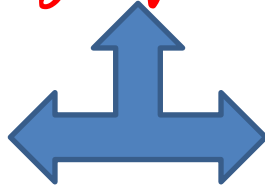


# Bridge of Love



RMC Disaster Response Fund



Philippines Disaster Recovery



- 1,000 year flood.
- Colorado cities heavily impacted from this flood event: Boulder, Jamestown, Lyons, Aurora, Brighton, Longmont, Estes Park, Denver (east side), Ft. Collins (north side), Loveland, Commerce City, Eldorado Springs, Erie, Evans, Evergreen, Morrison, Milliken, and Greeley.
- The flood ravaged an estimated about 200 miles of state highways, as well as local roads, bridges, railroad tracks, dams, sewer lines, and oil and gas pipelines.
- Ten people killed, 18,000 people forced from their homes, and 28,363 dwellings were impacted with 1,852 homes destroyed; hundreds of businesses damaged or destroyed.
- Drinking water systems contaminated posing a threat to public health; sewage and pollutants have seeped into the environment.
- The financial impact to the State and its residents are estimated to be \$3.3 billion.
- 75% of the destroyed and damaged homes belong to families with moderate to low income.



- With sustained winds of 175 mph, Super Typhoon Haiyan was the most powerful tropical *cyclone* of any kind in 2013 on par with the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and 2010 Haitian earthquake.
- More than 14 million people affected (more than 13% of the population); 4,1 million displaced; more than 6,000 dead; more than 27,000 injured; 2.5 million people in need of food;
- **Amount of area destroyed in the storm's path:** 70 to 80 percent
- **Homes damaged or destroyed:** 1.2 million — over half of which were completely destroyed
- **Amount of homes lost in hardest-hit areas:** 90 percent

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Dear RMC Pastors and Congregations:

Genesis 1 speaks to the wonderful world created by God that we have inherited. “God created the heavens and the earth . . . God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome [earth] from the waters that were above the dome [sky] . . . ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear. . . God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.’”

There are times when the waters and the winds do not happen in an orderly, calm way. At these times we humans must deal with the terrible consequences through devastating floods, destructive hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones and tornados. Last year was a terrible year for the world’s people in dealing with the results of these natural phenomena. As a result, there are serious needs world-wide to help assist in recovery efforts.

Our Annual Conference Board of Global Ministries decided that our Bridge of Love offerings, collected at the congregation level and dedicated at conference, should address two needs for recovery assistance; the Rocky Mountain Disaster Response Fund and the Philippines Disaster Recovery Fund.

The Rocky Mountain Disaster Response has reorganized and expanded to deal with the destruction in Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties. As a result of a significant grant from UMCOR, we have hired Mike Moore as the Flood Recovery Director for UMCOR/Rocky Mountain Conference. We have 3 Case Managers, one each for the 3 counties impacted. They are the primary interface with the flood survivors and will walk with them through the recovery process, develop a recovery plan and help to identify resources to get them back to a new normal. 2014 may bring more flooding with an above-average snowpack causing substantial spring runoff, so we may be facing more destruction in the same or different areas.

Mike is working with the families and the Case Managers to assess the rebuilding and recovery needs of these survivors, identify the resources required and coordinate the work project to completion. In addition, our Volunteer Coordinator is working to schedule UMVIM teams both within the conference and across the country, arrange for housing and hospitality as well as participating in the Long Term Recovery Groups in the three counties to coordinate volunteer resources.

UMCOR Disaster relief for the Philippines needs all the financial resources they can garner. The magnitude of the needs cannot be overstated. It is unbelievable that over 13% of their population was impacted. This represents almost 3 times the whole population of the State of Colorado. Can you even imagine it?

As you prayerfully ask your members to participate in this offering, please remember that to whom much is given, much is required.

Your Conference Board of Global Ministries