

As of December 31, 2023

Hurricane Ian made landfall in Florida on September 28, 2022. From the date of landfall to September 30, 2023, Through the Florida Disaster Fund, the Volunteer Florida Foundation has 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.

On August 26, 2023, a racially motivated shooting occurred at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, claiming three individuals' lives. Through the Florida Disaster Fund, the Volunteer Florida Foundation awarded \$1 million to bolster campus security at Edward Waters University in addition to an award of \$100,000 to help the impacted families of this tragedy.

Hurricane Idalia made landfall in Florida on August 30, 2023. From the date of landfall to September 30, 2023, the Volunteer Florida Foundation has collected over \$4 million in donations for Hurricane Idalia relief.

“Hurricane Idalia severely impacted my farm and home. We were without electricity for six days, our houses had to be reroofed, and the farm lost four shelters that housed show pigs, equipment, and hay. In addition, our cattle fence lines were significantly damaged by fallen trees. The money received from the Florida Disaster Fund will contribute to our plan to rebuild stronger and continue to be a part of the agricultural industry in Lafayette County.”

--Chad Lyons, Agri-Science Teacher, Lafayette High School

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PARTNER ORGANIZATION SUCCESSES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cajun Navy- The Cajun Navy Ground Force responded immediately to the needs of our Florida neighbors affected by Hurricane Idalia, setting up a SAFE camp and distributing hot meals within hours of the storm. In collaboration with local and national organizations and individuals, they provided the community with critical supplies, food and water. The medical and mental health teams prioritized the elderly who were at high risk due to the prolonged lack of water and electricity. During Hurricane Idalia, 14,000 hot meals were served in 9 days (271,231 pounds of food) valued at \$704,941.46 and other critical supplies, 437 volunteers were recruited providing 3,419 volunteer hours, representing \$100,552.79 in value to the state.

Convoy of Hope- Convoy of Hope provided support and relief to children throughout the state due to Hurricane Idalia's impact, offering essential supplies to 600 vehicles through a drive-thru distribution. Hundreds of families were stranded without transportation and Convoy of Hope volunteers provided families with food, water, diapers, formula, mattresses, tarps and mosquito nets. Additionally, through the provision of volunteer labor and supplies, they were able to assist families in the demolition and reconstruction of their homes.

"We are incredibly thankful to the Education Foundation for providing us with money to get our Foundation repaired. We can have peace of mind during the next heavy rain. It has since been repaired and we are working on saving to complete the rest of the repairs. THANK YOU!"

--Jennie Reisinger, Teacher, Taylor Ranch School

Feeding Florida- Feeding Florida organized two mega-distributions in Perry and Cross City, where more than 2,000 households received critical resources. They distributed 224,000 meals, 363,000 12-liter bottles of water and 40,000 pounds of fresh produce through their network of food banks. By deploying resources through 44 mass distributions, agency drops and site visits across the state, their efforts have helped individuals and families in 23 counties.



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First Baptist Church of Horseshoe Beach- Following Hurricane Idalia, food was distributed to the community by the First Baptist Church of Horseshoe Beach food pantry. Residents in the community without power or water were served three meals a day by the volunteers.

Florida State Animal Response Coalition – In response to Hurricane Idalia, the Florida State Animal Response Coalition coordinated the delivery of over 18 pallets of donated animal food and food for the volunteers supporting local pet-friendly emergency facilities.

Team Rubicon- As a result of Volunteer Florida’s contributions to Team Rubicon’s Hurricane Idalia relief efforts, hurricane-damaged homes were repaired and cleared of debris, which improved the immediate safety and accessibility of community members’ properties. Team Rubicon accomplished this outcome through their roof tarping and debris removal services, which allowed local roadways to be opened for vehicles, including emergency services and residents’ vehicles. This outcome ensured homeowners and their families could return home safely and begin taking the next steps toward long-term recovery.

“From the \$1,000 donation through the Dixie Education Foundation and Volunteer Florida, our congregation was able to repair the pavilion that houses the church bus and outdoor church services held there at times; we are so blessed...with much gratitude.”

–PJ Hope, Transportation Coordinator, Dixie District Schools



In summary, Florida's recovery efforts following Hurricanes Ian and Idalia have been historic. In addition to that, the State of Florida has responded statewide to the aftermath of the flooding in Southeast Florida and the Jacksonville shooting incident. As a result of this report, you will see how resources were coordinated to help the impacted areas. Our goal is to continue distributing funds until we have distributed the entire amount designated for rebuilding the affected communities.