

## **US Camps Can Help Puerto Rico Recovery with Retreats!**

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico as a Category 5 storm. It is estimated that 400,000 people still do not have electricity.

### Help Out Pastors

The most urgent need shared with PDA by Pastors was respite. Can you offer free retreat/respice at your center for these pastors? All Puerto Rico pastors would benefit from time at your facility. Some would need to bring their family, some would need help with travel costs to the US. What level can you help? Can your board commit to more than room and board? Maybe your Presbytery would take this on as a mission to help our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters in ministry?

Please call Brian Frick at 502-403-9363 and we can discuss what you would be willing to offer, then we can take the steps of matching pastor needs with facility offers.

Thank you for your interest so far!

### Help Out Camp Guacio

Camp Guacio is the PCUSA camp on Puerto Rico. They have launched the ministries of thousands of pastors and lay leaders across the island and have just begun a project to connect urban churches with rural farms to create food resiliency (did you know Puerto Rico imports 70-80% of its food though it is one of the most fertile islands in the Caribbean?) What exciting efforts are underway!

Then on September 20, 2017 – Hurricane Maria dealt Guacio a huge setback. 70% of the lumber grade bamboo they were planning on harvesting to support their project, was destroyed by Maria. But not to be deterred, this set-back has been a motivation. They sprung into action providing clean water and laundry service to the community after the storm. They are working with Solar Under The Sun to install a brand new solar school at the camp to teach local communities to install solar. And Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has helped them with their immediate needs. They are moving to be back on track with their project.

How can you help? Wouldn't it be amazing if our campers helped their campers? What would that look like? Or our Boards could help them! Or our donors could help them!

They have an immediate need for a 15 passenger van, but their ongoing needs will also continue to need funding.

### What other ways can you dream up to help our Puerto Rico camp get back on its feet?

Can Brian Frick at 502-403-9363 or email him at [brian.frick@pcusa.org](mailto:brian.frick@pcusa.org) to explore what you can do.