

Volunteers in Mission



Love In Action

WPAUMC.ORG

The United Methodist **Volunteers In Mission** movement is one of the most exciting things happening in the church. In 2011, well over 1,000 persons from our Western PA Conference served on UMVIM teams.

Volunteers in Mission are people with a passion for mission. They answer the call to share their gifts and skills where needed, without charge--locally, nationally and internationally, as individual volunteers or with teams. They exemplify the VIM motto--Christian love in action.

Whether the need is local or halfway around the world, teams of volunteers often can help. One of the best things about the United Methodist connection is that our denomination offers training and expertise to help form mission teams and gives individuals many ways to connect with others who want to make a difference. Seventy-five people received leader training in Western PA last year.

Trained early response volunteers are among the first to aid in recovery after natural disasters like the tornadoes that destroyed towns in Indiana, Kentucky and other areas this year. United Methodist volunteers remain on the scene until recovery is complete.



Volunteers in Mission also build ramps to make homes accessible, do repairs, feed the hungry, assemble and process UMCOR relief kits, provide clothing and offer children's programs. Most important of all, they build relationships.

Recognize and pray for the **Volunteers in Mission** in your congregation. Give to a special offering to support "VIMships", scholarships for volunteers who may need financial help to participate in a VIM experience.

"**Volunteers in Mission** are not paid to do the work they do. It's costly to take a week off work, get to a mission location, and pay for food and a place to sleep" notes Mission/Volunteers in Mission Director Diane Miller.

Your generosity will help keep love in action. Give through your church today!

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Sunday

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Through UMVIM, anyone from any size congregation can volunteer to do mission work almost any time of year. Learn more at wpaumc.org/VIM. To subscribe to the weekly Mission e-news, e-mail Diane.Miller@wpaumc.org.

District VIM Coordinators

Contact one of these leaders for information, to share ideas or volunteer.

Butler: Dick Craig, 724-652-7314, craigrk1@verizon.net

Connellsville: Mark Blair – 814-798-3671 – revmrbl@live.com

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Greensburg: Emma Smith, 724-622-1613, elsmith4@msn.com

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WPA VIM Teams - 2012

Here are some upcoming VIM opportunities. Contact Diane.Miller@wpaumc.org if you want to join a team or have space available on a team from your church.

- **Susquehanna Flood Recovery** – May 20-26; cost \$100; Leaders--Dave Mitchell and Dick Rishel (rishel219@yahoo.com); St. Paul's UMC Allison Park
- **Joplin, MO, Tornado Recovery**-- Two teams scheduled April 29-May 5; others to follow. Contact Diane.miller@wpaumc.org
- **L'viv, Ukraine**, August 6-16, 2012, focus on young adults; Leader--Rev. Jim Walker; Cost: \$1800
- **Zimbabwe, Nyadire UM Mission Trips** are scheduled May 10-27; July 19-August 5; -and August 2-19. Space is limited. For information, e-mail info@nyadire.org.