

As we have opportunity,
**let us do good
to all people,**

especially to those
who belong to the
family of believers.

GALATIANS 6:10

Hein Completes Service as Chairman

On June 30, 2022, Pastor Robert Hein will finish his second of two terms as chairman of the WELS Christian Aid and Relief Commission. For 12 years Pastor Hein has guided the work of WELS CAR with wisdom, compassion, and a deep commitment to help those who are hurting. We thank Pastor Hein for his faithful service and wish him God's richest blessings in the future. Pastor Hein currently serves at Good Shepherd in West Bend, Wis.

New Grant Program Set to Begin

In spring of 2022, WELS Christian Aid and Relief will launch a new effort called the Community Care and Compassion Matching Grant Program. This annual program is designed to encourage more compassion ministry in the WELS by providing matching grants of up to \$2,500 to self-supporting WELS congregations who submit an approved plan to reach out with compassion in their communities. This grant can be used to support veterans who are struggling or victims of domestic violence. It can be used to encourage medical workers, police officers, fire fighters, and other first responders as they struggle through these difficult days. It can be used to help lonely seniors, underprivileged school children, or those who struggle with food insecurity. There are so many in need and so many ways to show compassion to them while also sharing with them the good news of our Savior. Watch for more information about this program in the near future!



Disaster Relief Update

There seems to be no end to disasters in this broken world. WELS CAR views each one as an opportunity to help the hurting and reach out with the compassion of Christ.

WAUKESHA PARADE TRAGEDY

On Nov. 21, 2021, the driver of an SUV killed six people and injured sixty-two others by hitting participants and observers at the annual Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wis. In the aftermath of the tragedy WELS CAR partnered with Christian Family Solutions (CFS), a WELS-affiliated counseling service, to provide crisis counseling to those who witnessed this tragedy. Forty-two hours of Christ-centered counseling sessions were provided by a grant from WELS CAR. In addition, CFS staff provided an estimated 36 hours of consultation time with pastors, teachers, and other congregation, school, and community leaders to help guide psychological crisis response or provide other resources. We are grateful for our partnership with CFS and for the opportunity to work with them to assist those impacted by his horrific event.

KENTUCKY TORNADES

On Dec. 10, 2021, a series of terrible tornadoes struck the south-central part of our nation killing at least 76 people and causing billions of dollars in damage. Thankfully, no WELS congregations or members were directly impacted by the

storms. Lack of a WELS congregation in the impacted area also means that we were unable to launch an on-site disaster relief effort. Instead, WELS CAR gave gifts totaling \$40,000 through Direct Relief, an organization that specializes in providing medical aid to those who need it.

COLORADO FIRES

On Dec. 30, 2021, hundreds of homes and other structures were lost as two wildfires swept through the Boulder, Colo., area. WELS CAR responded by providing a grant of \$2,500 to Peace Lutheran Church to assist those in need. The members of peace purchased and distributed gift cards for basic needs such as food, clothing, and lodging in the days immediately following the fire. They continue to look for ways to help the hurting. We thank Pastor Jason Thiel and the members of Peace for their compassionate efforts.

HURRICANE IDA

Hurricane Ida made landfall on the Gulf Coast way back on Aug. 29, 2021. However, WELS CAR continues to serve those impacted by the disaster. Most recently, volunteer teams traveled to New Orleans to assist with repairs and roof replacement for several member families of Crown of Life Lutheran Church. Pastor Jonathan Kehl writes: "God never leaves his people! He provides for our spiritual needs as well as our daily needs. He has given us a church body equipped with gifts and talents he uses to care for his people, and it's evident in the recovery of our city. Thank you for your eagerness in serving us in our time of need!"



Need a Preacher or Presenter?

Would you like to learn more about this vital ministry of compassion? Preachers and presenters are available for your church, school, or group. To request a speaker, go to wels.net/relief and fill out the speaker request form, or contact Pastor Dan Sims.

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.