

# **Report of Diocesan Disaster Coordinator to the 128th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado October 1-3, 2015**

This report covers the period from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

In January 2014, the Diocese of Colorado began developing a program to assist communities along the Front Range in long-term disaster recovery from the severe flooding of September, 2013. Our flood recovery program has been generously supported by Episcopal Relief & Development and by donations from individuals and groups within the Diocese and from other places around the country.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Beginning in January, 2014, the Diocese did an initial assessment of needs for flood recovery. We have subsequently developed effective working relationships with a variety of community organizations and with the long-term recovery groups in Larimer, Boulder and Weld Counties (the "LTRGs"). We have gone from having little capacity and experience with recovery to participating in an important way in flood recovery and being a valued partner. In addition, we have funded several mini-grants to parishes and Jubilee ministries, assisted with several volunteer efforts via mission trips, and have begun a Diocese-wide project, called the Year of Resilience, aimed at getting all our congregations involved in planning for future emergencies and disasters. The capacity and resilience of the Diocese has been strengthened, although much remains to be done.

## **ACTIVITIES & RESULTS**

- Assessing of initial capacity and programs, community needs, and needs of parishes
- Establishing relationships with the long-term recovery organizations (generically known as LTRGs – Long Term Recovery Groups) in the worst-affected areas of the Front Range, including primarily Boulder, Larimer and Weld counties
- Expanding relationships with parishes & Jubilee ministries to identify pathways to most vulnerable people who had been displaced or otherwise affected by the floods
- Providing direct assistance to vulnerable individuals & families via dollars, emotional support and care, and referral to other sources of assistance
- Providing and assisting with coordination of volunteer groups during rebuilding
- Making "Mini-grants" to several parishes and Jubilee Ministries to support their efforts in flood recovery and community rebuilding
- Establishing a task force for Diocese itself and developing a Diocesan-level plan for future disaster event
- Developing one-year anniversary commemorations in local parishes and communities on September 14, 2014
- Developing a program to build preparedness capacity in Diocese congregations

**Selected results of the long-term recovery program, through June 30, 2015**

<b>Diocese of Colorado</b>		
<b>Direct Assistance Provided</b>		
<b>January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015</b>		
<b>By Category</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b># Cases</b>
Access (roads, driveways)	4,394	4
Community	15,923	6
Debris removal	2,877	6
Down payment assistance	5,500	2
Furnishings & Appliances	10,613	8
Help with bills	17,678	17
Medical assistance*	24,798	6
Mobile home purchase	11,264	4
Rental assistance	34,512	24
Repair	75,248	38
Tools & Equipment	9,568	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>212,375</b>	<b>120</b>
Handicapped	77,678	35
Not handicapped	117,402	78
Community projects	17,295	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>212,375</b>	<b>120</b>
* Additional resources from Diocese through		
Oakes Home Medical Trust		