



*transforming tragedy*  
RENEWING HOPE

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE  
2006 ANNUAL REPORT



## 2006 at a glance

- 6,103 people volunteered, record numbers!
- 9 binational projects, 12 by the beginning of 2007
- \$643,210 was collected for the Amish School Recovery Fund
- 5,500 people became first-time donors to MDS
- 178 clean ups were accomplished
- 357 minor repairs
- 75 major repairs
- 31 houses were rebuilt
- 7 additional staff were added to facilitate growth and needs of MDS
- To better facilitate work in the Gulf, MDS purchased properties in project areas for the first time (Pass Christian, Mississippi and New Orleans, Louisiana)
- Triple increase of MDS vehicles to better serve projects
- Extension office in Winnipeg moved to a new location, an expansion of over 1,000 feet for added staff and support for higher numbers of volunteers



HOMEOWNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES  
AT THE DEDICATION OF THREE  
HOMES IN PASS CHRISTIAN,  
MISSISSIPPI IN AUGUST

## Binational staff team

Andi Dubé **Communications Coordinator**  
Heather Good **Receptionist**  
Jerry Grosh **Director of Field Operations**  
Ron Guenther **Director of Finance and Administration**  
Glenda Hollinger **Administrative Assistant**  
Cathie Kearsley **Director of Human Resources**  
Lorraine Kehler-Plett **Administrative Assistant**  
Kevin King **Executive Director**  
Jerry Klassen **Gulf States Coordinator**  
Arleta Martin **Executive Assistant**  
Lois Nickel **Director of Region Relations and Programs**  
Rebecca Peters **Administrative Assistant**  
Evelyn Peters-Rojas **Administrative Coordinator**  
Ginny Sauder **Administrative Assistant**  
Jim Shelly **Field Consultant**  
Scott Sundberg **Director of Communications**

## Board Members

Paul Brubacher, Abe Ens, Gordon Friesen (secretary), Millard Garrett (treasurer), Freeman Hersberger, Willis Hochstetler, David Hoover, Betty Kasdorf, Fred Kathler, Karen Martin, William Mast, William McCoy, Dan Miller, Albert "Rocky" Miller (chair), Ross Miller, Vernon Miller (vice chair), Carlos Santiago, Vernon Schmucker, Albert Schrock, Amos Schwartz, Sanford Swartzendruber, Willis Troyer, Paul Unruh, Anne Wiens, Alfred Yoder, Ray Zimmerman

## A message from the Executive Director



KEVIN KING

In 2006 we experienced ongoing tragedy and loss close to home and across the continent. MDS responded to flooding in Oregon and Washington, the October 15 earthquakes in Hawaii, and continued the immense work in the Gulf following the 2005 hurricanes. Volunteers were called to the summer and fall floodings in south central New York, and eager youth responded to community rebuilding in Cross Lake, Manitoba. We will not forget the moment we heard news of the Nickel Mines School shooting on October 2. Tragedy came to our doorsteps.

In the midst of these tragedies over 6,000 volunteers responded, willing to be the hands and feet of Jesus by rebuilding and restoring homes. They came from the east, west, north and south, eager to serve.

When asked why they came, most would say that it is their desire to demonstrate the love of Christ to those stricken by disasters. "All you need are wings—you gave me hope to start again," said one homeowner to a dozen young MDS volunteers dressed in white Tyvek® suits.

This year we also experienced growth and changes in our offices in Akron and Winnipeg. Seven new positions have been added to accommodate the two-fold increase in volunteers, three-fold increase in equipment purchases, and four-fold increase in projects.

With God's help MDS can continue to be a people's movement transforming tragedy into renewed hope. Thank you for your prayers and support. To God be the glory.

Kevin King

**Mennonite Disaster Service** is a channel through which various constituencies of the Anabaptist church can respond to those affected by disasters in North America.

While our main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, this activity becomes a means of touching lives and helping people regain faith and wholeness.

"Sometimes you people are the only Bible people read."

Homeowner in Bayou La Batre, Alabama

## One homeowner's story

When Hurricane Rita swept through the town of Point Aux Chenes in southern Louisiana, Ann and Forest Billiot's trailer home was destroyed.

"Last year was a very difficult year for us," said Ann, a soft spoken Native American woman. "Our son was killed in a car accident, Hurricane Rita happened and then Forest had a heart attack."

Since MDS opened its project in Point Aux Chenes in October 2005, it has partnered with several agencies to help in the rebuilding and restoration of the small town which is home to the Biloxi-Chitimachi Native American tribe. Partnerships between MDS, Shelter for Life International and Berean Baptist Church in Mansfield, Ohio and others led to the building of the Billiot's home.

Members of the Berean Baptist Church built the exterior and interior walls of the house designed by Shelter for Life and then disassembled them before shipping them to Point Aux Chenes in June. MDS volunteers assembled the house atop 12 foot wooden supports which will keep the house high enough to sustain storm surges. These Shelter for Life houses are designed to sustain a Category 5 storm with winds of up to 150 mph.

According to Steve Cheramie Risingsun, a Native American Mennonite Pastor, "MDS and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) were the quickest to respond here to human need with compassion through material aid and rebuilding homes."

The bayou of Louisiana are affected by floods, tropical storms and hurricanes because of the lowering of coastlines. Homes like this and others being built by MDS are enabling Native peoples to maintain their culture as they wait for the coastlines to be repaired.

"The Lord said he's going to bless us and he did," says Ann Billiot standing in front of her new home. "I thank God for everyone who was involved with this. Those who couldn't build blessed us in prayer."



ABOVE: ANN AND FOREST BILLIOT INSIDE THEIR NEW HOME  
BELOW: OLD HOUSE; ANN AND FOREST; HOUSE DEDICATION



## Binational disaster project statistics

### Alabama

Bayou la Batre [Hurricane Katrina]  
1,016 Volunteers | 83 Clients  
Churchula [Hurricane Katrina]  
14 Volunteers | 1 Client

### Florida

Arcadia [Hurricane Charley]  
263 Volunteers | 17 Clients  
Century [Hurricane Ivan]  
190 Volunteers | 29 Clients  
Wauchula [Hurricane Charley]  
251 Volunteers | 22 Clients

### Louisiana

Buras [Hurricane Katrina]  
205 Volunteers | 49 Clients  
Cameron [Hurricane Rita]  
61 Volunteers | 1 Client  
Diamond [Hurricane Katrina]  
39 Volunteers | 1 Client  
Metarie [Hurricane Katrina]  
238 Volunteers | 86 Client  
New Iberia [Hurricane Rita]  
543 Volunteers | 43 Clients  
New Orleans [Hurricane Katrina]  
87 Volunteers | 7 Clients  
Point Aux Chenes [Hurricane Rita]  
575 Volunteers | 83 Clients



### Mississippi, USA

Pass Christian [Hurricane Katrina]  
1020 Volunteers | 76 Clients



### North Carolina

Princeville [Hurricane Floyd]  
186 Volunteers | 3 Clients

### Texas

Newton [Hurricane Katrina]  
205 Volunteers | 49 Clients



### Manitoba, Canada

Cross Lake [Community Work]  
70 Volunteers | 12 Clients

In conjunction with volunteers from the Storm Aid Group, 6,173 volunteers from Canada and the United States served with MDS this year.

working together with our partners to respond, rebuild and restore communities affected by disasters

# Financial snapshot

	Canada		United States	
	2006 CN \$	2005 CN \$	2006 US \$	2005 US \$
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>1,093,100</b>	<b>264,000</b>	<b>8,114,000</b>	<b>1,590,000</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Contributions and Grants	855,724	1,399,100	4,326,000	8,272,000
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program	643,104	435,100	3,247,900	1,314,000
Supporting Activities	184,396	134,900	651,300	434,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>827,500</b>	<b>570,000</b>	<b>3,899,200</b>	<b>1,748,000</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>				
	<b>1,121,324</b>	<b>1,093,100</b>	<b>8,540,800</b>	<b>8,114,000</b>

MDS volunteers from Canada and the United States contributed US\$5,535,000 of labor at binational MDS projects.

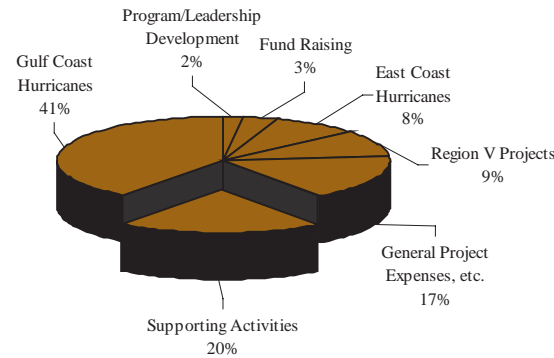
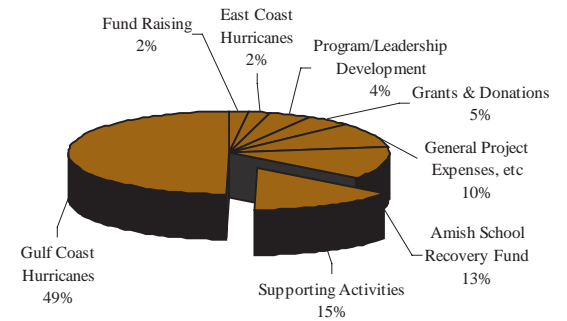


VOLUNTEERS IN LOWER PLAQUEMINES PARISH, DIAMOND, LOUISIANA INSTALLING NEW PIPES IN A HOME DAMAGED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

# Major Expenses Report

## United States Expenses

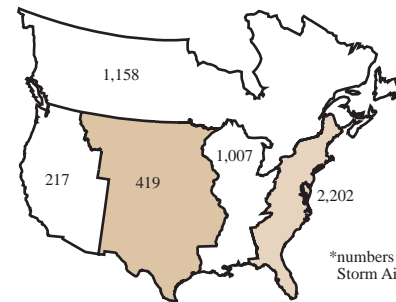
	US \$
Fund Raising	75,895
East Coast Hurricanes	87,507
Program/Leadership Development	160,139
Grants & Donations	182,218
General Project Expense	379,170
Amish School Recovery Fund	501,675
Supporting Activities	575,381
Gulf Coast Hurricanes	1,937,193
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,899,178</b>



## Canada Expenses

	CN \$
Program/Leadership Development	16,449
Fund Raising	27,987
Region V Projects	69,950
East Coast Hurricanes	77,957
General Project Expense	140,527
Supporting Activities	164,690
Gulf Coast Hurricanes	328,799
<b>Total</b>	<b>826,359</b>

## Where do the volunteers come from\*?



\*numbers do not include Pass Christian Storm Aid volunteers

"I never worked so hard, but I never felt so good."  
Volunteer from Mifflin County, Pennsylvania

“ I was **hungry** and you fed me, I was **thirsty** and you gave me a drink, I was **homeless** and you gave me a room, I was **shivering** and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in **prison** and you came to me... **Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.** ”

Jesus to his disciples (Matthew 25:35-40)



## **Mennonite Disaster Service**

### **Binational Office**

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Front: Pass Christian homeowner Wayne Ford embraced by Bob Bender of Goshen, IN after his house dedication.

Bible verse quoted from *The Message*

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