

*December 2013*

In 2013 Service International continued to serve families and communities here at home and far across the globe. Here is a summary of some of SI's projects and missions.

## **TORNADO RELIEF**

### **Hazelwood, Missouri**

April 10 – 29: SI volunteers went to the aid of this North St. Louis community after an EF-2 tornado ripped through streets and homes. About 50 volunteers helped to clean up downed trees and debris on nine properties.

### **Oklahoma**

May 21 - July 7: SI coordinated 5,133 volunteers after a devastating EF-5 tornado hit Moore, Shawnee, Oklahoma City, and Little Axe. Volunteers worked hard on 375 properties to clear debris, cut trees, and demolish badly damaged structures. Service International helped shoulder this massive relief task with other area churches and organizations.

### **Illinois**

November 20 – December 4: We dispatched our Rapid Response team, determined to lend a hand in the small Southern Illinois town of Brookport, where three people died because of the EF-3 tornado. SI crews were joined by 135 volunteers to take care of debris clean-up and tree-removal on 29 properties.

## **KOSOVO**

### **Kosovo Dental Mission and Year-round Clinic**

The clinic is a full-time operation employing local Kosovar dental professionals. In the spring, an SI mission team of seven traveled to Kosovo to provide ten days of administrative support—incorporating new software for accurate recordkeeping and giving practical dental assistance and instruction. This was a record-breaking year at the Dental Clinic in Gjakova: 6,335 grateful patients received dental treatment! Value of free dental care provided: \$2,730,765.

### **Gjakova Family Church – Year-round**

Pastor Driton, his staff, and the congregation of more than 200 meet weekly at the church in Gjakova. It's a dynamic, thriving place, with Sunday worship, Saturday children's church, Bible studies, food distribution projects, and weekly English classes. Pastor Driton regularly travels to Albania, Macedonia, Greece, and outlying Kosovar towns and villages to share the Good News. The new building also accommodates SI's European Base of Operations.

## **ST. LOUIS**

### **Give Kids A Smile – March and October**

Twice last year, SI volunteers helped kids of needy families in St. Louis receive free dental care. In 2013, a total of 45 SI volunteers teamed up with the American Dental Society to provide more than \$754,432 worth of free dental care for 1,035 children.

**Love the Neighborhood: Back-to-School Outreach – August 10**

At last year's free school picnic and family event for St. Louis's 27th & 2<sup>nd</sup> Wards, 562 volunteers from SLFC and SI distributed 2,757 pairs of New Balance shoes to school kids and 2,212 shower shoes to teens and adults. Also, 250 free dental screenings were given at the park. More than 7,000 enjoyed games, rides, snacks, a hot dog lunch, and an encouraging message from Pastor Jeff.

**Love the Neighborhood: Build-A-Bag Christmas Outreach – December 14**

SI and SLFC received contributions for groceries (\$40 per bag) to fill bags with all the fixings for a family Christmas dinner. During the first snowstorm of the season, 350 volunteers distributed 1,800 bags—the equivalent of more than 10,000 meals—to needy residents in the City of St. Louis.

Service International is committed to pursuing our mission to Honor God and Help People. Volunteer and financial support make it possible for SI to help thousands of people around the world, providing comfort and practical help in times of need and giving new hope for the future.

God bless you!

Pastor Jeff Perry  
Founder, Service International