



PROJECT UPDATE: MAUI EMERGENCY RELIEF

Your Impact: Maui Wildfire Response

In August 2023, wildfires broke out on Maui, one of the islands that make up the state of Hawaii. The fires spread rapidly and were one of the most destructive and deadly wildfire events in the United States in over a century. Two local Nazarene churches responded in a number of ways, including providing temporary housing, helping neighbors replace much-needed items such as bicycles, beds, furniture, and more, as well as providing food, water, and baby supplies. When emergencies arise, local churches can offer immediate emergency relief. After the initial crisis, local churches are a permanent fixture in the community, which means short-term relief can easily transform into long-term community development and rebuilding.



Pukalani Church of the Nazarene has served over **2,000** people through initial relief efforts.



More than **60,000** lbs of fresh produce has been distributed.



6,000 Crisis care kits were sent to provide for immediate needs on Maui.



Since the fires, roughly **100** gallons of fresh water have been distributed daily.



NCM disaster response relies on local churches with volunteers who are ready to respond quickly when the biggest needs arise in their communities.

A Safe Haven Now and in the Future

On Maui, the Pukalani Church of the Nazarene is practicing immediate emergency relief with plans for long-term rebuilding. Maui welcomes thousands of tourists each year, so one of the immediate needs was to help tourists who needed to evacuate but didn't know where to go. Hana and her sisters were visiting the island when the fires broke out. "I spoke with volunteers regarding my sister's medication; that's when Dylan came to the rescue," she explained. They went to Pukalani Church of the Nazarene, where they were offered water, blankets, and hospitality. "They even had a volunteer who happened to be a pharmacist, and she was able to help get my sister what she needed. . . I have never felt the kind of love that this church provided to me and my sisters. . . During this terrible time of Maui's history, God showed me the best parts of humanity and what it means to find community," said Hana.

In addition to immediate relief, the church currently has three transitional housing options and is building four more to help its community address the housing crisis left in the wake of these fires.