



## **Florida Disaster Fund Update As of June 30, 2023**

***Hurricane Ian made landfall in Florida on September 28, 2022. From the date of landfall to June 30, 2023, Through the Florida Disaster Fund, Volunteer Florida Foundation has collected over \$63 million in donations for Hurricane Ian relief.***

***On April 12, 2023, Southeast Florida experienced a 1-in-1,000-year rain event. Dumping over 25 inches of rain in a 24-hour period sparking flash flooding and closing Ft. Lauderdale International Airport and displacing thousands of residents.***

### **FLORIDA DISASTER FUND UPDATE**

As of June 30, 2023, Volunteer Florida Foundation has awarded over \$54.5 million in funding to nonprofits working on Hurricane Ian and the Southeast Florida flooding recovery response in Florida. The \$53 million included expedited response grants given to nonprofits, school board foundations, first responder foundations, social service organizations, Long Term Recovery Groups, rebuilding organizations and programs to assist small businesses in their reopening. In response to the flooding event, \$1.5 million was awarded which included expedited response grants to nonprofit organizations who assisted with the immediate efforts for the flood victims.

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***"Like many of our fellow Floridians, the destruction and chaos left behind by Hurricane Ian forced many of our law enforcement officers and their families struggling to recover from this unexpected catastrophe."***

*--John Kazanjian, Florida PBA*

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### **FLORIDA DISASTER GRANT AWARDS- HURRICANE IAN**

●Save the Children ●The Salvation Army ●American Red Cross ●Adventists Community Services ●Team Rubicon ● Good360 ●Catholic Charities ●Islamic Relief ●Feeding Florida ●Midwest Food Bank ●World Renew ●ToolBank ●Operation BBQ Relief ●United Way Collier County Florida State Lodge FOP Memorial Foundation Inc Florida PBA Heart Fund Inc ●Florida Firefighters Charities Fund ●Florida Sheriffs Association ●The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools ●Education Foundation of Sarasota County ●Charlotte Local Education Foundation ●Hardee Education Foundation DeSoto County Education Foundation ●Education Foundation of Collier County ●Team Rubicon ●Southern Baptist ●FlourishNow, Inc. ●DBA Better Together ●Samaritan's Purse ●Lee BIA Builders Care



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•Area Agency on Aging •FEPA •National Guard •Charlotte Community Foundation Collaboratory  
•Feeding Florida •Harry Chapin Food Bank •Safe Children Coalition •Senior Connection Center  
•Senior Friendship Centers •Senior Resource Alliance •Mothers Helping Mothers •NU-HOPE •Elder  
Care Services, Inc. •One More Child •Osceola Council on Aging (OCA) •All Faiths Foodbank of  
Sarasota •Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida •Bridge a Life • Children’s Network of  
Southwest Florida •Community Legal Services of Mid Florida •Northeast Florida Area Agency on  
Aging dba Elder Source •The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools Education Foundation of  
Sarasota County •Hardee Education Foundation •DeSoto County Education Foundation • Education  
Foundation of Collier County •Gulf Coast Partnership dba Charlotte County Long Term Recovery Task  
Force Communities of Everglades Recovery Group • Our Daily Bread Food Pantry dba Greater Marco  
LTRG (Collier Disaster Alliance) •Immokalee Unmet Needs Coalition (Redlands Christian Migrant  
Assoc) DeSoto Hope (Desoto County Chamber) •Hardee LTRG •United Way of Lee County Inc dba UW  
of Lee, Hendry & Glades Co •LASER •Lee County LTRG (Catholic Charities of Diocese of Venice)  
•Greater Pine Island Alliance •Monroe County Community Organizations Active in Disaster LTRG  
•RISE Orlando dba Orange County Long Term Recovery Group •Osceola REDI •Putnam Disaster  
Recovery Fiscal-Heart of Putnam dba Palatka Christian Serv Ctr United Way of South Sarasota County  
dba Sarasota LTRG •Seminole HEART •VIND •Adventists Community Services •Small Business  
Rebuilding - Impact Foundation •Restaurant and Lodging - FRLA Education Foundation

### **FLORIDA DISASTER FUND GRANT AWARDS- SOUTHEAST FLORIDA FLOODING**

•The Salvation Army •Feeding South Florida •Midwest Foodbank •Team Rubicon •Southern Baptists  
•Global Empowerment Mission •Church World Services •Broward LTRG •211 Broward

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***“Thank you to Volunteer Florida for the fantastic generosity and support; they have enabled Toolbank USA to deploy the greatest number of tools to any recent disaster.”***

*--Bill Hess, Disaster Services Director, ToolBank USA*

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### **SELECT SUCCESS STORIES**

**Advantage Aging Solutions-** They recruited over 200 volunteers, known as Hope Heroes, immediately following Hurricane Ian. Hope Heroes continue to serve their local communities by connecting seniors to available resources, making daily friendly calls, and delivering meals and other supplies. The Hope Heroes have initiated a Companion Care program in a Northeast Florida retirement community, whereby birthday cards, friendly visits, and well-checks are made to those who request them.



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**Better Together-** They were able to make a significant impact throughout the state by providing essential support and relief to children in need after the devastating impact from Hurricane Ian. Hundreds of families were stranded without transportation, unable to get the necessary supplies to meet their basic needs. Their team made it our top priority to go directly into the affected homes and communities to provide individual solutions and aid. Apart from distributing essential items such as food, water, diapers, formula, mattresses, tarps, and mosquito nets, they also provided consistent emotional support to families who were already grappling with difficult situations, helping them navigate through the aftermath of the storm. They gutted out homes and assisted families with the volunteer manpower and supplies that they needed to recover and rebuild. Their collaborative efforts brought together a diverse group of volunteers and partners, including community organizations, state government, and church groups.



**Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association-** The FRLA Disaster Relief Fund is providing immediate financial support in the form of grants valued at up to \$20,000 per independently owned restaurant or lodging location. Their primary goal with this initiative is to assist independent restaurants and lodging establishments with critically needed financial support, financially supporting independent restaurants and lodging establishments and their employees as their establishments recover and re-open.

**Team Rubicon-** With the assistance of the Volunteer Florida Foundation, Team Rubicon volunteers performed the following activities free of charge for homeowners in need: 1) Route Clearance: Route clearance teams were pre-staged in advance of Hurricane Ian, just outside of the hurricane's path, to serve impacted communities once the storm passed. These teams included certified heavy equipment and chainsaw operators who coordinated with local personnel to remove debris from roads and critical access points in the immediate aftermath of the storm,

- 1) *Site Surveys:* Team Rubicon volunteers assessed damaged homes and spoke with homeowners to identify unmet needs and see if and how Team Rubicon could assist each family and individual,



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2) *Residential Debris Removal*: Team Rubicon volunteers removed debris caused by water, wind, and other elements of Hurricane Ian. This service removed immediate hazards, made homes accessible, and prevented further damage to impacted homes. Volunteers mucked out flooded homes to remove water-damaged materials and prevent hazardous mold growth, and

3) *Expedient Home Repair*: Team Rubicon volunteers provided temporary residential repair services to prevent further damage to homes and improve home security, including roof tarping to prevent water entry and dangerous mold growth in families' homes.

**World Renew**- During a six-week period, they sent 27 volunteers to Volusia County, where they cleaned 37 homes. In May, they completed a two-week assessment of unmet needs in Sarasota County. A total of 19 volunteers surveyed 273 homeowners to determine what unmet needs they still had. Additionally, these assessments of unmet needs assist in identifying under-resourced individuals in the community. The organization had 43 members whose homes had suffered extensive damage and applied for a grant.

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***“We continue to be excited and grateful for the support of Volunteer Florida. Because of their generosity and resources offered, World Renew has been able to work on both the west coast and east coast of Florida in response to Hurricane Ian.”***

*-- Bob Laarman, World Renew Disaster Response Services Director*

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### **SHELTERING IN HOME FOR RECOVERY PROGRAM (SHRC)**

Volunteer Florida has partnered with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to sponsor the Sheltering in Home for Recovery Continuation (SHRC) program. Keeping communities intact and restoring homes to safe, habitable conditions is one of the goals of the SHRC program. Several organizations have been identified by Volunteer Florida as recipients of funds to assist in rebuilding and repairing homes in hurricane-affected counties. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, the Small Business Program (SBP) continues to provide resources in order to rebuild and repair homes in the affected counties. Currently, they are in the application process, reviewing documentation from applicants and providing assistance to businesses in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Sarasota, Flagler, Hardee and Volusia Counties.

## ***Florida Disaster Fund Update As of June 30, 2023***



In summary, Florida's recovery efforts following Hurricane Ian, a category 5 storm, have been a historic achievement. As well as the statewide response to the Southeast Florida flooding aftermath. This report shows how resources were coordinated to assist the impacted areas. We will continue to distribute funds until all funds designated for rebuilding the affected communities have been distributed.