



IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RESPONSE

WeekOfCompassion.org/refugees

Rev. Alan Dicken
Associate Director
alan@weekofcompassion.org
513-512-5562

DOMESTIC DISASTER RESPONSE & PREPAREDNESS

WeekOfCompassion.org/domestic-disaster

Rev. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold
Associate Director
caroline@weekofcompassion.org
203-772-8597



As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

WeekOfCompassion.org

P.O.Box 1986, Indianapolis IN 46206 (317) 713-2442



Week of Compassion

EQUITY GRANTS

for **Refugee Response** and **Disaster Relief**

grants focused on the compassionate response efforts of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations within La Obra Hispana, National Convocation, and North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD)



Equity Grant for REFUGEE RESPONSE

In an effort to support clergy and congregations of color in new and existing refugee, asylum seeker, and immigrant responses, Week of Compassion offers an Equity Grant specifically for Disciples churches associated with **NAPAD**, **La Obra Hispana**, and **National Convocation**.

To empower ministries that might be outside the 'usual' refugee response, this grant provides support for churches establishing innovative care and response for refugee, migrant, and immigrant communities. Equity Grants support a variety of efforts, including traditional refugee resettlement costs.

Congregations can use Equity Grants to support existing ministries that assist refugees and/or asylum-seekers, or to fund new ministries and opportunities to support these communities.



Iglesia Cristiana Emmanuel in Kissimmee, Florida, received the Equity Grant for Refugee Response to support the congregation's initiative to host community events focused on the needs of their neighbors. The first event was held at the church and included resources for free legal consultation and worker's rights consultations.

Over 50 participants came to enjoy a free meal and received invaluable information in a comfortable and safe community space. Their second event grew to have an even bigger impact!

According to Rev David Alicea, "We had a homeless meal dinner at a place called El Callejón. Over 450 homeless people from Kissimmee, many Venezuelan and Cuban. We provided haircuts, legal counseling and food between funds from the church and Week of Compassion. This was a blessed community event!!"

DISASTER Equity Grants

Week of Compassion has multiple Solidarity Grants available for all Disciples congregations and households affected by disasters and severe storms, and to support community relief efforts through our local churches.

Research shows that people of color in the US face heightened risks of harm from climate disasters. Week of Compassion seeks to address systemic racism as it manifests in the church and in its work, including in the distribution of grant funds and the entrenched inequities within disaster recovery.

To complement the Solidarity Grants, we offer an additional Equity Grant specifically for **Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Indigenous lay Disciples** who have sustained damage to their primary residence or are experiencing financial hardship due to natural or human-caused disasters.

When a tornado outbreak hit the Nashville area in December 2023, an elderly member at Alameda Christian Church had significant damage to her home.

Though she had insurance, she couldn't afford the deductible on her limited fixed income. On her behalf, Alameda Christian Church applied for a Disaster Equity Grant; the grant, along with some assistance from the church made the amount attainable, and repairs were completed within three months!

On receiving the grant, First Lady Lillie Wiggins shared: "We shared tears of joy while praising God for his divine providence, grace, and mercy. There is joy in knowing she will wake up this morning encouraged and feeling hopeful, thanks to Week of Compassion."



photo credits: front - Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance, Week of Compassion; inside - David Alicea, Andrew Nelles/The Tennessean; back - Central CC, Coral Gables FL