



Sierra Pacific Synod
committed to being re-formed



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Church Together

PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

St. James, Redding, has a story to tell illustrating the value of partnerships with other community organizations.

Since his retirement in 2006 Pastor Bob Grosch has served as a Disaster Mental Health specialist with the American Red Cross. He often finds himself in Red Cross shelters comforting disaster victims after fires, floods, or tornadoes.

Temporary housing in a Red Cross shelter can be stressful, especially for children. When children arrive in a shelter staffed partially by Pr. Grosch they are presented with a brand new quilt made from child-friendly fabric, fashioned by the quilting ladies of St. James. Each quilt is accompanied by a soft, cuddly stuffed animal, purchased with Thrivent funds through the Thrivent Action Team program.

Children displaced by disaster receive comfort and support through a partnership of the Red Cross, St. James congregation, and Thrivent Financial. "Often our ministries can be enlarged if we are open to partnering with other organizations," says Pr. Grosch. "Together we can do more than we are able to do by ourselves."

Partnership between congregations has strengthened this ministry as well. When the Quilters from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Reno heard of St. James' project, they purchased fabric with Thrivent Action Team funds and quickly made 15 quilts to send to St. James, knowing their supply had been depleted during the Carr Fire which destroyed over 1,000 homes and required the Red Cross to house over 800 persons in their shelters.

"When disaster strikes," says Pastor Grosch, "partnerships with others strengthen our ministries and ease the burden on those who suffer."

Do you have a story that you would like to share? Send any Church Together story requests to mic@spselca.org.

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