



The Anglican Relief  
and Development Fund®

## ARDF National Disaster Network FAQs

### *History, Mission, and Formation*

***Q: Who formed ARDF?***

A: Founded in 2004 with the support of then Bishop Robert Duncan, ARDF consciously adopted an organizational model intended to strengthen international relationships based on mutual respect and a shared faith in Jesus Christ. To achieve this end, a board of Archbishops leads ARDF. Representing orthodox Anglican Provinces in the Global South, they are crucial in determining priorities, approving large development grants, and keeping ARDF firmly linked to the local church. More on ARDF's leadership and organization may be found [here](#).

***Q: What is ARDF's mission?***

A: ARDF connects Anglican churches with resources as they meet the needs of their communities, expanding the Kingdom of Christ through tangible acts of compassion in their contexts. We are honored to be the silent partner in the background, supporting the local church to encourage families and communities with practical help and solid solutions through a living Gospel that feeds body, soul, and spirit. A summary of ARDF may be found [here](#).

***Q: When did ARDF start responding to domestic natural disasters?***

A: After Hurricane Sandy devastated New Jersey and surrounding areas in October of 2012, then Bishop John Guernsey of the Anglican Diocese of the Mid Atlantic wrote a letter to ARDF suggesting the organization form a domestic disaster ministry. As the frequency and intensity of domestic storms increased, so did ARDF donations. After Hurricane Harvey in August of 2017, ARDF received an unprecedented \$330,000.00, and called upon the Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast to prayerfully steward the distribution of these gifts. A stewardship team was formed, and during the next twelve months, new protocols, policies, and procedures were developed and implemented to distribute the donations fairly and responsibly. In 2020, ARDF again called upon the Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast to lead a disaster response pilot, with the goal of developing a scalable Provincial disaster network. In partnership with the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina, a team was formed, and work began. That same year, the pilot turned into a real time response as Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida made landfall in Louisiana.

***Q: Why did ARDF form a national disaster response network?***

A: Archbishop Foley Beach approached Rev. Dr. Jake Stum, Executive Director of ARDF, about uniting the ACNA in service to God's people through disaster response. ARDF had previous experience with providing domestic relief funds to affected areas, and the hope was to expand this experience to include a proactive network of volunteers in domestic response. Archbishop Beach's vision mirrored the increasing frequency of disasters, and the increasing need and consequent donations for domestic response.

***Q: Have Anglicans been involved in disaster response prior to ARDF's National Disaster Network?***

A: Anglican parishes and parishioners have responded to natural disasters both independently and collectively for years. Many individuals responded to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 through Samaritan's Purse, the Red Cross, or any number of organizations. Historically, Anglican parishes

have sent teams to Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas to aid in disaster recovery. After responding to Hurricane Irma in 2017, Rick and Anna Smith of Christ Church, Jacksonville, FL (Gulf Atlantic Diocese), formed Servant's Heart Disaster Relief, a non-profit created to respond to natural disasters on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. After Hurricane Florence in 2018, the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina and the Anglican Diocese of the Carolinas joined Servant's Heart Disaster Relief in disaster response. Trinity Anglican Church, Lafayette, LA, formed Trinity Crisis Relief, a ministry responding through the cooking and serving of meals, and distributing relief supplies. Trinity Crisis Relief also serves the local homeless and other families in need. ARDF's vision is to leverage collective experience to unite dioceses and parishes for ministry to a larger population of disaster survivors. Since the National Disaster Network's formation in June of 2022, seven disaster response trips to FL, LA, and KY have been sponsored, bringing much of this expertise together.

***Q: How does ARDF partner with parishes in disaster response?***

A: ARDF supports parishes with the resources needed to respond quickly and effectively to a disaster when their community needs it the most. ARDF's National Disaster Network is based on an adaptable model, enabling a parish to use ARDF's resources for the best use of God's gifts in their parish and community. ARDF does not direct a parish in disaster response, but acts as a resource, coming alongside a parish with time, talent, and treasure, relying on prayer and the Holy Spirit to reveal what is best.

Once a disaster response team is established, ARDF offers parishioners the opportunity to serve on disaster response trips with one of our Disaster Response Partners. These trips help to restore the homes and lives of disaster survivors, rebuilding structures, offering spiritual care, and sharing the hope of our Lord Jesus Christ. This past year, five disaster response trips have been sponsored. Two more trips are scheduled for November 2023. Anglicans, as well as those in other denominations, have served in LA, FL, and KY.

ARDF also offers partnering parishes the resources to supply and train a response team. An example is our "Hitch a Trailer & Go" grant program, offering parishes the opportunity to split the cost of a 16' cargo trailer with ARDF. Another example is partnering in the building of a disaster response supply warehouse, or the purchase of equipment to host disaster response teams.

Finally, if a natural disaster were to occur in your community, ARDF grants partnering dioceses the funding to support local response ministries. These funds are made possible through the generosity of our donors, and amounts vary based on the need, historically ranging from \$5000 to over \$300,000.

For further information on how your parish can form a disaster response ministry, please refer to *ARDF National Disaster Network FAQs – How does my parish get started?* located [here](#).

***Q: Where can I learn more about ARDF's National Disaster Network?***

A: Please explore ARDF's National Disaster Network webpage found [here](#). There are many resources including documents, videos, and disaster response coordinators you may review, download, watch, and contact! Please join our public National Disaster Network Facebook Group found [here](#). You may also reach Tommy Lamb, Director, ARDF National Disaster Network, at [tommy@ardf.org](mailto:tommy@ardf.org) or (281) 802-8378, mobile.