



West Virginia Bridges

2015 Flooding

Address

Mailing address is:
MDS c/o Stillwaters Ministries
1166 Spencer Rd
Clendenin, WV 25045

Telephone/E-Mail

Project Director: 717-682-3943

Email:
wvbridges@mds.mennonite.net

Directions:

Some GPS systems will locate the address at Stillwaters Ministries correctly but others (like Google Maps) will not. If you are using Google Maps, try the previous address of 65 Spencer Rd in Clendenin. For any address, volunteers should look for the Stillwater Ministries sign and drive around to the back of the church, on the basement level, for the MDS entrance.

Location

West Virginia is nicknamed The Mountain State, and its many mountains are cut by narrow valleys containing roads, streams and homes. Many homes are located on the other side of the stream from the road, needing a bridge for access. W.V. is known for its natural beauty and wonderful outdoor opportunities, and the tourism sector is one of the major employers in the state. Average household income in W.V. is among the lowest in the U.S., and unemployment is among the highest. The decline of the coal industry has contributed to the decrease in jobs.

Disaster

Several flood events in the spring of 2015 damaged over 300 private stream crossings (bridges) in southwest West Virginia. Homeowners who cross streams to get to their homes are either driving through the stream bed, using a neighbor's bridge if they can, or parking on the other side of the stream and walking across a temporary walkway or a neighboring bridge. Because these are private structures, the government cannot help directly, so the only potential assistance is voluntary organizations like MDS. A coalition of voluntary organizations (WV VOAD) has been mobilizing assistance for homeowners in need.

MDS

Together with the WV VOAD, MDS is rebuilding private bridges in the areas around Clendenin, W.V. Volunteers will stay at the Stillwaters Ministries building near Clendenin. The jobs will involve physical labor, working

with concrete and steel for the structure and oak planks for the bridge decking. MDS will place small crews on site, because the jobs will not need large numbers of volunteers.

Transportation Options

It is the responsibility of weekly volunteers to plan, schedule, and pay for their transportation to and from the project in Greenbrier County. If you choose to fly in or take the train, you will need to be sure to arrange for transportation from the station to the project, as MDS is not able to pick up weekly volunteers. If you have questions about this, please call the Coordinator for Weekly Volunteers at 800-241-8111.

- The closest airport to Clendenin is Yeager Airport in Charleston, WV, about 24 miles away. There are several rental car options available there (Avis, Hertz, Enterprise), as well as taxi service (C&H Taxi at phone 304-344-4902).

- The closest Amtrak station is also located in Charleston, WV.