

IN BRIEF

The UNY shower trailer repaired and sent to West Virginia

On June 23, 2016, after over eight hours of torrential downpours, West Virginia faced one of the worst flash floods in the state's history and the devastation of 23 lost lives, several injuries, and the damage of hundreds of homes and businesses.

One unique way that the UNY Conference has assisted in this disaster recovery is by sending a shower trailer down for volunteers to use. And this was no small feat.

The UNY Conference acquired this trailer in 2012. The trailer, donated by CT Express of Durhamville, was transformed from a typical hauler to a shower facility that allows volunteers to stay at disaster sites longer and be able to provide more services to help in the recovery of devastated areas. Six shower stalls were built in the trailer, along a narrow hallway running the length of the space. Each shower is cordoned off with walls and a door and accompanied by a small sink, vanity mirror, light and towel hooks. A high-efficiency washer and dryer were also installed to allow users to do laundry.

Read the full story at <http://bit.ly/UNYtrailer>.

From the desk of Bishop Mark J. Webb: Louisiana flooding

Upper New York Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb, penned a letter to Upper New York Conference Churches asking them to use the United Methodist Connection to respond to the devastating flooding in Louisiana.

In part the letter read:

"Words cannot describe the severe flooding that the residents of Louisiana have suffered through. The flooding has brought devastation to countless people in the Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church and throughout the state. You can find details about the flooding and response on the Louisiana Conference website: www.la-umc.org.

I ask you to support the people of Louisiana and the United Methodists who are responding with both your prayers and your gifts."

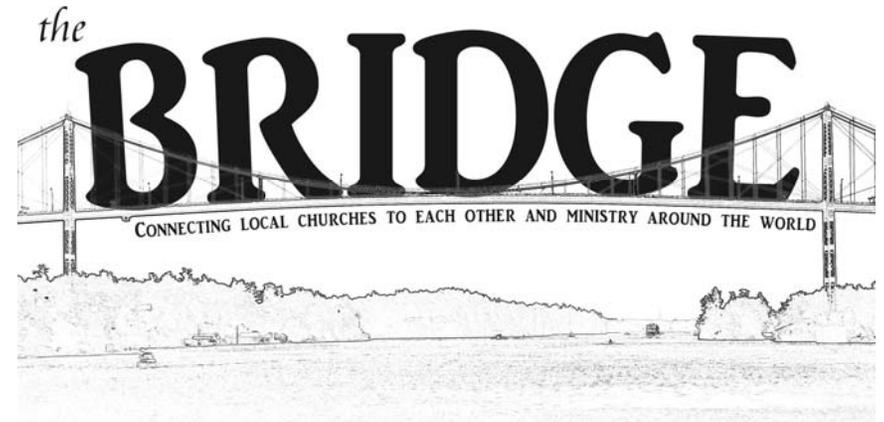
Read the full letter at <http://bit.ly/prayersforLouisiana>.

*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.*

www.unyumc.org



CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH SEPT. 15 – OCT. 15



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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Will Green raised funds that built a well in Nicaragua

Eleven-year-old Will Green is responsible for providing clean water to a community in Nicaragua. His story is an inspiring one.

It all began two years ago when Will was working on his required summer inquiry project for school. He decided to focus on water, and he learned about that many communities do not have access to clean water. He felt God was calling on him to do something about this.

At the same time Will's church, Hilton UMC, was focusing on a mission project for Vacation Bible School. This is something they do each summer, and Will thought what better idea than to raise money to build a well for a community that needs water.

Will said, "First, I thought that Africa would be a good place to build a well. Many people there do not have access to water. But then it came to my attention through a church member that some people in Nicaragua do not have clean water." That summer, the fundraising project for Hilton's VBS was to raise money for a well to be built in a Nicaragua community. The VBS raised \$400, but that was only the beginning. If Hilton UMC raised \$1,000 toward the well, El Porvenir, would match their funds, for a total of \$2,000, which is what is needed for a well. Hilton UMC gave the money through United Methodist Committee on Relief because El Porvenir is an UMCOR Advanced Special.

Will was determined to raise the \$1,000 by soliciting donations from the church members. The pastor of the church, Rev. Jennifer Green, Will's moth-

er, said "I told Will that he has to be patient. I warned him that it may take many months to raise another \$600 toward this project. I was surprised when we raised the \$1,000 needed in three weeks." Will was quick to interject when he said, "We actually raised more than \$1,000." His mother responded, "You are right; we raised a little bit more than \$1,000."

With the money in hand, a well was to be built in a community three hours from Project Chacocente, which is where the Genesee Valley goes for its mission project every February. Project Chacocente was founded by Cheryl Avery in 2004. With the help of North American Christian youth, the plight of ten families living in a city dump in Managua changed forever. The families moved from their homes atop the trash heap to the fresh air and fertile land of rural Masaya, the home-base of Project Chacocente. Will described this project as a place that has schools for the children to learn and vocations taught to their parents so that they may earn a living.

A family friend of the Greens and former member of Hilton UMC, Ashley Sullivan, was so moved by Project Chacocente when she went on a mission trip as a teenager that she now lives in Nicaragua. She works for the 4 Walls Project, an organization that builds safe, sturdy houses in El Sauce, Nicaragua. This past winter, with Ashley's help, Will was able to go see the well that was built because of the fundraiser he initiated.

Will and his mother joined the Genesee Valley District on their annual mission trip to Project Chacocente in Febru-



ary. After they completed their mission work, Ashley helped arrange for a driver and an interpreter to drive Will and Rev. Jennifer 20 minutes away to the countryside outside of El Sauce so that Will could see the well. They rode in the back of a truck driven by a young teenage boy. Their interpreter was, Chiky, a resident of Project Chacocente who the Greens learned recently passed away.

When Will first saw the well, he became very quiet; he was overwhelmed. Imprinted on the well is "Hilton UMC." This well serves 25 people who never had clean water. Will said, "The town elder told us how the well was built. Workers had to dig down 25 feet by hand to where water the water was." Rev. Jennifer added, "They dug the hole and searched for the water reservoir in the dry season so that they would know that water would be available even if they were faced with a drought." The

town elder also informed them that before the well was built, they used to have to walk six miles to get clean water and six miles back with a heavy bucket of water.

Will's response to God's call to help people in need has left an impression, not only in his church, but also in the community at large. He recently received the Rochester Police Department's "Do the Right Thing" award. This award recognizes youth in Monroe County for positive behavior.

Will's story is proof that no matter who you are, through God, all things are possible. Even a young boy can be the source of vital world-wide ministry. So the next time you don't think your church has the resources to do something big for God, remember a nine-year-old boy built a well in Nicaragua that was life changing to the people it serves.