

Simsbury United Methodist Church

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM)



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) provides opportunities for service in places of need around globe, promoting and enabling Christians to exemplify “Christian Love in Action”. The UMVIM aim is to achieve the Great Commission by providing short-term mission opportunities for everyday Christians to reach a new generation with God’s love.

At Simsbury United Methodist Church (SUMC), Volunteers in Mission (VIM) are individuals from all walks of life who simply desire to be the hands of Christ to others who are not as fortunate. They are involved in regional, national and international mission initiatives. These have included local Farmington River flood relief efforts in Simsbury, regional flood relief efforts in the Catskills, New York region, national Hurricane Katrina Recovery responses to Biloxi, MS, and international missions work in Cochabamba, Bolivia and Siquirres, Costa Rica.

Simsbury UMC Volunteers in Mission Work

Hurricane Sandy Disaster Response - Long Island and Staten Island, NY

(Current) Long Island and Staten Island received extensive flooding and devastation on Oct. 29, 2012 from Hurricane Sandy. Emergency Response Teams (ERT) from SUMC have responded and will continue to heed the call to service in this region of our conference. Teams mucked out homes and removed damaged walls and flooring in homes in Massapequa, NY. Long-term recovery will be needed to help these communities get back on their feet.

Regional VIM Missions Work - Flood Relief, Catskills Region, New York

(October 2007 and Fall 2011) The Catskills, NY region received extensive flooding in June 2007 and again in August 2011, a result of the flooding as a result of Hurricane Irene. Many homes were completely demolished and many received extensive water damage. Three different Fall 2011 teams worked in Prattsville, Margaretville, and Fleishmanns, New York mucking out homes and churches and helping in the reconstruction of Prattsville United Methodist Church.

International VIM Missions Work– SUMC Volunteers in Mission service involves ministry to the international community. The Ghana VIM team in Fall 2012 found opportunities for dental and medical service as well as construction work. (See www.simsburyumc.org “Mission and Outreach” link for further information.) In January 2007, an SUMC-sponsored team worked to help build

a new classroom at the Las Brisas Del Reventazon School in Siquirres, Costa Rica. In February 2006, a team worked in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Hurricane Katrina Recovery Teams– (2005-2010) The VIM Pathways group of Connecticut volunteers served as Volunteers in Mission to Mississippi, which first began in January 2006 as a group called the *Lamp Lighters*. Between 2005 and 2010, SUMC sent a minimum of one team per year for a total of eight teams to help rebuild homes in Mississippi. Volunteers represented a diverse group of churches and denominations, primarily from the Farmington Valley region, who served in the mission of rebuilding and bringing renewed hope to areas of Hurricane Katrina-devastated coastal Mississippi. For further information and to visit the teams' blogspot, log onto www.vimpathways.blogspot.com for accounts of their experiences!

Connecticut Disaster Response and Preparedness Ministry (Ongoing) - Disaster Response is a multifaceted ministry of Christ's Church with theological, physical, mental health, advocacy, and social service components. The CT District Disaster Response and Preparedness Committee was established to meet the needs of church families throughout the Connecticut District of New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in case of disaster and is busy preparing to be the hands of Christ, when called.