

Brighten Your World 
VOLUNTEER!
APRIL IS FLORIDA VOLUNTEER MONTH!

DISASTER VOLUNTEERS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

- The Governor’s Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, Volunteer Florida, serves on the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) as the agency responsible for coordinating volunteers and donations in times of disaster. This role is officially entitled **Emergency Support Function 15**. There are **39** statewide support agencies as partners in this important role, which includes a wide variety of faith and community-based organizations.
- In response to survivors’ needs during the four powerful hurricanes that pounded Florida in the summer of 2004, Volunteer Florida, organized what was then the largest voluntary agency activation in the history of U.S. natural disasters. In 2005, Volunteer Florida continued those efforts in response to Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

Florida’s Volunteers & Donations 2004 - 2005 Hurricane Seasons	
More Than 252,000 Volunteers	
Served 10.6 Million Hours!	
20.2 Million Meals Prepared & Served	
13 Million Meals Donated	
1.4 Million Bags of Ice	
34.7 Million Bottles of Water	
35,000 Roofs Tarped/Dried In	
Total In-Kind Donations	\$85.6 Million
Total Volunteer Hours	\$185 Million
Cash Contributions	\$18.4 Million
Total Contributions	\$289 Million
Value of Volunteers & Donations.....	PRICELESS!

- In 2008, Volunteer Florida coordinated volunteers and donations for statewide emergencies including:
 - Tornadoes and severe weather in North Florida
 - A 13-county power outage in Central and South Florida
 - Wildfires in Volusia and Broward Counties
 - 500-year flooding events caused by Tropical Storm Fay
- Volunteer Florida provided emergency management training to **151 voluntary organizations** and supported the **16 Long Term Recovery Organizations** to meet Tropical Storm Fay survivors’ unmet needs.
- In total, **2,250** emergency volunteers provided **191,546** volunteer hours, valued at **\$3,737,062** in 2008.



THE VERY BEST WAY TO HELP!

CARE!

CASH – Financial gifts get help to people *fast!*

ASK before collecting items that may not be needed. Only give items requested by relief agencies!

RESPOND! Get trained by and volunteer with a voluntary disaster-relief agency!

EVERYONE can help! Go to a volunteer Center in your community!