

You add.
God multiplies.

OUT AND ABOUT

Case Manager Helps After High River Flood

Linda Clarke's home in High River, Alberta, suffered extensive damage last June when the High River overflowed, flooding much of the town.

She was uncertain what to do to get her life back to normal. She wasn't alone.

Because of the extent of the damage and the independent nature of Alberta residents, World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) employed Sarah Bruinsma, a senior case manager, as part of its response.

This was the first time World Renew used a case manager in a North American disaster.

As with other DRS projects, World Renew sent a team of volunteers to High River to go door-to-door assessing unmet needs.

They found that while many people qualified for provincial assistance, insurance, or local social services, they weren't sure how to access them. The case manager was added to help address this issue.



Nellie and Jack Admiraal did Needs Assessment surveys as part of their disaster relief work in High River, Alberta.

One of Bruinsma's main tasks is to talk to people about their financial situation, find out what they have received from government assistance and insurance, and then identify gaps.

Bruinsma is also a survivor of the High River flood. A lifetime resident of High River, Bruinsma's house was so severely

damaged that she couldn't return home until this past February—eight months after the disaster.

Because of her experience, she is able to empathize and help people get assistance.

That's what happened with Linda Clarke. After stopping in at the High River Renewal office for help, she was connected to Bruinsma, who went over Clarke's case.

"Sarah was very good," said Clarke. "She really went the extra mile."

A few weeks later, World Renew volunteers went to Clarke's home and put down flooring, reinforced floor joists, constructed a new garage door, and painted.

"They were really just wonderful. It didn't seem to matter what I needed; they were there," Clarke recalled. ■

—by *Kristen deRoo VanderBerg*,
World Renew

Reformed Collaborative at Work

After Hurricane Sandy hit Union Beach, N.J., Elena spent time helping her neighbors. When she finally checked her own home, she found it was in much worse shape than she'd thought.

"The studs in the basement were basically waving in the breeze," said Jim Homan, who led a World Renew group mission trip from his church, Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, to help in reconstruction. "Mold was setting in."

Homan was part of an effort between the CRC and the Reformed Church in America (RCA) called the Reformed Collaborative.

The collaborative includes work the denominations are doing in disability concerns, a health care cooperative, and disaster relief.



CRC and RCA members joined to provide disaster relief in New Jersey.

After Synod 2013, World Renew officially became the RCA's primary partner in domestic disaster response. The denominations also partner in

international disaster response and development.

This agreement allows people like Elena and others impacted by Hurricane Sandy to be reached more effectively.

More than 595 volunteers came to serve in New Jersey with World Renew, some from CRC churches and others from the RCA.

A nine-member team from Ann Arbor CRC spent a week putting up drywall, replacing a side of Elena's home, and installing insulation and windows.

When they left, volunteers from Westwood RCA in Muskegon, Mich., took care of more drywall. After a second week of work, the repairs were nearly complete. ■

—by *Brian Clark*