



Canada Mission Project Update



HURRICANE HELENE

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

When a call for help is answered

Hurricane Helene came ashore on September 26 as a Category 4 hurricane. As it moved northward from Florida, it carved a wide swath of destruction. It washed away homes, destroyed roads, and knocked out electricity and cell phone service for millions. Helene is the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland U.S. since Katrina in 2005. The number of deaths stands at over 227 in North Carolina alone. In the western mountains of North Carolina, Asheville was particularly battered.

As reports have come in on the news and online, we learned a massive relief effort was underway across five States devastated by the storm. Families were stranded in mountain towns all over the region without basic supplies. Time was not on their side.

Extensive efforts were at play to quickly restore power, rebuild damaged water and cell infrastructure, and rebuild the roads that had vanished.

But without accessible roads, how would supplies get to those unreachable people? How could a small non-profit like AWA join the efforts and offer our planes for service? After hearing of the great need for help, we prayed on it.

Ray spent two agonizing days trying to find a connection online with social media groups of like-minded pilots. Those who would be willing to share their connections so we could utilize the planes and help reach those who were unreachable. We were told that other large agencies were on the ground setting up and that helicopters were the only way to access the areas cut off. Finally, he made a connection, and when a call came back from a group in contact with collection facilities to fly into airports, AWA flew into action.

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Working with ground support to load the planes, the pilots Dion, Deyvid, Shasha, Mark, and Jarrett flew well into the late night in the Cessnas 206 and 172. They flew each day

for a week, weekends, and well into the following week. The 206 after 6 days of flying, alone has transported a combined weight of 4,800 lbs in supplies to the various collection facilities across North Carolina, used 590 gallons of fuel with an approximate cost of over \$3,200.

We joined other volunteer agencies and pilots from all over. In one day, over 3,500 lbs of cargo supplies of water, baby items, formula, diapers, canned and dried goods, warm clothes, blankets, medical supplies such as insulin, and even a generator were put in the planes. Countless volunteers packed boxes and broke down supplies.

Flying into Statesville, Avery County, Asheville, Fayetteville, Burlington, Franklin NC

-Johnson County Airport in Mountain City, TN

Jackson County Airport in Sylva, SC

-Macon County Airport Franklin NC

Pickens County Airport in Liberty SC

The hope is that as the roads open, semi-trucks loaded with heavy-item supplies can enter the hardest-hit areas, where people live in the mountains. Please pray for all those affected in the recovery areas now and in the future.

As the sun set each day, we prayed our pilots safely returned to Wilson, North Carolina and were fit to fly again the next day. **We will only stop flights once the last supplies are gone.**



Thank you, all of you, pilots and volunteers, for all your hard work.

Each flight has significant fuel costs, and we are stepping out in faith and service by using the fish and loaves we have on hand to make these flights.

**You can help us by donating to
Disaster Relief-Hurricane Helene.**

website: flyawa.org

Catch a glimpse of our work here on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/flyawa.org>

Also featured on our YouTube Channel:

<https://youtu.be/KDzl8xvm0h8>

Seize the day,

Ray and Julie Young

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