrier, crawling around on oyster shells with a 12"-24" head clearance.

Our primary project was Pastor Pat and Ray's home. This couple lived in northeastern Pennsylvania and traveled to Crisfield two times after the storm to work on homes. Ray has extensive experience in home renovations and recently retired. They fell in love with the town and its people and Pat felt inspired to move to Crisfield. They packed up their possessions and moved without a pastoral appointment or a place to live. Pat accepted a part-time call at two small Methodist churches and, without any equity of their own, bought this severely-damaged home in July. Ray's intention was to complete all work himself, but the magnitude of the project was overwhelming. Joining Hands worked inside the home, hanging drywall/mudding/sanding, painting, installing cabinets and completing necessary miscellaneous carpentry work. Ray was on the site most days, quietly offering his assistance and guidance, "It was a great moment when the first piece of drywall went up".





Crisfield, a quiet fishing town, peaked in the early 1900s with more sailing and fishing boats than anywhere else in the U.S. Fishing was so plentiful that nine train loads of seafood left the city daily. Life has changed in this town built on Oyster shells; while fishing is still productive, the volume is less and the pace of the town much quieter. In reflecting on our work in Crisfield, we hope that our efforts have provided sustainability to this lovely part of the Maryland Eastern Shore.



Peninsula Delaware Conference
of The United Methodist Church
Hurricane Sandy Recovery
3480 Freedomtown Road
Crisfield, MD 410-968-1108

November 6, 2015

Mrs. Margaret Sennett
118 E. Elm Avenue
Hanover, PA 17331-1823

Re: Rotary support of Crisfield recovery operations

Dear Peg,

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Crisfield Hurricane Sandy Recovery Team for your support these last two years. The support you have lent in both numbers of volunteers and monetarily has been a blessing not only to our staff here at Union-Asbury, but to the entire Crisfield community.

Your volunteers have been enjoyable to be around and knowledgeable about construction, too. And the monetary support has been significant and enabled us to reach more people than we otherwise might have been able to.

Please express our gratitude to the Rotary International and to all of your volunteers.

In Christ and for the entire Crisfield team,
Peninsula-Delaware Conference Sandy Response Team

Ben Botti
Site Coordinator

THE WEEK WASN'T ALL WORK.....

Dauphin County Technical School was welcomed back to the

church where they stayed last year. And on Thursday they were treated to a Chesapeake Bay cruise. The

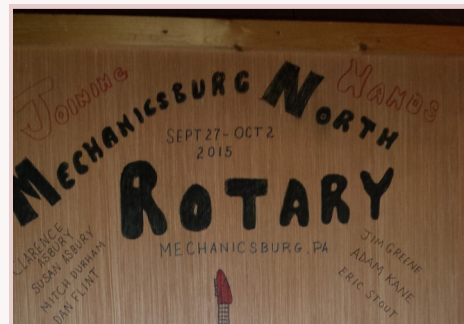
students wrote in their journal, *After a wonderful day of working, we ended it with a lovely Chesapeake Bay cruise.*

It was nice to settle down and appreciate what Crisfield has to offer. During the cruise, the boat owner was able to lift up a crab trap from the water. There were so many crabs in the trap we couldn't believe it. A favorite part of our cruise was seeing the most beautiful sunset ever. All of us had smiles on our faces as we snapped a bunch of pictures. The boat ride was about two and a half hours as it came to an end around eight. We were all so thankful to be able to experience that moment. It was the perfect way to end our night. Everyone is so thrilled to go back to work tomorrow!



Adult volunteers also had fun. Each week, town plumber, Bill Buttrill, who works on UMCOR projects, treated us to steamed crabs. Yum! Yum! A very appreciated treat. There were also quiet warm nights by the campfire, complete with adult refreshments from the trunk of a volunteer's car.

The sleeping quarters were quite adequate and volunteers have added art work to the bunk bed walls to make the atmosphere more welcoming and entertaining. Susan Asbury, from team Clarence, added a Rotarian touch to the art gallery.



TEAM CLARENCE

(Top row l. to r.) Clarence Asbury, Jim Greene, Eric Stout, Adam Kane
(Bottom row l. to r.) Susan Asbury, Mitch Durham, Dan Flint



TEAM BOB AND DAUPHIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

From left to right: Tim Carroll, Cassandra Soi, Bob Brightbill, Marianna Baylor, Michael Laskowski, Connie Kennedy, Noah Gainor, Kyle Kelly, Kyle Felty, Josh Negron, Jessica Crone, Ryan Holste, Jennifer Becker, Clayton Early, Brittany Leining, Sharon Deiling, Kylie Aurand.



TEAM PEG

(l. to r.) Phil Lehman, Wayne Lee, Jan Johnson, Jayne Lee, Mary Collins, Lorraine Mason, Trudy Groves, Henry Ely, Jeff Sennett, Peg Sennett, Tim Lehman, Wayne Butler, Chris Erickson



TEAM DENA

(First row l. to r.) Dena Ament, Eudora Roseman, Cindy Anderson*, Barb Landis*, Monty Anderson*
 (Second row l. to r.) Sandi Flynn*, Bob Rowley*, Jim Rowley*, Jan Helsel*, Harold Shirk
 (Third row l. to r.) Glenn Walz, Bill Chicowski*, Mark Studer*, Rich Wurst
 (Fourth row l. to r.) Wil Burkhart, Jim Helsel*, Dave Lawrence

(Not pictured) Jill and Peter Clayton, Judy and Adam Paterson, Ruth Daugherty

**Under the leadership of Sandi Flynn, a new group from Nesh-Warwick Presbyterian Church in Warminster PA joined us this year. We welcome them to the Joining Hands family.*

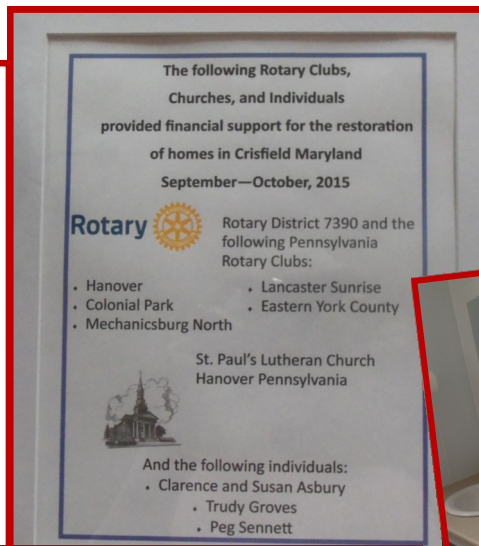


**Joining Hands raised \$10,000.00
for this Crisfield project**

The money purchased materials for the homes.

A \$5,000.00 Rotary District 7390 grant with the Rotary Club of Hanover paid for materials to build five volunteer showers and two wash stations. These units were installed in the vacant church that houses the volunteers. When the Crisfield project is finished, UMCOR will move the showers to a different disaster location.

The grant also purchased appliances and cabinets for Pat and Ray's home.



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

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
THE ROTARY CLUB OF HANOVER PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE FUND
118 E. ELM AVENUE, HANOVER PA 17331**

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

Welcome Clarence and thank you Randy.....

Since 2008, **Randy Sibert** has led eight teams and has served on the Leadership Team, but he is now hanging up his disaster response hat. Randy's dedication, in arranging teams and developing the support of his Rotary Club, has tremendously contributed to the success of Joining Hands. Randy, thank you for sharing your talents and friendship.

We now welcome **Clarence Asbury** to the Leadership Team. Clarence has led five teams since 2009, bringing with him a wealth of home renovation knowledge, along with the manpower and financial support of his church and Rotary Club. Clarence, we look forward to your continuing support for years to come.

JOINING HANDS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Peg Sennett

Founder
Phone: 717-630-8281
Email: pegsennett@hotmail.com

Phil Lehman

Construction Coordinator
Phone: 717-606-2671
Email: plehman@warfelcc.com

Clarence Asbury

Construction Coordinator
Phone: 717-514-2600
Email: casbury@comcast.net

Dena Ament

Construction Coordinator
Phone: 717-330-8628
Email: dena1363@hotmail.com