

A Note of Gratitude & A Firsthand Account from a WNC Native

I would like to offer a sincere thank you for your generosity and support for the ongoing efforts for Hurricane Helene recovery in Western North Carolina. Being a native of WNC and being present when the hurricane hit, I saw and felt deeply the impact of what the storm did to the area. Once it was safe to leave in September, I saw a glimpse of the devastation that occurred.

It has been our custom in the last 10 years to spend Thanksgiving at our family home in the town of Canton, NC. I contacted the pastor of the Clyde Central UMC. Clyde was an area particularly hard hit near my hometown. I asked in what ways I and others in WPA could support the ongoing efforts for recovery.

With the changing of the seasons and the colder weather coming on, I was told there was a great need for blankets for families living in tent communities. I shared the need with the church I serve, Leechburg First UMC, and with the district. The word spread quickly, and I was overwhelmed with the response.

I had to put a halt to the blankets that were being brought in because I just would not be able to transport that many. I delivered a total of 48 blankets. Some people opted to purchase and ship storage totes: which was another great need for people who had salvaged what they could from their destroyed homes. I also redirected people to give cash to the church and I took one check to the Clyde Central UMC. One couple from Leechburg donated the vacuum storage bags so that we could compress the blankets and make them fit better in my car (I still need to have my daughter transport some of them).

I spoke with a member of the Clyde Central UMC, Sharon Bramlet, when I was dropping everything off. She and her husband have been volunteering almost daily. They help with meal preparation and service as well as unloading and sorting the multitude of donations that come in. There was a whole host of people serving in so many areas. I have included some pictures for you to see their efforts.

The conversations I had with the pastor, Linda-Arlene Hoxit, were positive and they so appreciated everything that everyone is doing to continue to help in their efforts. But they are also running on low. I told her I could never imagine what it would be like to lead through something like this. Her reply was: "And I hope you never have to." Please continue to keep all the areas hit by Hurricane Helene in your prayers including those who are still responding to the ongoing needs.

Pastor Sara Wrona, Leechburg First UMC

Clyde Central UMC

Blanket Delivery



Clyde Central UMC

Continuing Ministries for Hurricane Helene Recovery



Clothing Closet in Fellowship Hall



Clyde Central UMC continues to serve hot meals Tuesday - Saturday from noon - 7:00 P.M.



Food Pantry in Breezeway



UMCOR Buckets & More Food



Pet Pantry in Breezeway



Thank you board in entryway.