

SNIP SEVEN

Justice and Creation Fellowship Story

Casa de Refugio Christian Church
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**GREEN
CHALICE**

Disciples Home Missions &
The Christian Church in Kentucky





Inland Valley News (2025) “Raging Fires in Pasadena and Altadena...”

Community Need

- Children and families in Southern California are experiencing increased stress from natural disasters, particularly wildfires
- Children often struggle to understand and express difficult emotions regarding disasters
- Many Latin American families face barriers to accessible mental health resources
- While many churches can provide meaningful support, many may need guidance on supporting children's mental health in age-appropriate and culturally relevant ways

Ministry Response Initiative

- Focused on researching, writing, and drafting a children's book and curriculum on navigating natural disasters
- Consulted mentors/partners
- Gathered feedback from children at Casa de Refugio to improve the book and curriculum

The book helps children:

- Process emotions regarding natural disasters
- Learn healthy coping skills
- Find comfort through family, community & faith

The project combines my gifts in:

- illustration
- children's ministry
- clinical psychology (research & culturally responsive mental health)



Zaemelys Ramos creating digital artwork for children's book



Zaemelys Ramos and Florecer & Crecer team

Collaborators & Partners

- Casa de Refugio Christian Church
- **Mentor:** Pastor Soriliz Rodriguez Cosme
- Focus group participants & parents
- Children's ministry volunteers
- Florecer & Crecer (future nonprofit initiative)

Resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Ready Wrigley Coping After a Disaster (Activity Book)
- American Red Cross' Prepare with Pedro- Resilience and Coping Skills (Activity Book)
- Puerto Rico Public Health Trust's Lluyú (Children's Picture Book)

Impact & Ripples

Focus Group Feedback (based on survey)

- 9 children participated
- **Average rating: 4/5**
 - Children rated the workshop positively and described it as enjoyable and helpful
- Emergency safety was the most commonly reported skill learned (8 out of 9)
- **7 out of 9 reported learning:**
 - Recognizing fear or worry
 - Using “Stop, Breathe & Think”
- **6 out of 9 reported learning:**
 - Using breathing to help calm their body
 - Asking a trusted adult for help
 - Identifying people who can help keep them safe
 - Understanding that feelings can change



Zaemelys Ramos facilitating a focus group with children at Casa de Refugio

Spirit of God-Awe Moments

- God gave me the wisdom, insight, and creativity to carry this project through.
- I saw God through the people who were willing to listen, brainstorm, and help me work through ideas.
- Seeing the children connect with the story and engage with the activity reminded me that I was following God's call by creating and leading this work.



A child creating a safety plan for an emergency during the focus group

Beloved Community



Children in the focus group helping to read the story.

- Our congregation will continue to cultivate a space where children feel supported, heard, and valued
- Strengthen ways our church can connect faith, mental health, and community care that are accessible to our families, especially amid crisis
- Build future partnerships to share, improve, and expand this resource with other churches and community organizations