



Need help? Here's how to make a request

The mission of WELS Christian Aid and Relief (CAR) is to reflect Christ's compassion to souls who are suffering as the result of disasters or other hardships.

We carry out this mission through three main activities: disaster relief, humanitarian aid, and personal relief grants. Let's learn a little more about personal relief grants.

When a member or a prospective member of a WELS congregation is going through a medical or financial crisis—a crisis too big for the local congregation to handle alone—WELS CAR stands ready to assist.

The process starts with the congregation's pastor. We ask that WELS members not contact WELS CAR directly, but instead work through their pastor. The pastor knows his people and their needs and can vet potential requests to see if the assistance of WELS CAR is needed. The pastor then contacts the director of WELS CAR, Pastor Dan Sims, to start the process. Pastor Sims offers guidance and direction and helps with the necessary paperwork. Together they come up with a plan by which the congregation and WELS CAR can provide appropriate assistance to the individual or family in need.

Over the years, it has been our privilege to partner with many congregations to help members in need. We have helped with the purchase of accessible vans and used cars. We have helped provide food, fuel, and clothing. We have helped put new roofs on homes. We have helped pay medical bills and utility bills.

Do you need assistance? Do you know of someone in your congregation who could use some help? If so, please reach out to your pastor and he will reach out to us. We'd be happy to partner with your congregation to share the compassion of Christ.

Thanks to our donors

WELS Christian Aid and Relief is not supported via the synodical budget but relies entirely on the over-and-above gifts of God's people. We simply could not do what we do without our faithful and compassionate donors. Your generosity enables us to help the hurting here in our own country and all around the world. Thank you so much for your generous support of this vital ministry of compassion! All glory be to God!

Disaster relief work continues

Thankfully, the 2023 hurricane season was relatively quiet, at least as far as impact to our WELS congregations is concerned. For this reason, we have not needed to deploy volunteers to clean up after a hurricane or other disaster. This has allowed our Disaster Relief Task Force to concentrate on improving and expanding our disaster relief program.

One of the goals of the task force is to establish a corps of experienced leaders to lead disaster relief deployments. If you are a WELS member, have a background in disaster relief, or are familiar with the Incident Command System, and would be interested in serving as a disaster relief leader, please contact Pastor Dan Sims (contact info at the bottom of the page).



We aren't just looking for leaders. We need volunteers, too. You can sign up as a disaster relief volunteer at welsdisasterrelief.net. As part of the onboarding process, you will create a personal profile, indicate your skills, sign a waiver, submit to a background check, and watch a basic safety video. This information helps us match volunteers with opportunities to serve. We need all kinds of volunteers, not just those who have strong backs and can run chainsaws. Mostly, we need people with compassionate hearts. Please join us!

Community Care and Compassion Grants available

Is your church active in showing compassion to the people of your community? Is there a compassion ministry opportunity that you'd like to pursue? The Community Care and Compassion matching grants program might be just the ticket. This program provides matching grants of up to \$2,500 annually to self-supporting WELS congregations that are making an effort to carry out compassion ministry in their communities. What kind of efforts are we talking about? Some examples include supporting the homeless, helping those who struggle with food insecurity, serving a community holiday meal, providing school supplies for underprivileged kids – the opportunities are endless. To see one example, watch the April 2024 *WELS Connection*. More information can be found by going to wels.net/relief or reaching out to Pastor Sims.

Need a speaker?

Want to learn more about the ministry of WELS Christian Aid and Relief? Need a speaker for your school or group? Would you like a pastor to preach and present at your church? Speakers are available! You can request one at wels.net/relief or by contacting Pastor Sims. We'd love to meet you and "share our stories."



To learn more, make a donation, or volunteer, visit wels.net/relief and like us on Facebook at fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief.

If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact Director Rev. Daniel Sims.