



WILMINGTON AREA REBUILDING MINISTRY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 keeps out-of-town missioners away, but locals step up and more are needed

Description: The viral disaster continues to impact WARM's mission to repair, rebuild, and make homes accessible. All but one out-of-town mission team cancelled their trip to volunteer with WARM this Spring and Summer. Fortunately, many local churches, businesses, governments, and individuals have decided to stay home to serve.

June 24, 2020, Wilmington, NC In its 24-year history, WARM has rebuilt more than 1,400 homes due to hurricane damage and general disrepair. The services are provided free to those who qualify. They include mainly senior citizens, military veterans, disabled individuals, and single-parent families.

WARM board and staff members aggressively raise funds through grants, events, and private donations. Volunteer labor, in many cases a 1:1 match with building materials, is the key to making those funds go as far as possible.

In 2019, 4600+ compassionate volunteers served over 32,000 hours with WARM, assisting 188 families. Of those, over 900 volunteers were from out of town, representing 46 churches and universities and serving over 20,500 hours. In 2020 however, only four out of town teams confirmed their trip; the last one, Elizabeth Baptist Church from Shelby NC, will serve with WARM July 6-9.

In light of the mission team cancelations, WARM ramped up volunteer recruitment efforts for local individuals and teams. The response has been remarkable. Local churches, such as Wesley Memorial United Methodist in Wilmington and Renovation in Hampstead, who may have canceled their own mission trips see the value in staying home to serve.

"They don't have to worry about the expense, or the Covid-19 risk, associated with travel and group lodging." said Lindsay Miles, WARM's Volunteer Coordinator, "They can make long lasting relationships with those in their community."

WARM provides face masks and hand sanitizer, provided to them for free by FEMA, utilizes social distancing, and allows volunteers to work exclusively outside if they are uncomfortable with entering homes. Tools and surfaces are cleaned daily, teams are smaller than usual, and other precautions are taken to protect homeowners and volunteers.

WARM's faithful weekday individual volunteers keep the mission moving forward during these uncertain times. Teams from organizations such as the Town of Leland and a Boy Scout Eagle Project continue to provide a much-needed boost.

"We are grateful for every volunteer. And we especially need volunteers who are comfortable going inside of homes, with appropriate PPE," said WARM's Executive Director JC Lyle. "We have over 60 rebuilds under

construction; on most of them, the exterior work is finished and a day or two of interior work remains until the family is truly safe at home."

For more information about WARM, including how to volunteer and donate, visit their website at www.warmnc.org or call 910.399.7563.