

The people of Haiti continue to recover from Hurricane Matthew, which destroyed up to 90% of crops in some areas.  
photo credit: ACT Alliance/Paul Jeffrey



\*For more stories about how Week of Compassion empowers people and communities, visit [weekofcompassion.org/special-offering](http://weekofcompassion.org/special-offering)

## MISSION MOMENT

# More than Just Roofs

By Rev. Kara Foster

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It was a week of roofs for our youth and adult chaperones. It was hot, sweaty, and dirty work. We cleared off debris, power washed, sealed, and painted the roofs of three different homes. Along the way we heard stories and saw the evidence of the destruction from Hurricane Maria, which caused significant damage and continues to create challenges for the community.

Our group traveled to Puerto Rico as an ambassador volunteer team with Programa Edifiquemos; a collaborative recovery and rebuilding program between the Disciples of Christ in Puerto Rico, Week of Compassion, Disciples Volunteering, and Global Ministries. Because Week of

Compassion is committed to ongoing presence as well as immediate response, the role of ambassador volunteer groups is as much about building relationships as it is about doing repair work.

One of the roofs we worked on was the home of a retired Disciples of Christ Pastor. He gave us tours of his wife's garden and showed us family photo albums. We talked about his years of ministry with the Church, and he and his wife made sure we stayed well fed.

As we finished up the roof and packed up to go, the Pastor offered us a prayer. We circled together and held hands and prayed. The Pastor teared up and cried as we said our goodbyes. As we drove away, Manuel, our local host, turned to me and said, "We are fixing more than just roofs here..."

1 Corinthians 3:9 says, "For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building." We worked on actual buildings in Puerto Rico, but the long-term disaster relief work that Week of Compassion supports is mending more than just buildings. It is an investment in futures-- an investment in lives.\*



A volunteer repairs a roof in Puerto Rico.  
photo credit: Florida Disciples