

# VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION 2024-2025



**MDS VOLUNTEERS SERVED  
53,850 DAYS  
HELPING  
926 HOUSEHOLDS  
RECOVER FROM DISASTER**

**6,848 volunteers**  
from across Canada and the  
U.S. gave their time, skills and  
compassion to build  
**79 new homes,**  
complete  
**460 repairs,**  
finish  
**378 cleanups,**  
and build  
**9 new bridges**  
for households who  
experienced a disaster.



## SPECIAL PROJECTS

**86 sets of kitchen cabinets built at the MDS Cabinet Shop in Goessel, KS were installed in new homes MDS volunteers built across the U.S. this fiscal year.**

This volunteer labor is a value\* of  
**\$14.99 million USD/  
\$20.98 million CAD**

All statistics from 8/1/2024 through 7/31/2025.  
\*Labor value based on a volunteer rate of  
\$34.79 USD/hour. ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org))

## Working together

From new homes to new bridges, from house repairs to wall hangings, MDS never works alone. During 2025, MDS worked more than ever with its partners.

The "Bridging Together" partnership between MDS and Lutheran Disaster Response came to full fruition, with volunteers building bridges crossing small creeks between the state-maintained roads and people's homes in western North Carolina.

What's more, MDS is now training others to build sound, tested bridges so that access—and hope—is moving even faster for residents affected by Hurricane Helene.

As MDS bridge coordinator Phil Helmuth said, "A bridge stands not only as a path over the water but as a symbol of shared hope, compassion and a community coming together."

In many other locations, from Alaska to Hawaii, Florida to Washington state, MDS has walked and worked together with long-term recovery committees, local churches, and local communities, building homes, building trust, and building partnerships that will stand the test of time—and the test of the next disaster.

Ultimately, working together is what helped volunteers build a new home for Lynn Cooper and her family in Port Royal, Pennsylvania. "We were surrounded by a lot of really good people," she said as her new home was dedicated.



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