

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 today. In 2011, over 100,000 persons 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, volunteer teams often can help. One of the best things about the United Methodist connection is that our denomination offers training to 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 Team volunteers are often among the first on the scene after a natural disaster, and the United Methodist

Committee on Relief remains until recovery is complete so UMVIM teams continue to serve. Already this year multiple teams and individual volunteers from WPA have served in Joplin, Missouri, assisting with recovery from last year's tornado; in areas of our neighbor Susquehanna Conference recovering from flooding last fall; and in Alabama where tornados devastated homes last year and again this spring.

Other Volunteers in Mission serve those living in poverty or with special needs. They build ramps to make homes accessible, do repairs, feed the hungry, assemble and process UMCOR relief kits, provide clothing, offer children's programs like Vacation Bible School and build relationships.

"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 Coordinator Diane Miller.

You can support Volunteers in Mission's work around the world with your prayers, your financial support or as a volunteer.



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Through UMVIM, anyone from any size congregation can volunteer to do mission work 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 – revmrb@live.com

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Pittsburgh: Fred Watts, 412-913-3631, fcwatts@verizon.net

Washington: Rosella Ealy, 724-931-5496, reynac@aol.com

WPA VIM Teams - 2012

Check wpaumc.org for expanded and updated list of teams.

• **Upper New York**, July 22 - 28,

2012. Contact Diane Miller diane.miller@wpaumc.org.

• **Joplin, MO, Tornado**

Recovery, August 5 -11, 2012.

Contact Rev. Larry Homitsky undirect@wpaumc.org.

• **Israel/Palestine** mid-October Contact Tina Whitehead tinawhitehead2@hotmail.com

