



In Search of Partnership:

Facilitating ever-widening circles of fellowship

In constant search of partnership—with implementing communities and donors alike—Episcopal Relief & Development works to embody God’s reconciliation and healing as established in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. As a Church we affirm in our baptismal vows a commitment to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to “**respect the dignity of every human being.**” Working in over 40 different countries, Episcopal Relief & Development seeks to do just that as it works to alleviate human suffering.

The methodology of Episcopal Relief & Development is calculated to accentuate the dignity and agency of each person with which it partners. By removing sources of unfreedom: such as poverty, poor economic opportunities, disease and deprivation, Episcopal Relief & Development empowers individuals and communities to seek the abundant life that Jesus promised.

Rather than impose “one size fits all” solutions, Episcopal Relief & Development supports local, long-term initiatives that address poverty, hunger, disease, economic development and disaster response where the need is greatest. Through our partnership with the worldwide Church creates opportunities to serve communities in some of the most remote areas of the world, as well as in urban environments where extreme poverty persists.

It is only through its partnership with the parishes and people of the Episcopal Church that Episcopal Relief & Development is able to extend Christ’s healing to this hurting world. We ask you to continue to partner with us. Below you will find ways to partner with us.

The Network: The Network is a group of Episcopal Relief & Development volunteers in the United States who actively advocate, support and promote our ministry throughout Episcopal parishes, dioceses and seminaries. We have over 3,000 Network members, consisting of diocesan coordinators, parish representatives and seminarian coordinators. Anyone can join the Network and work with Episcopal Relief & Development to bring healing to a hurting world. We hope to have an Episcopal Relief & Development Network representative in every Episcopal parish around the country. www.er-d.org/TheNetworkFAQs

Youth Program: With a goal of inviting youth to cultivate a prophetic call to justice in the midst of a lifetime involvement with Episcopal Relief & Development, the staff of Episcopal Relief & Development, in consultation with clergy and Christian formation and youth ministry specialists from across the Episcopal Church, has developed Act Out: Empowering Youth to Healing a Hurting World. Act Out is an intensive educational program for middle/high school students that brings the needs and hopes of the world together with the lives of youth, in a context framed by liturgy and filled with prophetic stories of Scripture. www.er-d.org/Formation

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday: Congregations are invited to celebrate Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday on the first Sunday in Lent or another convenient Sunday during the Lenten season. At the 2009 General Convention, Lent was officially designated as a time to encourage dioceses, congregations and individuals to remember and support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief & Development. We invite all Episcopalians to join together on March 13, and throughout the Lenten season, to pray for those living in need. www.er-d.org/ERDSunday

Lenten Materials: Every year, we provide a devotional guide and other materials for our Lenten journey. These materials are available from the Episcopal Media Center (EMC) at **866.937.2772** or online at the

[Episcopal Marketplace](#). The 2011 Lenten Meditations were co-authored by a group of leaders from across the Episcopal Church. Reflecting a variety of backgrounds and theological perspectives, these meditations offer insights on the daily lectionary readings and how we might apply them to our lives as we face a world in need. www.er-d.org/Lent

Children's Program: Our new Abundant Life Garden Project is an interactive, scripture-based, BCP-based children's Christian formation program, offered free online to engage children and families in Episcopal Relief & Development's work and ministry around the world. The Abundant Life Garden Project invites children to participate in our mission by exploring the vital gifts of water, seeds, soil, animals and harvest. The program has been developed in conjunction with the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary. www.er-d.org/Formation

Social Media: We post a variety of items on Facebook and Twitter, our main social media platforms. These include updates such as the Matching Gift Challenge results, new blog posts, and NetsforLife Inspiration Fund developments, along with items of more general and topical interest such as Episcopal Church and relief and development news to reach out to a wider audience. A number of staff members contribute to our blog, reflecting on a range of aspects of our work, such as program site visits and initiatives, US disaster preparedness and interacting with donors. ([Guest contributions](#) are also welcome.) We also have a less active presence on other platforms, including YouTube and Jumo, that we may expand in the future.



Study Tours: Each year we take groups of Church leaders to our field sites to learn firsthand the “what, how and why” of the ministry of Episcopal Relief & Development. Recent trips have included Ghana, El Salvador and Belize. If you are at all interested in participating in the upcoming trip to Ghana (March 26-April 2) contact Brian Sellers-Petersen at 206-390-0750 or bpetersen@er-d.org.

US Disaster Program: Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program inspires, connects and equips leaders of the US Episcopal Church and its partners to prepare for hazards that might affect their communities, to mitigate the impact of those disasters, and to help the vulnerable make a full and sustained recovery. Of special note is a new preparedness initiative that will target parishes and dioceses to improve their preparation for a disaster and mitigate local impact. This is accomplished by building the "Ready to Serve" national volunteer and skill database, holding local and regional trainings and assisting dioceses with regional planning and coordination. www.er-d.org/USDisasterProgram

Bishops Blend: Episcopal Relief & Development has partnered with Pura Vida Coffee to offer Bishops Blend—a premium line of special-grade coffees from Central America, Indonesia and Africa, along with organic teas, available in Moroccan Mint and fair trade Earl Grey. Organic, shade grown and certified fair trade, Bishops Blend protects the earth while ensuring that coffee and tea growers are paid a living wage and have access to affordable credit. These delicious coffees and teas will meet your home, office and church needs and also make great gifts. Sell them as part of a church or school fundraising event. Let your friends and family know about this great-tasting way to change the world—one cup at a time. www.er-d.org/BishopsBlend

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