

TESTIMONIAL

"During the Alberta flood of June 2013 we were privileged to make the acquaintance of Bridges of Love Ministry. Our church (Church of God in Christ, Mennonite) was looking for accommodations for volunteers to help with the flood restoration and cleanup in the Calgary area. The volunteers were travelling from BC, AB, SK and MB. After many attempts to locate a facility in Calgary we decided to contact Samaritan's Purse. We were excited to hear they knew of a ministry called Bridges of Love that they thought could help us. We contacted Marg and she immediately went to work on finding us what we needed. She made many phone calls to find us a church (building) where the volunteers could sleep which had showers and be served meals and also arranged for cots to be brought in. The second morning Bridges of Love graciously brought us breakfast for 15 – 20 people. This was not a request from us but rather kind and caring folks giving from their personal resources. From then on they also arranged for numerous meals to be served to the volunteers. After a few days that group of volunteers went home but within a short time we had another group also looking for accommodation. Bridges of Love went to work and located another church which filled our accommodation needs. We were blessed to be able to work with such compassionate and caring people and know God will bless them as they minister through Bridges of Love!

Ray & Verda, Klassen
Christian Disaster Services

CONTACT

Bridges of Love Ministry Society
Marg Pollon, Executive Director

Canadian Headquarters
Second Floor #6 - 609 Centre Street SW
High River, AB T1V 2C2

Telephone
Office : 403.649.0087
Mobile : 403.616.0536

Website
www.bridgesoflovenet

Charitable Registration Number
84741 4471 RR0001



margpollon@bridgesoflove.net



A common challenge after a disaster is an out-pouring of donations. People want to help, so it doesn't take long, before warehouses are filled to capacity. Often disaster victims do not have immediate needs for many of these donations, so in time, they may be discarded. Donation management has proven to be a challenge, but Bridges of Love is working on an effective solution!

RECOVERS, a US based agency developed and donated a website for Bridges of Love after the 2013 Alberta Floods. Through this virtual site hundreds of items were donated by individuals, companies, churches, and communities, which were matched with flood victims. Items from automobiles to furnaces and everything in between were donated without stock-piling a single item! Bridges of Love made the matches, with Faith Emergency Preparedness Initiative Churches kindly delivering the donated items, blessing people from Calgary to High River, AB.

Since RECOVERS.org is restructuring and not yet ready for operation, Bridges of Love is the process of creating a similar site. We plan to be ready to once again, match donations on-line with disaster victims. Please stay-tuned!

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"I am proud to know Bridges of Love as it is a well deserving ministry who came through for my family.

There are a lot of people in need and they provided more than any agency could. They listened and if they didn't have it they would figure a way to get help for me, as they have done.... So I owe a lot to them and we all need them in our lives. They may not be a huge agency like many, but they are the biggest hearted people I've ever met! Many thanks."

Shauna

Having church information stored in a database for quick access before disaster strikes, provides an effective response, when time is of the essence. FEPI Contact and Resource Assessment Form is a fillable document found on Bridges of Love's website. Please become a FEPI partner, so when disaster strikes, this vital church information is already stored and ready for action.

BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY
FAITH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE (FEPI)
CHURCH CONTACT AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT FORM - 2023

When disaster strikes, a network of coordinated local churches, is ready to respond.

CHURCHES HELPING NEIGHBOURS - A BRIDGE TO THE COMMUNITY

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH			
Address			
Postal Code	Sub-division	Quadrant	
Office Phone	Office Fax		
Email Address			
Senior Pastor			

24 HR. Emergency Contact Information

Name	Position	24 hr. Phone #	Email
1.			
2.			
3.			

☐ FEPI PARTNER Willing to respond to the needs of our community during and after a disaster.

CHURCH RESOURCES

<input type="checkbox"/> FOOD BANK	Quantity of food:
<input type="checkbox"/> DAY CARE	Children's, Ladies, Men's, Assorted (Please circle)...
<input type="checkbox"/> CLOTHING DEPOT	Name: Email: Phone:
<input type="checkbox"/> PARISH NURSE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE	<input type="checkbox"/> Church disaster plans prepared
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFIBRILLATOR	<input type="checkbox"/> We have discussed how to care for our community during a disaster

CHURCH FACILITY

<input type="checkbox"/> WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE	Elevator
<input type="checkbox"/> SEATING CAPACITY	#
<input type="checkbox"/> WASHROOMS	Men: Women: Wheel Chair Accessible:
<input type="checkbox"/> SHOWERS	#
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL KITCHEN	Cribs: Capacity of children:
<input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA	
<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC SPACE/GYM	
<input type="checkbox"/> STORAGE AREAS	
<input type="checkbox"/> WASHER/DRYER	
<input type="checkbox"/> PROTECTED AREA FOR PETS	
<input type="checkbox"/> BACK UP POWER/GENERATOR	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wet/Dry Vac	
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL VEHICLE (BUS)	Certified drivers:
<input type="checkbox"/> PARKING STALLS	#
<input type="checkbox"/> RECEPTION CENTRE SITE	Assessed by Emergency Social Services: Date: / /201__
<input type="checkbox"/> LIABILITY INSURANCE	Coverage for church volunteers assisting during an emergency/disaster
<input type="checkbox"/> EMERGENCY TELEPHONE INFO.	Emergency Contact information on church answering machine
<input type="checkbox"/> SNOW REMOVAL/LAWN EQUIPMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> MUSTER STATION SIGN	Emergency gathering place

"Our guests left this morning and it has left a small hole in my heart. I really loved having them (CDS) and we as a church are the better for it. It was good that we were able to help them at this time. I made a small friendship with four of the women who were responsible for caring for the team. I will truly miss them. I am also very grateful to Red Deer Lake United Church for their support of a meal on Thursday evening. Wonderful all around! Thank you for trusting us with this request ..."

Lori ~ Pastor Bonavista EM Church

Emmanuel Community Church's Youth Group spent an evening handing out emergency resource materials and FEPI Emergency Contact Information Magnets to their community. A great opportunity to make introductions as the church in their neighbourhood, that acts as their meeting place and communication centre, during times of disaster.



COMMUNITY GATHERING PLACE DURING DISASTER



CHURCHES HELPING NEIGHBOURS

TOWN EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police, Fire, Ambulance.....	9-1-1
Health Link Alberta.....	8-1-1
Fire Department.....	403-652-3774
R.C.M.P.....	403-652-2357
High River Hospital.....	403-652-2200
FCSS.....	403-652-8620
Public Works.....	403-652-4657
Public Link Centre.....	403-652-8633
High River Town Office.....	403-652-2110
Canadian Red Cross.....	1-800-800-6493

BRIDGES OF LOVE MINISTRY SOCIETY
FEPI Coordination Centre

#5 - 609 Centre St. SW High River, AB T1V 2C2

Should an emergency or disaster occur in your community and you are unable to connect with a Municipal Emergency Agency, please give Bridges of Love's Coordination Center a call. Depending on the nature of the need, a FEPI church in your community will do their best to assist.

Office: 403-649-0087 - 24 hr: 403-616-0536
 margpollon@bridgesoflove.net

FAITH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE

After a large-scale disaster, networks of prepared individuals, churches, and local agencies that collaborate effectively reduce dependence on municipal services and mitigate the damage caused by large scale events. When first responders are over-extended, Bridges of Love's Coordination Centre, a network of local churches, provides an alternate place to call for assistance.