

The Holy Cow Smokers Disaster Relief Ministry (HCS) at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Flower Mound, Texas would like to thank the following contributors for their gracious grant donations:

- LWML Texas District \$16,000.00
- LWML Oklahoma District \$10,000.00
- LCMS Disaster Response \$ 1,000.00

Without these generous grants, we would not have been able to fully be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ during natural disasters. The Church is defined not by its four walls, but rather by its outreach and discipleship. HCS has been blessed with an opportunity to “nourish and transform hearts and bodies by sharing the love for Christ through faith and food”. This is our mission. This is His purpose.

Specifically with the moneys received from the Texas District on September 13, 2016 and Oklahoma District on November 30, 2016, the HCS Ministry was able to purchase an 8’ wide x 25’ long x 8’ tall custom, heavy-duty, enclosed cargo trailer, fitted with customized shelving and stocked with necessary materials and supplies used during a disaster relief deployment. This trailer is also equipped with A/C, interior lighting, wired with electrical outlets (inside and out) and houses a 7000Kw generator/inverter.

Fifteen hundred dollars was originally earmarked for purchase of a mobile hand washing sink. After learning that simple hand wash containers complied with health codes, we were able to utilize these funds elsewhere to completely outfit the trailer. Additionally, funds from LCMS Disaster Response were used to design and apply graphics to the outside of the trailer identifying our Ministry and Lamb of God Lutheran Church.

On March 25 2017, we held a dedication and blessing ceremony for our disaster trailer in combination with our annual Back the Blue Fundraising event. Members of Lamb of God, LWML and the general public were able to participate. Pastor Walt Waiser, as we laid hands on the trailer, prayed for God’s message of hope, His love, guidance and direction to flow through this Ministry and be steadfast in our outreach to those in need. We then invited everyone who attended the fundraising event to explore the trailer and its contents. Everyone that has seen the disaster trailer are humbled by the donations that have made this possible. God is good and He hath provided!

Our first deployment with the trailer was to Canton, TX on May 20th and 21st of this year. During this deployment, we were able to partner with the Texas District LCMS and provide community outreach with Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Canton, Texas, following seven deadly tornados, ranging from EF0 to EF4, which were responsible for four deaths, 50+ injuries, 2000+ structures that were either damaged or destroyed over its 55 mile path of destruction. Sixty-seven volunteers on Saturday, and 30 volunteers on Sunday were able to prepare and distribute 1000 and 600 hot BBQ meals, respectively, to survivors, volunteers, and police/fire personnel.

Thank you, Christian friends, for contributing to this important Ministry. We will be forever thankful for your contributions and your continued prayers for us to be a community of missionaries. If we have touched but one life, God has succeeded in using us to bring His message of love and hope. Whereas, Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” (Matthew 25:35).