

UNY doctors and nurses attended to 87 patients who needed medical attention related to diabetes

On Vieques, the mission team was housed and staffed a medical clinic at the United Methodist Church in Esperanza. Some members of the team also had the opportunity to work on home reconstruction alongside a team from the Midwest.

Visit [http://bit.ly/UNY\\_PuertoRico\\_mission\\_2018](http://bit.ly/UNY_PuertoRico_mission_2018) to read more about



this inspiring story, written by two UNY nurses who were on this mission trip.

## In Brief

### UNY ERT trip to North Carolina

Ray McCabe from the Buffalo area and John Carney from the Jamestown area will be leading a team to do disaster relief work in North Carolina Nov. 4-10.

Requests to join the team are now being accepted from any Upper New York (UNY) Early Response Team member, even those newly trained and inexperienced in the disaster zone. People from other denominations are also welcome as long as they are willing to work within the UMCOR protocols.

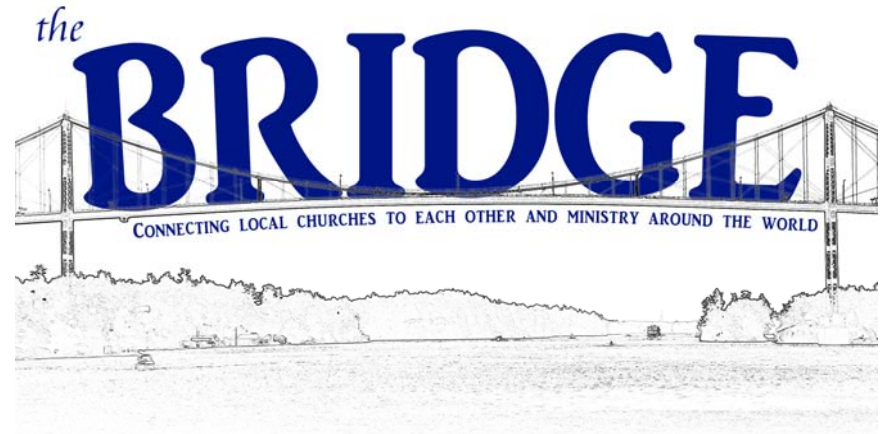
The North Carolina Conference will most likely ask the UNY mission team to clean out muddy houses and remove debris or perhaps place tarps on roofs. The exact destination of this relief work is still being planned.

Team members must be at least 18 years old and able to carry a bucket of water up a flight of stairs, and be willing to work as a team member, taking directions from the team leaders. If you're interested in applying, contact Brian Greenwald at [bngreenwald@windstream.net](mailto:bngreenwald@windstream.net).

*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 UNY Mission Central Hub is engaging in work to support areas devastated by hurricanes and other natural disasters. To learn more about how you can provide support visit: <http://www.unyumc.org/mission/mission-central>



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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# Upper New York Response to Hurricane Michael

*By Mike Block, UNY Director of Missional Engagement*

There is no greater time than now to help our neighbors hit hard by both Hurricanes Michael and Florence. Both hurricanes caused a significant amount of damage to the Florida Panhandle, parts of the Carolinas, and everywhere else in its wake.

In recent months, the Upper New York (UNY) Mission Central HUB has asked for help filling and verifying United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) cleaning, hygiene, and school kits. In the last two months, UNY Mission Central HUB has assembled and verified 384 cleaning buckets! A truck from Mission Central in Pennsylvania is on its way to UNY to load a total of 15 pallets made up of cleaning, hygiene, and school kits along with miscellaneous donations to go to areas with the greatest need.

In addition, I've been in contact with many churches and groups throughout our Conference who have assembled UMCOR cleaning kits either on their own or through "HUB on the Road," and approximately 180 additional buckets will fill UNY's Mission Central HUB. Thank

you to each and every person who volunteered their time, money, or resources! We can't do it without you.

Please keep those affected by Hurricane Michael in your prayers. It was the most powerful hurricane to hit the continental U.S. in nearly 50 years. Thousands are without power and it will remain like that for some time. The time it will take to rebuild and restore areas affected could take years.

There are three ways you can help. You can make a monetary donation to Mission Central HUB or UMCOR. Make checks out to the UNY Conference and either write "Mission HUB" or "UMCOR Disaster Relief" in the memo line. Donations made to the HUB will be used to purchase UMCOR-approved supplies in bulk. Please mail all checks to the Conference Officer at 7481 Henry Clay Blvd. Liverpool, NY 13088.

You can also help by donating your time to assemble cleaning, hygiene, and school kits either at Mission Central HUB in Liverpool, or if too far, consider organizing "HUB on the Road," where neighboring churches work together to purchase items and assemble buckets as a



group. If your church or group is interested in saving money and producing two kits for the price of one, send your donation to UNY Mission Central HUB and I'll order the supplies in bulk for you and have it shipped directly to your church for assembling. I'm available if you need my help in any way.

If you want to be added to a listserv to learn about volunteer opportunities, including possible travel to Florida, Georgia, or the Carolinas for mission work, please email me at [mikeblock@unyumc.org](mailto:mikeblock@unyumc.org). For questions additional information, feel free to contact me at (315) 898-2066.

## UNY completes a successful medical mission trip to Puerto Rico



Vieques is a small island across the sea from San Juan, Puerto Rico. It takes an hour and a half by ferry from San Juan to get to Vieques. Vieques was nearly destroyed from the wrath of hurricane Maria in September 2017. The people there are recovering; they are slowly rebuilding their homes and their beautiful

beaches are once again being used by tourists.

In addition to recovering from Hurricane Maria, several residents in Vieques are struggling with a diabetes epidemic.

A 12-person team from the Upper New York (UNY) Conference went on a medical mission trip to Puerto Rico, on

the island of Vieques in Sept.

Team members included seven people from Fly Creek and Schuyler Lake UMCs in the Oneonta District as well as three additional medical staff from the Northern Flow District. Drs Sylvia and Marv Reimer of Watertown, NY led the team.

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