



Ready...Set... Grow!



**“MDS volunteers are my village—
heaven sent.”**

That’s how Nicole Gillespie (pictured top left) described the loving hands that built a new home for her family in Crisfield, Maryland, a small town that experienced repeated flooding.

In 2023, MDS volunteers not only got people like Nicole home—they made them safer. With updated construction plans that meet a gold standard for severe weather endurance, MDS made great strides in disaster mitigation.

That means, as Nicole’s husband Eddie put it: “When we walked in that door, when they gave us the key to that house, I could finally rest.”

MDS also nurtured a vibrant group of youth volunteers, bringing an intergenerational wave of response across the US and Canada.

Joel Amstutz, a youth volunteer in Dawson Springs, Kentucky, reflected: “As MDS led us through each day, our faith was able to grow as we worked and talked with each other.”

Volunteering changed countless lives and moved countless hearts toward a deeper commitment to service.

For all those volunteers who taught or learned construction skills, for those who prayed and worked together, for those who gave hours, days, and weeks of their time—**THANK YOU!**



7,290 volunteers
across Canada and the U.S.
gave their time, skills
and compassion to build
95 new homes,
complete
402 repairs,
finish
274 cleanups,
and build
7 new bridges
for households who
experienced a disaster.

This volunteer labor is a value of
**\$13.63 million USD/
\$18.54 million CAD***

All statistics from 8/1/2022 through 7/31/2023.
*Labor value based on a volunteer rate of \$31.80 USD/
hour. (www.independentsector.org)

MDS volunteers served
53,583 days
helping
805 households
recover from disaster.



Respond. Rebuild. Restore.



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

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