



# MERCI

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## **NCCUMC**

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Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr.

Connectional Ministries  
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## **MERCI Staff**

Program Director  
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*Ann Huffman*

*Assistant;*  
*Jacoby Davis*

Construction  
Contractor  
*Joey Williford*

Warehouse Super  
Bob Bloodsworth

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When disaster strikes, United Methodists in the North Carolina Conference respond rapidly through MERCI. The North Carolina Conference Disaster Response Team answered the call during the days of the devastating flood that followed Hurricane Floyd. We made a commitment to help people in eastern North Carolina for as long as possible. Thousands of families have been assisted, many with home repairs and others with completely new homes. It was out of this commitment that MERCI was established as an ongoing ministry of the North Carolina Annual Conference.

During the past eight years, MERCI has evolved to include, Urgent Home Repair, and worldwide mission support and a youth camp called Footprints. What a blessing MERCI has become not only to our hurting people, but to volunteers from all over our nation. It has been a training site for youth and adults in mission work. We have assisted the North Carolina Conference missions program by being a receiving, sorting and storage facility for building materials and overseas ministries, and a collection point for health kits, school kits and flood buckets. We have responded to the hurricane recovery in Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana by shipping flood buckets and other materials. We have sent teams to assist in Flood recovery in Iowa and Indiana. A lot of this out of state missions work was inspired by the number of volunteers who came to North Carolina following our natural disasters and helped us recover from our own distress.

In the Urgent Repair program that we are managing for the State for areas of poverty in Wayne County, we have realized that it is hard to see much difference in a home destroyed by a natural disaster and a home destroyed by poverty. We are in ministry to people in poverty in Wayne County with State funds and United Methodist volunteers.

Recent tornado damage in Johnston and Wilson counties North Carolina has called us back into disaster recovery work to rebuild two houses that were damaged so badly that they must be replaced. We will need teams, materials and funds to assist this family.

MERCI was born at an historic time - the turn of the century. It is a new ministry for a new era. MERCI has grown in service and spirit with clarity of mission for ministry in the 21st Century. In response to our Christian calling, we must assist the hurting of the world with the compassion of Jesus Christ on a daily basis in relief and mission efforts.

Please help us continue this unique ministry of compassion by sending your gift to MERCI 676 Community Dr. Goldsboro, NC 27530. Through your involvement with MERCI, you touch lives, and along the way, you are also touched.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Al Gwinn, Bishop in Residence

*Helping the NC UMC to help others*