NAD NEWS BRIEFS

ADVENTIST HEALTH TRAILER TO SUPPORT DISASTER RESPONSE IN CALIFORNIA

Adventist Health Simi Valley has donated a command center trailer to the Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN) that will be used as an operations center during statewide disaster response.

During the past six years more than 1.7 million families in California have had to evacuate from their homes because of wildfires alone. When disaster strikes, life can change in an instant, leaving people in need of even the most basic services.

To help during these times of crisis, HCRN mobilizes its Hope Disaster Resource Village to provide services for individuals, families, and communities. Since 2015, HCRN staff and volunteers have helped communities near more than 50 major wildfires in California. HCRN will use its new command center trailer to organize and deploy equipment, volunteers, and a variety of targeted resources including information technology.

A special event was held at AHSV on August 11 to pray for the work of HCRN and to officially hand over the keys to the trailer. "Our mission is to live God's love," said AHSV president Jennifer Swenson at the dedication event, "and I can't think of a better way to do so than to be a part of something so meaningful."

—*Kim Strobel, Mission and Spiritual Care at Adventist Health*

Walla Walla University Library Receives $10,000 Grant for Diversity Research

The Walla Walla University Peterson Memorial Library received a $10,000 grant from the Washington State Library. The grant will provide updated literature and resources to support student research on diversity and belonging.

The grant was supported by American Rescue Plan Act funding, provided by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Library Services and Technology Act, through the Washington State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

In addition to supporting updates to the library's collection,

a portion of the grant has been allocated to host book discussion groups. "Peterson Memorial Library, in partnership with the university's Donald Blake Center, would like to build bridges with our underrepresented students and community members," said Cheris Current, director of the Donald Blake Center and WWU professor of social work and sociology. To do this, Current says they plan to host "read-along book discussion groups designed to build engagement through shared inquiry."

—*Kiersten Ekkens, Walla Walla University Relations student*

Southern Adventist University Impacts Community Through Record Freshman Service Day

With more than 640 students participating, this year's Freshman Service Day was the biggest Southern Adventist University has held so far. The incoming class is the third largest in the school's 130-year history and the largest since the annual event began.

On August 18 all new students joined together on 33 different projects throughout Chattanooga and the surrounding communities. From trail maintenance at Red Clay State Park to preparation for the university's local food distribution, and to helping neighbors with their yard work, the required event provided opportunities for campus newcomers to venture into nearby neighborhoods and make a difference.

"Freshman Service Day allows students to grow in their walks with Jesus as they model Him," said Julie Devlin, service learning and community service coordinator. "This can be a real eye-opener for most of them in understanding what's needed right here in the university's backyard."

—*Amanda Blake, Southern Adventist University student*

↓ Students assemble bunk beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace during Southern Adventist University's annual Freshman Service Day. *Southern Adventist University*