

on ways to improve the lives of children by strengthening families. An UMCOR grant helped the Teresina Methodists provide hygiene kits, COVID-19 prevention guidelines and basic food baskets. The church registered 40 families for the COVID-19 outreach, which they named "Project New Jerusalem Against COVID."

- In Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brazil, an UMCOR grant helped to save lives at Betel Social Assistance Association, a Methodist-founded nursing home, by providing COVID-19 testing and strict adherence to new guidelines.
- UMCOR provided 1,000 buckets to a community in East Angola, Africa, which were then modified by placing faucets on the side for better use. Families used them to store water in households in communities that didn't have running water in their homes. UMCOR also provided enough soap to ensure that all family members in the villages could wash their hands frequently. The combination of the two resources, 1,000 buckets and bars of soap, were delivered even to the most vulnerable households in the communities.

Visit <https://umcmmission.org/covid-19-response/> to see a moving video about UMCOR's COVID-19 relief fund and to read more stories about how the grants have helped communities in need.

#### **UNY Mission Central HUB seeking support for UMCOR**

The Upper New York (UNY) Mission

Central HUB is preparing for the coming spring to support survivors affected by the different disasters (floods and high winds) that may impact our area. In partnering with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), UNY's status of kits on hand is low at best. Most requested items are cleaning and hygiene kits as these items are the most requested. Those who can support our communities by assembling kits in your homes or churches, please share projects so we can support your efforts and possibly share your methods with others. Any number of kits will help.

Please review the list for contents of each kit. If you cannot provide complete kits, we can use individual items to help complete other kits that arrive not complete.

The HUB at the UNY Conference Center will remain closed until further notice. However, there is a tent outside the Conference Center where kits can be dropped off. You can also make arrangements to drop off kits at the HUB by calling MaryBeth Ingalls at 315-372-0285 or emailing her at [marybethingalls@unyumc.org](mailto:marybethingalls@unyumc.org) or calling Mike Block at 315-491-0497 or emailing him at [mikeblock@unyumc.org](mailto:mikeblock@unyumc.org).

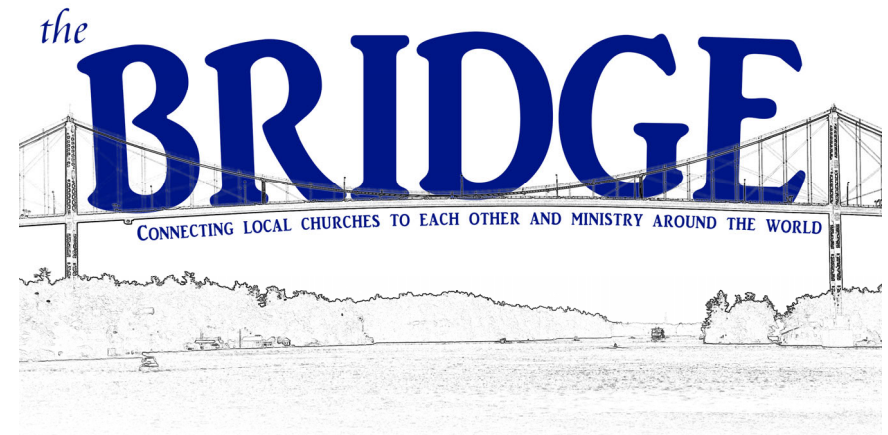
Visit <http://bit.ly/UMCORsupplies> for an UMCOR supply list.

Visit <http://bit.ly/HUBontheroad> to learn about HUB on the Road.

Visit <http://bit.ly/assembleUMCORkits> for UMCOR Kit Assembly options outside the HUB.

Visit <http://bit.ly/UNYUMCORdonation> to make a donation.

The 2021 Session of the Upper New York Annual Conference will be held remotely June 17-19. Visit <https://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference> to learn more.



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!

UMCOR makes a difference around the world

Page 2

*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)**

# UMCOR makes a difference around the world

This issue of the *Bridge* spotlights The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, assisting United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. They provide relief, response, and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on their own.

### UMCOR Sunday (photo of child with bag)

UMCOR Sunday is a United Methodist Special Sunday; in 2021, UMCOR Sunday takes place on March 14. UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus’ name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday. You can make a donation to UMCOR on UMCOR Sunday or any day of the year by visiting <http://bit.ly/UMCORdonation>.



### Texas Update Texas photo

As the needs in Texas continue, so does support from UMCOR.

Emergency funding is supporting relief efforts after the recent winter storm in The Texas, Central Texas, and North Texas Annual Conferences. Flood assessments are ongoing and cleaning kits are making their way to communities where burst pipes have caused damage to homes, buildings, and churches. UMCOR-trained local Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) have been responding as well. We remain in prayer with those who weathered and are still weathering, the aftermath of this severe winter storm.

### UMCOR has been responding to COVID (one of the Brazil or Angola photos)

We are now a year into the coronavirus pandemic and UMCOR has been supporting individuals and communities since the virus was first detected.

Since the start of the novel coronavirus outbreak, UMCOR and Global Ministries have been working with health boards, medical professionals, disaster management coordinators and faith leaders to



prevent the further spread of this disease. Through the UMCOR COVID-19 Response fund, grants have been rapidly released to equip partners to assist vulnerable populations around the world impacted by COVID -19, including racial/ethnic and indigenous communities in the United States. Grants from this fund are disbursed quickly and efficiently to address health concerns, food insecurity, water and hygiene limitations, and other pressing needs.

Some examples of UMCOR grants given to help populations affected by the coronavirus include:

- A few grants and strong connections opened UMC food pantries and kitchens in key underserved areas of New York City during the pandemic.
- In Louisiana, a United Methodist congregation converted its food pantry to a drive-thru operation after the coro-

*navirus pandemic disrupted vital food assistance when the local school closed.*

- In Ecuador, Methodists are assisting quarantined families in two hard-hit low-income neighborhoods where the church has had a presence for more than eight years.
- In the Philippines, church workers, as well as some front-line workers, were excluded from the list of Filipinos receiving government-provided cash assistance because of the pandemic. In the Baguio area, United Methodists have stepped in to help.
- In Piauí, Northeast Brazil, Teresina Methodist Church has worked to reach an underserved community in a place called Jerusalem. The ministry focuses

*Continued on page 4*