

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

As the new diocesan coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development (ER&D), this has been a year of rebuilding a diocesan structure and becoming familiar with the computer, print, and human resources offered by ER&D. The expectation is that each parish be represented by at least one person on a diocesan ER&D committee who will work to “help heal a hurting world.” The membership for our diocese’s ER&D committee is open to volunteers.

At the diocesan level, a focus will be on helping children and adults use the Gifts of Life program during the fall to promote the satisfaction of giving to meet the needs of “the hurting world” rather than only on the “I want ... this ... and that ... and more” of a self-centered commercialized Christmas. Catalogs will be provided for each parish. The ER&D committee will offer ideas for implementing this approach.

Across the Episcopal Church during 75 weeks of 2014-2015, there will be many ways of celebrating the 75th anniversary of Episcopal Relief & Development from its founding as the Presiding Bishop’s Fund for World Relief. While the organization has always been concerned with meeting needs resulting from poverty and disasters, ER&D has become a world leader in addressing long-term needs through a sophisticated model of development of sustainable projects using community assets and training local leadership.

Episcopal Relief & Development is 75 years old. A cornerstone of the Anniversary Celebration is a touring exhibit of iconic photographs from programs around the world, leading the viewer through exploration of the history and highlights in the faces and stories behind these images. More information about the ER&D story and the schedule of the nationwide exhibition tour can be found at www.episcopalrelief.org/75exhibition. For more information about the 75 weeks of celebration, visit www.episcopalrelief.org/75.

At the 2014 meeting of the ER&D Network of diocesan coordinators that met in Atlanta in early May, we had opportunity to preview resources and plans, which were also shared with youth attending the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) this summer. An inventory of 75th anniversary resources will be distributed as available.

As your diocesan coordinator, I am available for consultation and presentations. The first parish presentation in the diocese was in March 2014 for the ECW in Somerset. For further information, contact Diane Duntley at (724) 349-2718 or diane.duntley@gmail.com.