



Youth, youth leaders, and volunteers participated in the WELS Christian Aid and Relief community care and compassion outreach activity at the 2022 WELS International Youth Rally.

## WELS CAR welcomes new chairman

Please join us in welcoming the newly appointed chairman of the WELS Christian Aid and Relief commission, **Pastor Tom Spiegelberg**.

Pastor Spiegelberg has served congregations in Boise, Idaho, Saint Lucia in the West Indies, and Mobile, Ala., and has extensive disaster relief experience. He is excited to join the CAR Team. "In a world that is often so critical of Christianity I'm excited at every opportunity to model the grace and mercy of Christ by showing compassion to those in need. WELS Christian Aid and Relief helps our synod to do just that." Welcome aboard, Pastor!



## Disaster relief work continues

Disaster relief continues to be one of our main areas of activity at WELS CAR. In the past two years, we have assisted those impacted by Hurricane Ida in Louisiana, tornados in Michigan and Kentucky, fires in Colorado, and flooding in Kentucky and Virginia. We have also supplied emergency relief to those suffering as the result of terrible wars in Myanmar and Ukraine.

In addition, our WELS CAR Disaster Relief Task Force continues to work on improving and expanding our

disaster relief capabilities, including developing training materials and a training process to prepare WELS congregations, districts, and individual volunteers to respond to disaster events safely and effectively. A new website is also being developed that will help us to communicate in a clear and timely fashion with volunteers and efficiently manage disaster deployments. More information on the launch of this website is coming soon.



## Humanitarian aid sets new record

Each year WELS CAR is privileged to work with our partners in WELS Home and World Missions to provide humanitarian aid to people in need all around the world. In May the CAR commission approved \$628,480 in humanitarian aid grants for fiscal year 22-23—a new record! These grants support projects developed by our home and world missionaries to reflect Christ’s love to the people of their communities. Some examples of the compassion ministry being carried out in home and world mission settings include support for legal immigrants; books, backpacks, and other school supplies for underprivileged students; food and personal items for struggling individuals and families; medical clinics; access to clean drinking water; mosquito netting; vocational, technological, and agricultural training; scholarships for poor students; smokeless stoves for safer heating and cooking; and warm clothing for widows and orphans. These acts of mercy and compassion are valuable in and of themselves, but even more so because they regularly lead to opportunities to share the gospel.



## Compassion ministry featured

We are excited to note that compassion ministry continues to be a regular topic of conversation and study around the synod. On September 19-20, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., will host its annual symposium, this year focused on compassion ministry. Three scholarly papers on the subject will be presented. Pastor Sims, the director of WELS CAR, will deliver the sermon at the closing service. Additionally, in January 2023, WELS will host the second National Conference on Lutheran Leadership in Chicago. The conference will feature five keynote

**To learn more, make a donation, or volunteer,** visit [wels.net/relief](https://wels.net/relief) and like us on Facebook at [fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief](https://fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief).

If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact director Rev. Daniel Sims.

addresses and dozens of workshops on topics of interest to Lutheran leaders. Pastor Sims and Pastor Ryan Kolander of Palabra de Vida in Detroit, Mich., will lead a breakout session entitled “Doing Good to All People: The Crucial Role of Compassion Ministry in a Congregation’s Plans to Reach the Community.” What a joy to see our synod grow in this vital area of ministry!

## Grants assist congregations in showing compassion

As of this writing, WELS CAR has provided more than \$25,000 in matching grants to self-supporting WELS congregations to assist them in reaching out with compassion to their communities. Compassionate acts supported by these grants include school supplies for underprivileged children, support for active military personnel, food for the hungry, encouragement for healthcare workers, and infant formula and diapers for struggling families. Kids who attended the WELS Youth Rally in Knoxville, Tenn., this summer had the opportunity to model the kind of compassion encouraged by this program. They did this by creating care packages and notes of encouragement to share with first responders, kids in need, and homebound individuals in their communities. Such acts of kindness show our neighbors that we love them and help open doors to opportunities to share the love of Jesus. Interested in a grant? Visit [wels.net/relief](https://wels.net/relief) and click on Community Care and Compassion Matching Grants Program.

## Speakers Available

Would you like to learn more about the vital ministry of WELS Christian Aid and Relief? We would be happy to provide a speaker for your church, school, or group at no cost to you. To request a speaker fill out the speaker request form at [wels.net/relief](https://wels.net/relief), or contact Pastor Dan Sims (414-256-3204, [daniel.sims@wels.net](mailto:daniel.sims@wels.net)).