

UMCOR school kits for instructions on how to assemble and what to include in school kits.

#### **Ramp projects**

Operation Northern Comfort frequently builds ramps for people in need across the Central New York region. The Mission Central HUB welcomes any community or church group to use its warehouse-space for similar projects.

#### **School backpack assembly**

Many churches across the UNY Conference assemble backpacks for disadvantaged children in their communities. Consider using the Mission Central HUB for a day of backpack assembly.

#### **Clothing Drives**

Many communities in the UNY

Conference are some of the poorest in the country. For example, statistics are released every year revealing that Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo are among the poorest cities in the country. Several residents in rural areas in Upper New York are also living in extreme poverty. Consider holding clothing drives and using the Mission Central HUB as a location to organize clothing for different communities throughout the Conference.

#### **Reaching out**

The Mission Central HUB is for members across the Conference to use anytime, any day! If you have ideas in place and would like to use the space, contact the UNY Director of Missional Engagement, Mike Block, at [mikeblock@unyumc.org](mailto:mikeblock@unyumc.org) or 315-898-2066.

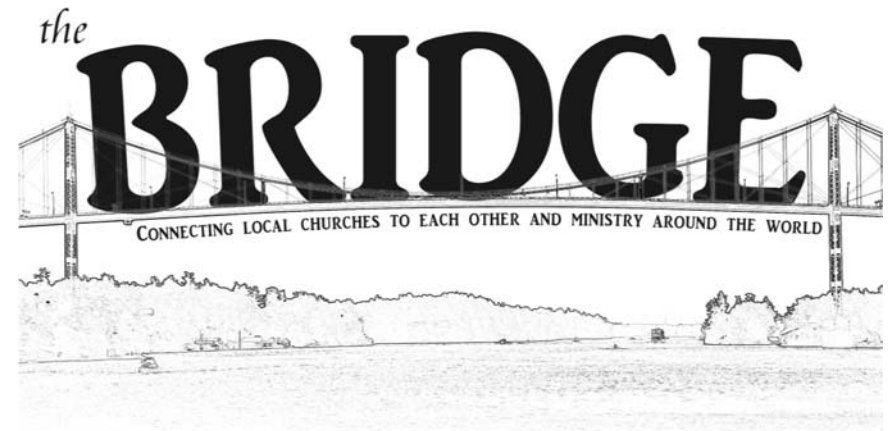
## In Brief

### **Do you want to always be in the know of mission projects throughout the Conference?**

The UNY Conference is starting an email listserv for people who are interested in volunteer opportunities ranging from Mission Central HUB projects to mission trips. If you would like to be added to this list, please send an email with your first name, last name, and email address to [news@unyumc.org](mailto:news@unyumc.org). If your church is looking for volunteers for particular projects, the UNY Conference Communications team can send out a note to this listserv on your behalf as well!

*The Bridge is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York Conference and the world. For more news and stories visit:*

**[www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)**



The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

## A look inside!

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## Volunteering at the Upper New York Conference Mission Central HUB and beyond

The Upper New York's Mission Central HUB is an epicenter for UNY mission work. This HUB works directly with the United Methodist Church's Mission Central located in the Susquehanna Conference. Mission Central has three points of focus: Disaster Response, Mission Outreach, and Mission Education. Mission Central began creating HUBs in 2006 and now has dozens of HUBs.

The UNY Mission Central HUB is available any day of the week for your group or a collaboration of churches across the Conference (non-Methodist Churches or community groups are welcome as well) to complete mission projects.

Here are just a few of the ways that the UNY Mission Central HUB has been used as a space for mission work.

### UMCOR Kits

The United Methodist Committee on

Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church (UMC). The purpose of UMCOR is to assist United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need through programs of relief, rehabilitation, and service, including issues of displaced persons, hunger and poverty, disaster response, and disaster risk reduction; and to assist organizations, institutions, and programs related to annual conferences and other units of The United Methodist Church in their involvement in direct service to such persons in need.

UMCOR is always in need of flood buckets, hygiene kits, and school kits. The UNY Mission Central HUB is the perfect place to assemble these kits and we can coordinate efforts to get these supplies to UMC's Mission Central in Penn-



*Pictured are youth who attended the OUTWARD Retreat assembling flood buckets as part of their fun-packed, mission-driven weekend of fellowship. Consider gathering up youth from churches in your area to assemble UMCOR kits.*



*Pictured is Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb helping Operation Northern Comfort volunteers build ramps.*

sylvania, which then deliver the kits to the places of need.

**Flood buckets** enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood or hurricane. Visit <http://bit.ly/UMCORfloodbuckets> for instructions of what supplies are needed and how to assemble these buckets.

Please note that hurricane season is around the corner and UMCOR needs more flood buckets ASAP!

**Hygiene kits** provide necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Hygiene kits are also

used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes. Visit <http://bit.ly/UMCORhygienekit> for instructions on what supplies are needed and how to assemble these kits.

**School kits** are assembled for some countries where children don't have books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; classes are held in inadequate or half-destroyed buildings, tents, or even the open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources. Visit <http://bit.ly/>

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