



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES RECEIVES GRANT FROM LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE –
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

Ambler, PA. (March 13, 2018) – Lutheran Congregational Services (LCS) is pleased to announce it has received a \$98,670 grant from Lutheran Disaster Response – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LDR-ELCA). These funds will support the long term recovery of evacuees from Puerto Rico who relocated to Pennsylvania after Hurricanes Irma and Maria from Sept 2017 to present.

The project will be headed by Julia Menzo, director of community outreach for LCS. “This grant will allow LCS to provide leadership for collaboration among disaster response organizations like American Red Cross, United Church of Christ Disaster Services, Pennsylvania Emergency Management (PEMA), and Hispanic Agencies who are working in communities where family and friends have welcomed evacuees into their homes,” said Julia.

LCS will play a coordinating role among agencies in order to help people connect with congregations and community partners in order to acclimate to life here in Pennsylvania, improve English skills, and have access to resources and information so they can make good decisions for their families’ futures.

Projected to assist 3000 people, including outreach, intake, resource information, and participation in long term recovery efforts across the Eastern portion of Pennsylvania, LCS will also support Southeastern PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Eastern PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Northeast PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, and PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster in leading collaborative response efforts for long term recovery.

“Lutheran Disaster Response applauds the leadership Liberty Lutheran/Lutheran Congregational Services has taken to work collaboratively with many partners to address the enormous needs of hurricane evacuees from Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands in Pennsylvania,” said Reverend Joseph Chu, Associate Program Director Lutheran Disaster Response, upon awarding the grant. “The disaster case management services LCS provides will help bring hope and healing to those whose lives have been turned upside down. As an affiliate of Lutheran Disaster Response, LCS helps broaden Lutheran Disaster Response's comprehensive efforts to accompany 2017 Hurricane survivors to rebuild their lives in Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands as well as here in the mainland. Learnings from your program will also help us strengthen our total responses in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.”

“We are thankful to LDR-ELCA for this generous grant and know that the combined efforts of our partners will bring comfort to those who have lost so much as they adjust to a new life in Pennsylvania,” said Julia.



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About Lutheran Congregational Services

Lutheran Congregational Services is a member of the Liberty Lutheran family of services. Through a dynamic range of lifestyle, health, and wellness options, the faith-based, non-profit Liberty Lutheran organization serves more than 10,000 senior adults throughout eastern and central Pennsylvania. For more information, visit libertylutheran.org.