

# Mission Trip OPPORTUNITY



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

## NALC DISASTER RESPONSE, Caldwell, Ohio

**A New Volunteer Training and Retreat Center has been built on the property of the national disaster warehouse!**



This project will increase the NALC's annual disaster response training capacity by 50%, enabling 300 youth and adults to be trained.

### GOALS

TRAINEES: 300+  
YOUTH & ADULTS  
SEGMENT Disaster Response

SEGMENT – WOMEN'S RETREATS &  
MEN'S RETREATS ARE AN OPTION  
ALSO

TOTAL COST: NO CHARGE  
For NALC congregations EXCEPT FOR  
MEALS & TRAVEL

### OVERVIEW

**CONTEXT:** Since the early days (2010) of NALC Disaster Response, the heart for ministry and outreach in serving survivors of natural disasters has grown with the frequency and intensity of domestic wildfires, tornadoes, freezes, floods and hurricanes.

In the past, NALC Disaster Response has been training volunteers over a Friday/Saturday period of time and it is all classroom instruction. With the new Volunteer Training and Retreat Center, youth and adult volunteers can stay for a long weekend or a full week, learning how to do a mission trip, learning how to work in the NALC warehouses, and learning how to repair and rebuild homes (lots of construction to do in Caldwell). It is primarily for hands on training. Each group stays up to seven days, sleeping in the new dorms, dining in the full kitchen and have access to restrooms with showers. By having year-round accommodations, including proper sleeping, restroom, shower and cooking facilities, the NALC Disaster Response team hopes to train many, many more youth and adult volunteers!

As part of its mission to grow the numbers of disaster response volunteers and to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a time of need, the NALC Disaster Response team now has this facility that is 44'X54' and includes a chapel and training space in addition to heated and air conditioned accommodations. This year-round facility will comfortably

house 30 participants weekly and increase our annual disaster response training capacity from 200 to 300 while improving the volunteer's training experience.



Over 80 trainees participated in a Hurricane Ida long-term recovery mission trip on Grand Isle, LA, July 24-30, 2022.

## **LIFE IMPACT**

**BENEFITS OVER 300 PEOPLE, IN MULTIPLE WAYS** When serving as the hands and feet of Jesus, both the servant's and the survivor's life is changed.

Kay was home sick when the EF-4 tornado struck Mayfield, KY. She sheltered in her basement. The storm destroyed Kay's home, killed her friends in the candle factory and she lost her job. The NALC Disaster Response volunteers who helped Kay rebuild her home have been significantly impacted by her experience. By witnessing what happens to a family when a storm destroys everything, a volunteer learns humbleness, grace and gratitude for God's love and provision and that He is always present when we serve in His name.

This facility is available as a multi-purpose building, available to those who wish to grow closer to God. It is located at NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave., Caldwell, Ohio 43724. For more information on the facility and scheduling, please contact Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response at 740-509-1132 or [disasterresponse@thenalc.org](mailto:disasterresponse@thenalc.org)

### **LEADERSHIP PROFILE**

Mary Bates has 26 years experience in disaster response, motivated by the lack of FEMA and government response when her own house was destroyed by a tornado in 1998. Volunteers helped Mary and her family salvage and rebuild their home and, since that time, Mary has dedicated her life to natural disaster survivor outreach through the love of Christ.

Mary has trained over 10,000 faith-based volunteers and coordinated over 360 mission trips since 1998.

Mary averages over \$100,000 annually in donated relief supplies including flood buckets, health kits, school kits, hand-made blankets, Bibles, children's books and building supply gift cards. Her ability to communicate and collect, organize, manage and distribute relief-supply donations across the North American Lutheran Church's Mission Districts is a testament to her professionalism and efficiency.