

CONVOY OF HOPE  
**RURAL  
COMPASSION**  
SMALL TOWNS. BIG POSSIBILITIES.

## About Rural Compassion

### What is Rural

16 percent of the United States inhabitants live in rural areas, but occupy 90 percent of the country's land, defined as open country and settlements with fewer than 2,500 residents, yet areas designated as rural can have population densities as high as 50,000. Rural Compassion primarily works with communities of 2500 and under.

### Rural Compassion: a department of Convoy of Hope

#### Coaching-Mentoring-Training

Rural Compassion comes along side and empowers pastors to dream big dreams for their communities. We encourage and counsel the pastor and their church in vital community projects as well as offer ideas and tips we have learned.

#### Inspire Community Outreach

With the assistance of Rural Compassion churches give away school supplies and hygiene kits, feed the hungry, distribute shoes, and hand out bibles to law enforcement, firefighters and teachers. We encourage pastors to be friends with their local schools, fire and law enforcement departments and other service leaders in their community.

#### Partner with Churches

We partner with churches to strengthen their small communities by responding to the needs with resources. We help the church to become the center of their community by becoming a spiritually-based serving center for the benefit of the community.

#### Poverty & Disaster Response

Convoy of Hope has responded to thousands of emergent requests in many states throughout the US in areas of health, hunger, hygiene, school supplies, cleanup projects and even fence repair. With the strong supporters of Convoy of Hope we can answer the call and take action in disaster response and poverty relief aid in hopes to break the bondage of hardship for destitute families living without proper necessities of life.

We encourage pastors to become a certified member of (CERT) Community Emergency Response Team, a program that educates people about disaster preparedness.

There are approximately 250 consistently poor counties in the United States; 244 of those are rural. The child poverty rates in these jurisdictions often exceed 35%.

One in six children (2.5 million) living in rural regions of the United States are trapped in deep poverty, suffering from poor education and health care.

### The Mission

It is a national initiative dedicated to encouraging, strengthening, and empowering small and rural churches to work outside their four walls to address the needs of their surrounding communities. We provide inspiration and action to help the pastor and congregation to be Christ hand extended by meeting the concerns of poverty and restoring self-respect in the hearts and minds of rural communities.

“I have seen the worries of the father who cannot provide a decent shelter for his kids or the mother who is embarrassed because lately meals are few and her kids clothes don't fit right or the hand-me-downs are out of style. I think of the 5th grade boy being made fun of because he is wearing his older sister's jeans that don't fit. I think of what the little girl said who received a new toothbrush then clutched it to her chest with tears running down her cheeks; ‘now me and my sisters can each have our own toothbrush.’”

“One of my greatest concern is for the rural pastors. I have seen their sacrifice and commitment and I have seen their suffering and pain for the lack of income and resources.”

Steve Donaldson  
Founder



**TWENTYFOURHOURS**

WEEKEND WORKSHOP