

### OUR PURPOSE

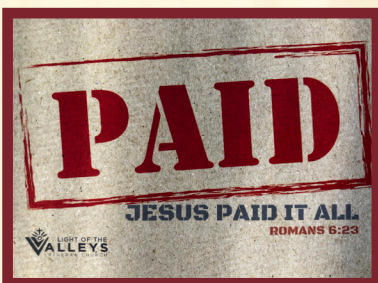
WELS Christian Aid and Relief (CAR) is one of our synod's ministries of compassion. Galatians 6:10 guides our ministry: "As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." In response to our Savior's mercy, and using the gifts generously supplied by his people, CAR seeks to do good by bringing physical relief to victims of natural disasters in the form of cash, grants, food, clothing, medical supplies, and volunteer labor. WELS Christian Aid and Relief also partners with WELS Home and World Missions to support humanitarian aid projects, such as boreholes in Africa, food assistance in Ukraine, and school supplies for low-income families in Colorado and Texas. Such efforts help build relationships and provide opportunities to share the good news of Jesus. As faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us, CAR conducts careful assessments and distributes funds first through our WELS congregations and missions.

### DID YOU KNOW?



In addition to disaster relief and humanitarian aid projects, WELS Christian Aid and Relief also assists local WELS congregations as they help their members through major medical emergencies and financial crises. Perhaps you have a member dealing with overwhelming medical bills or an unexpected and oppressive financial challenge. This also includes supporting congregational efforts to provide aid and relief to your community recovering from a natural disaster. We are here to help! Contact CAR Director Dan Sims to find out how we can assist you in your local efforts.

### Pandemic Relief Project Reno, Nevada



WELS Home Mission congregation Light of the Valleys Lutheran Church was one of 24 that received a pandemic relief matching grant through a joint project between Christian Aid and Relief and WELS Home Missions. Pastor Joel Heckendorf and his congregation offered gift cards to local restaurants

and shopping malls with an invitation to their Easter service. Many lives were touched by this generous gift, contacts were made for follow up, and a family came to Easter service that had not been in church for 12 years. What a wonderful opportunity to reflect Christ's compassion and reach out with his saving love.



## DISASTER RELIEF HIGHLIGHTS

WELS Christian Aid and Relief continues to offer financial assistance and volunteer help in areas hit hard by natural disasters. Through eleven months of this fiscal year, \$841,096 in relief assistance has been given including \$396,931 for pandemic relief. Here are some highlights.



**South Central District Winter Storm:** In February 2021 many WELS congregations and members in Texas experienced frozen pipes and flooding due to a severe winter storm. CAR assisted numerous churches and individuals with financial grants to help with repairs. Volunteers gathered at Grace in Scroggins to assist with replacing flooring and drywall damaged by flooding.



**Pandemic Relief:** The pandemic is a problem, but it is also an opportunity to give help and hope. In that spirit, WELS Christian Aid and Relief and WELS Home Missions recently gave \$166,300 (part of the aforementioned \$396,931) in matching grants to WELS mission congregations that presented plans for pandemic relief and outreach. These congregations are reaching out to their communities to help those who are hurting with food for the hungry, counseling services for those who are struggling with anxiety or depression, help with rent and utility bills for those who are out of work, and many other forms of support. As they help people with their physical and psychological needs, they will also be directing people to the One who fulfills their spiritual needs: Jesus Christ, our Savior and theirs. It is truly a wonderful opportunity to “do good to all people” (Galatians 6:10) and to share “the reason for the hope that [we] have” (1 Peter 3:15). WELS Christian Aid and Relief is also offering similar pandemic relief grants to all WELS congregations.

## HUMANITARIAN AID HIGHLIGHTS

WELS Christian Aid and Relief works with WELS Home and World Missions to support projects that meet community needs and create opportunities to share the gospel of Christ. Following are some of the ways humanitarian aid grants during 2021-2022 will assist in gospel outreach efforts.

**Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM):** CAMM’s mission statement reads, “We provide Christ-centered healthcare supporting gospel ministry.” WELS Christian Aid and Relief supports the work of CAMM as it provides necessary medical care and nutrition through four clinics. Many who come to the clinics hear the good news of their Savior.

**Malawi and Zambia:** WELS Christian Aid and Relief will support drilling boreholes in Zambia. These boreholes provide safe, sustainable, and reliable drinking water for many. They also help to build bridges and open doors in the communities they serve so that our brothers and sisters in the Lutheran Church of Central Africa can share the living water of Jesus.

**Others:** WELS Christian Aid and Relief gave grants for food assistance, health clinics, and medical aid in Indonesia, Albania, Bulgaria, Russia, Mexico, Venezuela, Asia, and more.

## LOOKING AHEAD: DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING

WELS Christian Aid and Relief is working to enhance our disaster relief ministry in the years ahead, including developing disaster training materials and conducting training meetings for our WELS congregations. We hope to train and equip coordinators and other volunteers in all 12 WELS districts to respond to disasters quickly, effectively, and compassionately.

To find more information, make a donation, or volunteer, please visit [wels.net/relief](https://wels.net/relief).

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