

## B'nai B'rith's Worldwide Disaster Relief



Partnering with Jewish disaster relief organization NECHAMA, B'nai B'rith raised funds for the repair and renovation of buildings in Puerto Rico which were damaged during Hurricane Maria.

Internationally, B'nai B'rith has directed relief funds toward the victims of natural disasters.

In the summer of 2018, during a widespread heat wave in Europe, wildfires ravaged coastal areas in the Greek region of Attica, where Greece's capital, Athens, is located. The fires killed more than 100 people, and hundreds more had to evacuate their homes. The B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief Fund, working with the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association and the American Hellenic Institute, directed aid to the neediest areas and organizations.

B'nai B'rith also helped after Japan experienced its worst flooding in decades in the summer of 2018. Working with IsraAid, a Zionist humanitarian organization, the B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief Fund allocated funds to aid survivors. Previously, in 2016, B'nai B'rith helped disaster recovery efforts after Japan was hit by an earthquake. In 2011, part of the fund went toward disaster relief after another earthquake and devastating tsunami in the country.

The B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief Fund also helped with disasters in California and Hawaii in the summer and fall of 2018. Wildfires struck Southern California, and B'nai B'rith helped provide funds for food, utility bills and medical supplies for the Idyllwild HELP Center, a charity and thrift store that helps needy individuals and families. In Hawaii, B'nai B'rith provided assistance to the Ahava 'Aina Synagogue, the only synagogue on Hawaii's Big Island, after the eruption of the Kilauea Volcano and damage from a



Volunteer Eric Steinberg, a member of New Orleans Unit #182, spent one month there in early 2018, serving as the project's team leader.

tropical storm. The disasters hampered the rabbi's efforts to find a permanent home for the synagogue, and the spreading lava left many members of the congregation homeless. As B'nai B'rith was providing recovery funds, members of Ahava 'Aina were struggling to celebrate the High Holidays even as many of them remained in temporary shelters. 📍



When Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake in 2010, B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief sponsored the long term support which continued to provide medical assistance and other vital services.