



VOLUNTEER FLORIDA

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



volunteerflorida

We are proud to present Volunteer Florida's 2020 annual report. This year was truly like no other. Despite the unexpected challenges we faced as a nation, our agency was proud to support local communities in our state through our work in volunteer service, emergency management and national service.

Volunteer Florida kicked off 2020 by hosting the fifth annual Suits for Session service project with Uber. In total, Volunteer Florida collected 4,796 items that were donated by state agencies, legislative leaders and individuals across the state. Collected items were donated to organizations that support job-seekers in Florida who are striving to enter or re-enter the workforce.

The 2020 Legislative Session, which ended in March, proved to be very successful one for Florida's volunteers. With the support of Senator Manny Diaz and Representative Randy Maggard, Volunteer Florida was able to pass the Disaster Volunteer Leave for State Employees Act which was signed by Governor Ron DeSantis in June.

In spring, Volunteer Florida, along with the rest of the country, began responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteer Florida staff immediately deployed to the State Emergency Operations Center to manage ESF 15: Volunteers and Donations. Volunteer Florida's AmeriCorps and Volunteer Generation Fund programs immediately shifted their service model to serve Floridians in need virtually. Programs were able to serve thousands of meals to families in need, as well as provide services like tutoring and mentoring online.

Throughout the summer, Volunteer Florida continued to find new and unique ways to support Florida's communities. Volunteer Florida's Volunteer Services Department held a series of webinars for organizations and volunteers. This ultimately led to the planning of a three-day Virtual Volunteer Leadership Convening in the fall which featured speakers like First Lady Casey DeSantis and Points of Light CEO Natalye Paquin. Volunteer Florida also promoted Volunteer Connect, Florida's official volunteer opportunities platform, as a way for Floridians to start serving their communities in-person and virtually.

During this challenging year, Volunteer Florida's commitment to serving Florida's communities never changed. In August, Volunteer Florida welcomed 1,497 AmeriCorps members who are serving in 36 programs in 32 counties during the 2020-2021 program year. In October, Volunteer Florida's Volunteer Generation Fund program welcomed 24 Florida nonprofits who will spend the next year recruiting skills-based volunteers to serve Florida communities. The Volunteer Florida Foundation also provided funding to nine organizations supporting long-term recovery efforts for Hurricane Irma and 10 organizations supporting long-term recovery efforts for Hurricane Michael.

As we reflect on 2020 and kick off 2021, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Governor and First Lady DeSantis, our partners in the Florida legislature, and our Volunteer Florida Commissioners, Foundation Board members, staff, partners, and sponsors who continue to support our efforts. We could not **#ServeFL** without you!

Yours in Service,



*In 2020, Volunteer Florida administered over **\$34 million** in federal, state and local funding to deliver high-impact national service and volunteer programs in Florida.*

Every dollar invested by the State of Florida is leveraged to secure \$18 in non-state funding.

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AMERICORPS

- In the 2019-2020 grant year, Volunteer Florida's 1,620 AmeriCorps members provided 1.32 million hours of service, valued at \$32.9 million dollars.
- Volunteer Florida administered 38 AmeriCorps programs with 1,620 AmeriCorps members serving 43,620 Florida students in 325 Florida schools.
- AmeriCorps members were eligible to receive \$7,428,145 in education awards upon completion of their year of service.
- AmeriCorps members leveraged an additional 4,604 volunteers who served alongside national service programs for an additional 70,364 hours valued at \$1,754,174.
- AmeriCorps members provided direct support, including health and wellness services to 12,773 veterans and their family members.
- 38 AmeriCorps programs received innovative, multi-day training through Volunteer Florida's first AmeriCorps Virtual Training event.



"The Volunteer Florida AmeriCorps program allows Centro Campesino to build the capacity of young adults in our community and expand the learning ability of young students. This is a great partnership.

Centro Campesino empowers families and strengthens communities by providing affordable housing, homeownership support, and economic and educational opportunities.

The AmeriCorps YouthPride program nurtures students' education by providing STEAM labs, homework assistance, mentorship and entrepreneurial training. Learning how to be a leader through entrepreneurial skills will unfold a world of opportunities for our youth."

- John Martinez, Executive Director, Centro Campesino



COVID-19 - NATIONAL SERVICE RESOURCES AND RESPONSE

In March of 2020, AmeriCorps programs pivoted to address unique community needs and provide critical community support. Volunteer Florida provided key technical support including weekly webinars and a centralized digital platform for resources.

Throughout Florida, AmeriCorps members addressed a wide variety of community needs including:

- ***Boys and Girls Club of Martin County, Hobe Sound***

AmeriCorps members dedicated approximately 16,000 hours of service within the community as well as offered virtual support to the Martin County School District. Members collected and sorted food donations of 8,034 lbs. as well as packaged and served 28,652 meals and served 102 children through academic enrichment.

- ***Peacemakers, Miami***

AmeriCorps members supported students through remote learning, online tutoring and food distribution. Members provide approximately 6,000 total meals and distributed 26,800 pounds of food in the community.

- ***Breakthrough Miami, Miami***

Breakthrough Miami provided a virtual Summer Institute, engaging 680 scholars in an eight week summer academic program. In addition, members helped distribute over 600 meals to families in need.

- ***Goodwill Industries of the Big Bend, Tallahassee***

AmeriCorps members provided services to 803 individuals including: employment services, skills trainings workshops as well as provided wellness checkups for individuals with disabilities and their families. Member services included 517 safety wellness checks and the distribution of 611 lbs. of food and 122 lbs. of masks and fabric.

- ***Centro Campesino, Florida City***

AmeriCorps members provided virtual educational programming to students and served over 5,000 people through collecting and distributing over 30,000 lbs. of food.

To assist Florida communities, Volunteer Florida offered a planning grant funding opportunity for interested organizations to develop future AmeriCorps programming in response to COVID-19. As a result, Volunteer Florida funded five AmeriCorps Planning Grants who will develop a proposal for a future operational AmeriCorps program, providing local response to community need in the upcoming year.



VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

- In the 2019-2020 grant year, Volunteer Florida's 16,180 skills-based Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) volunteers provided 289,717 hours of service in Florida. A value of \$7,222,65 million dollars.
- VGF grantees recruited 33,108 new skills-based volunteers to provide disaster related services.
- VGF grantees recruited 1,681 new skills-based volunteers to provide outreach and education on the opioid crisis.
- Volunteer Florida hosted a presentation on VGF's impact in Florida at the America's Service Commission virtual VGF Convening with participation from 23 State Service Commissions.
- VGF partners participated in the first ever, virtual VGF Annual Training, as part of the Volunteer Leadership Virtual Convening. VGF partners attended sessions related to volunteer management practices, including skills-based volunteering, effective volunteer management practices and contract compliance.
- VGF programs engaged volunteers in diverse volunteerism activities including the following:
 - Big Bend Hospice engaged 107 volunteers who provided over 1,800 hours of direct organizational care during the COVID-19 health crisis.
 - Girls on the Run of the Big Bend engaged 51 coaches in the spring to serve 225 3rd-7th grade girls in a ten-week, curriculum based program focused on friendship, confidence and strength.
 - New Hope for Kids trained 165 skills-based grief facilitator volunteers who provided grief support to 400 children attending grief support programs and camps.
 - St. Lucie County Oxbow Eco-Center removed 1,482 pounds of invasive plants from protected pine flatwoods forest.



2019-2020 AMERICORPS & VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND GRANTEES



VOLUNTEER SERVICES

- Hosted 15 volunteer management and Volunteer Connect trainings - topics included:
 - Virtual Volunteerism
 - Choosing Where to Serve
 - Volunteer Connect Basics
 - Emergency Management and more
- Hosted the sixth-annual Suits for Session service project with all donations benefitting organizations that support job-seekers in Florida who are striving to enter or re-enter the workforce:
 - Dress for Success Tampa Bay
 - Sulzbacher
 - CareerSource Chipola
 - CareerSource Gulf Coast
 - Suits for Session Total Items Collected: 4,796



"Sulzbacher addresses all aspects of homelessness including housing, income and health care in Duval County. We have seen first hand how a comprehensive support program can change someone's life. Suits for Session is a great way for us to increase the self-esteem and confidence of those we serve. The donations continue to support individuals who need them most, like job-seekers and those pursuing further education. Thank you to individuals across the state who donated, and to Volunteer Florida and Uber for organizing this worthy event."

- Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher

- Continued to expand the reach of Volunteer Connect, Volunteer Florida's online volunteer opportunity database.
 - More than 400 partner organizations added to the Volunteer Connect database
 - 536 volunteer opportunities posted, mobilizing 819 volunteers
 - Database currently houses opportunities representing more than half of Florida's counties

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP VIRTUAL CONVENING



Volunteer Florida's Volunteer Leadership Virtual Convening provided volunteer engagement leaders with tools to navigate micro and macro changes in Florida's communities and grow effective, creative volunteer programs. Highlights included:

- More than 370 virtual attendees
- Nationally recognized speakers and experts facilitated 14 sessions covering topics such as strategic planning, diversity, equity and inclusion, virtual volunteerism, mental health awareness, skills-based volunteerism and more
- Special guests included Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis, panelists from Florida State University, Merit and Duke Energy Foundation, and a keynote address from Natalye Paquin, President & CEO of Points of Light.



"Working as a recruiter/trainer for the Guardian ad Litem program for the past 6 years, I am always looking for new and innovative ways to recruit and engage volunteers. Being able to attend the Volunteer Florida Convening provided me a great opportunity to not only learn from experts in the field but also from counterparts in a variety of organizations throughout the state. The exchange of ideas and information was invaluable and I look forward to implementing the new strategies I learned."

- Diana Gisonni, Director of Recruitment & Training, State of Florida Guardian ad Litem Program

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Activated Emergency Support Function 15 (Volunteers and Donations) in order to prepare and coordinate volunteer activities in support of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) as a part of the mass care function for the ongoing 10-month COVID-19 activation.
- Activated ESF-15 for Hurricanes Isaias, Laura, Marco, Sally and Eta.
- Committed almost \$7 million to fund 16 new Florida Disaster Fund grants.
- Continued to manage 14 current Florida Disaster Fund grants worth approximately \$8 million.
- Signed more than 85 new MOUs with nonprofit and faith-based organizations in order to understand their capacity and capability to support various disaster activations in the future.
- Conducted an efficient and timely close out of the Irma Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP). Overall, DCMP Irma managed 11 regional offices and four providers supporting 49 counties that helped more than 100,000 contacts and closed out over 35,000 cases.
- Managed DCMP Michael including two contracted support providers and six regional offices that support 12 counties. To date, DCMP Michael has served more than 36,178 contacts and 1,682 cases.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Hosted an Emergency Management State Convening in March 2020. The event was very successful and included almost 100 attendees and a service project with Stars of Hope.
- Updated and revised the Volunteer Florida Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) including a new pandemic response annex.
- Due to COVID-19, Volunteer Florida extended all FY19/20 CERT/Citizen Corps contracts through August 2020.
- Established 20 new FY20/21 CERT/Citizen Corps grants with contracts totaling \$120,000.
- Established the first-ever ESF-15 Volunteer Liaison Program. Based on lessons learned from prior hurricane responses, Volunteer Florida developed a concept for an ESF-15 Volunteer Liaison training program with the goal of creating a bullpen of qualified volunteers who are capable of supporting state and county EOCs with manpower to fulfill ESF-15 duties during disaster. The concept included bringing on a volunteer staff position with ESF-15 and developing disaster curriculum. Dr. Jerry Hernandez has been selected to fill the Volunteer ESF-15 Liaison Training position and over the next six-months, he will work with Pinellas County on a pilot program that we hope will become a statewide success.



VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION

The Volunteer Florida Foundation is Volunteer Florida's direct support organization, providing funds to administer high-impact national service programs and promote volunteerism throughout the state, while managing the Florida Disaster Fund - Florida's official fund to assist communities with disaster response and recovery. The Foundation is also responsible for the Governor's special initiatives, including the Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations and student contests.

- In February, the Volunteer Florida Foundation was proud to support Governor DeSantis' and First Lady Casey DeSantis' 2020 Black History Month Art, Essay and Excellence in Education Awards Contests in October. This year's theme was Celebrating Untold Stories and Contributions of Hispanic Americans in Florida.
- In the fall, the Volunteer Florida Foundation, along with the Executive Office of the Governor, Florida Department of Education and Florida Department of State hosted the 2020 Hispanic Heritage Month contests. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the event was conducted virtually for the first time!
- The Florida Disaster Fund, administered by Volunteer Florida Foundation, was established in 2004 to fulfill unmet needs after disasters. This allows Floridians to benefit from all available resources with maximum efficiency, limiting duplication of effort. The Volunteer Florida Foundation distributes the Florida Disaster Fund among voluntary organizations that have identified unmet needs and are engaged in disaster response and long-term recovery activities in Florida.



2020 VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

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STEVEN UHLFELDER | TALLAHASSEE
Attorney, Uhlfelder & Associates

FLORIDA DISASTER FUND - HURRICANE RESPONSE & RECOVERY

In response to the damage done by Hurricanes Michael and Irma, organizations across Florida used funds granted by the Volunteer Florida Foundation to rehabilitate affected homes. The services performed included roof replacement, mold remediation and replacement of water-damaged structural materials.



"Once again, I thank you for all you've done to help make this veteran's widow's home become habitable. Every time I think of where you brought this inhabitable home from and to, I cry and thank God for leading me to you all. Thank you, thank you, thank you all once again."

- Betsy, Hurricane Repair Program Recipient



"I want to express my sincere thanks for all the work that was done to my home to make it a safe and secure place for me to live! The volunteers were very professional and took care of me throughout & made the process easy!"

- Lowana, Hurricane Repair Program Recipient

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA COMMISSION

Special thanks to everyone who served on the Volunteer Florida Commission during 2020.

KERRY ANNE SCHULTZ | NAVARRE
CHAIR (JULY - DECEMBER) | VICE-CHAIR (JANUARY - JUNE)
Attorney, Schultz Law Group

AUTUMN KARLINSKY | WESTON
CHAIR (JANUARY - JUNE)
Registered Dental Hygienist

JOHN DAVIS | TALLAHASSEE
VICE-CHAIR (JULY - DECEMBER)
Secretary, The Florida Lottery

SHERRY WHEELOCK | CLERMONT
TREASURER (JULY - DECEMBER)
President & CEO, Special Olympics Florida

MARITZA ROVIRA-FORINO | TAMPA
TREASURER (JANUARY - JUNE)
MBE Director / Client Relations, Foresight Construction Group

KELLI WALKER | TALLAHASSEE
AT LARGE
District Volunteer Coordinator, Leon County Schools

THOMAS ALLEN | TALLAHASSEE
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
Executive Vice President for Real Estate Management, Capital City Bank

TAJIANA ANCORA-BROWN | ORLANDO
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
External Affairs Director, Walt Disney World

CHUCHA BARBER | TALLAHASSEE
President, Chucha Barber Productions

CHRISTINA BONARRIGO VILLAMIL | CORAL GABLES
President, The Villamil Group

CHRISTINA "CHRISTY" BRODEUR | TALLAHASSEE
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
Partner, Ballard Partners

LYNETTE CARDOCH | MIAMI
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
Director, Resilience and Adaptation, Moffatt & Nichol

LORENA "JAYNE" CERIO | TALLAHASSEE
Community Advocate

MEGHAN COLLINS | TALLAHASSEE
Director of Strategic Initiatives, Florida Department of Education

TODD DEMKO | CLEARWATER
Senior Vice President, Flaharty Asset Management, LLC

ADAM FAUROT | TALLAHASSEE
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
CEO, Titus Sports Academy

SHARON FUNK | PONTE VEDRA
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
Community Advocate

KYLE HILL | WASHINGTON, D.C.
Legislative Correspondent, Office of US Senator Rick Scott

LORI KILLINGER | TAMPA
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
Executive Shareholder, Lewis, Longman & Walker, PA

BREA KRATZERT TODD | JACKSONVILLE BEACH
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
Vice President of Business Development, Wounded Warrior Project

NATALIA MARTINEZ-KALININA | MIAMI
General Manager, Cambridge Innovation Center Miami

PATRICIA "PENNY" MILLER | OCALA
Owner, Miller & Associates

AMANDA "MANDY" MORROW | PONTE VEDRA BEACH
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
Realtor, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

CINDY O'CONNELL | TALLAHASSEE
Director, Florida Prepaid College Foundation

SABEEN PERWAIZ | JACKSONVILLE
Executive Director, Florida Nonprofit Alliance

WILSON ROBERTS | TALLAHASSEE
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
Student Body President, Leon High School

LYS RUBIN | PLANTATION
Community Advocate

SARAH "SAM" SEEVERS | NAVARRE
Owner, Life's A Beach, LLC

JUDI SPANN | JACKSONVILLE BEACH
Director of Marketing and Communications, American
Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification, Inc

MARIA SULLIVAN | PONTE VEDRA
NEWLY APPOINTED - DECEMBER 2020
Former Program Assistant, The Sontag Foundation

SUSAN TOWLER | JACKSONVILLE
Executive Director, Florida Blue Foundation

CHARLES VICKERS | TALLAHASSEE
Chief Pilot and Aircraft Sales Manager, Flightline Group Inc. Aviation

AMIEKO WATSON | ATLANTA, GA
CNCS Representative
Acting State Director, Corporation for National & Community Service - Florida



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Volunteer Florida is grateful for our longstanding partnerships with the Corporation for National & Community Service, the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Our federal and state partners make it possible for Volunteer Florida to administer national service programs throughout the state, fulfill our critical role before, during and after emergencies and promote volunteerism in Florida. We look forward to continuing to serve Florida with these outstanding partners in 2021.



