

IN MISSION & MINISTRY  
**United Methodists at Work**  
**Rebuilding Lives & Communities**



**W**hen a disaster strikes, communities and lives are torn apart. But United Methodists respond—with prayers, with money, with time, labor and love.

United Methodist are among the first to respond following a disaster and among the last to leave as the recovery process winds down.

Early response teams begin work in a disaster area immediately after first responders such as firefighters and paramedics leave the scene. They stabilize homes and begin the tear-out and debris removal process.

Next, basic disaster response teams come in and continue the work on homes. Many of these teams are Volunteers In Mission, another United Methodist ministry.

Sandy Hendrickson, conference disaster response coordinator, provides critical assistance in the early days following a disaster.



**“We’re very excited about the Early Response Team Training.”**

**Delivering A Helping Hand**

“Part of my job is to work with emergency management,” Hendrickson said.

When a disaster happens, Hendrickson works with local authorities, disaster response and relief agencies, and community members to assess needs, coordinate volunteers and establish a long-term recovery process for the affected community.

“We’re very excited about Early Response Team training that we’ve been working with UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) to provide,” Hendrickson said. “Early Response Teams have a lot more training to go through, the ERT training and basic disaster response and Boundary Awareness Training.”

Hendrickson also offers a training called Connecting Neighbors



that helps a local church and its members prepare for a disaster in their area and develop a plan in case a disaster hits. ■

**United Methodists at Work ...**

*Partial funding for Volunteers in Mission and UMCOR comes from the conference’s mission and ministry funds.*

**Learn More About ...**

disaster relief programs in the Ministries section at [www.kswestumc.org](http://www.kswestumc.org).