

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



volunteerflorida



SHERRY WHEELOCK
Volunteer Florida Commission Chair



JOSEFINA TAMAYO
Chief Executive Officer

Friends and Partners,

We are pleased to present Volunteer Florida's 2025 Annual Report, highlighting the extraordinary commitment and hard work of our Commissioners, Foundation Directors, dedicated staff, and partners.

In 2025, Volunteer Florida built upon its strong foundation by expanding partnerships, deepening community engagement, and responding to emerging needs across the state. Through innovative service initiatives and impactful volunteer opportunities, we supported communities in times of recovery and growth while advancing disaster resilience, national service, and a culture of service statewide. These efforts demonstrate our ongoing commitment to meeting Florida’s evolving needs through purposeful collaboration and service.

Our achievements would not be possible without the unwavering support of Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis, our partners in the Florida Legislature, and the collective efforts of our Commissioners, Foundation Directors, staff, sponsors, and community partners. Together, they fortify our mission and amplify our impact.

As we reflect on the progress made this year, we are inspired by what we have accomplished and energized to continue building on this work in 2026 and beyond. Thank you for joining us in our shared commitment to #ServeFL and strengthening our great state.

Yours in Service,

Sherry Wheelock | Josefina Tamayo
Commission Chair | Chief Executive Officer

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA COMMISSION

Special thanks to everyone who served on the Volunteer Florida Commission during 2025.

- SHERRY WHEELOCK | CHAIR | CLERMONT
CEO, Special Olympics Florida

CHRISTINA BONARRIGO VILLAMIL | VICE CHAIR | CORAL GABLES
Chief of Staff, Office of Personnel Management

CHRISTY BRODEUR | TREASURER | TALLAHASSEE
Partner, Ballard Partners

JOHN DAVIS | AT-LARGE | ORLANDO
Secretary, The Florida Lottery

ADAM FAUROT | AT-LARGE | TALLAHASSEE
CEO, Titus Sports Academy

TOM ALLEN | TALLAHASSEE
EVP Real Estate Management, Capital City Bank

IVAN CHAVEZ | WEST MIAMI
Firefighter and Paramedic, Miami Beach Fire Rescue
& Commissioner, City of West Miami

JAYNE CERIO | TALLAHASSEE
Community Advocate

DAVID COFFMAN | ATLANTA, GA
AMERICORPS REPRESENTATIVE | *EX-OFFICIO
SERVED JANUARY – APRIL 2025
AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager, Southeast Regional Office

HENRI CROCKETT | PEMBROKE PINES
CEO, The Crockett Foundation

EBO ENTSUAH | CLERMONT
Director of Policy, Step Up for Students

GINA EVANS DEW | TAMPA
Project Director, HNTB
- RHEA GOFF | PANAMA CITY BEACH
Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President,
St. Joe Company

DAKEYAN GRAHAM | GAINESVILLE
Assistant Principal, Metcalfe Elementary School

JESSICA HAYS | SARASOTA
President and CEO, Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center

STEFANIE INK EDWARDS | FORT MYERS
CEO, Community Cooperative

AUTUMN KARLINSKY | WESTON
Registered Dental Hygienist

LORI KILLINGER | TAMPA
Executive Shareholder, Lewis, Longman & Walker, PA

MEGHAN PAUL-COOK | ATLANTA, GA
AMERICORPS REPRESENTATIVE | *EX-OFFICIO
SERVED APRIL – DECEMBER 2025
AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager, Southeast Regional Office

WILSON D'ALEMBERTE ROBERTS | TALLAHASSEE
Student, University of Florida, Gainesville

KERRY ANNE SCHULTZ | NAVARRE
Attorney, Schultz Law Group

HEATHER TURNBULL | TALLAHASSEE
Managing Partner, Rubin Turnbull & Associates

KELLI WALKER | TALLAHASSEE
SERVED JANUARY – JUNE 2025
District Volunteer Coordinator, Leon County Schools

LINDSEY ZANDER | TALLAHASSEE
Executive Director, Florida Education Foundation





In 2025, Volunteer Florida secured over \$92 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 \$51 in non-state funding.



AMERICORPS FLORIDA

Volunteer Florida administers AmeriCorps programs throughout the state. AmeriCorps is a national service program that provides opportunities for individuals to serve their communities. In exchange for a living stipend, educational award and valuable on-the-job experience, members help mentor at-risk students, train job-seekers, conserve public land, respond to disasters and much more.

In 2025, Volunteer Florida's **1,783 AmeriCorps members** provided **1.4 million hours of service** to Florida, a value of over **\$46.2 million dollars**.



- AmeriCorps members served 33,580 Florida students in 159 Florida schools.
- Members were eligible to receive \$8.1 million in college scholarships upon completion of their year of service.



2024-2025 AMERICORPS GRANTEES



Alachua
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
University of Florida - Florida 4-H
University of Florida - GatorCorps

Broward
Breakthrough Miami
Broward College
Firewall Centers
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY)
Hispanic Unity of Florida

Citrus
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Clay
University of Florida - GatorCorps

Collier
Healthcare Network
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Duval
City Year Jacksonville
Communities in Schools of Jacksonville
Family Scholar House
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Literacy Alliance of Northeast Florida
READ USA
Teach For America
The Arc Jacksonville
University of Florida - GatorCorps
University of North Florida

Escambia
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Franklin
Community Training Works

Highlands
University of Florida - Florida 4-H

Hillsborough
City of Tampa
Community Training Works
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Metropolitan Ministries
ReDefiners World Languages
Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay

Indian River
Big Brother Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties

Jefferson
Community Training Works

Lafayette
Boys and Girls Club of North Central Florida

Lee
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Leon
Community Training Works
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Levy
University of Florida - GatorCorps

Liberty
Community Training Works

Manatee
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Martin
Boys & Girls Club of Martin County
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Miami-Dade
Branches
Breakthrough Miami
Centro Campesino
City Year Miami
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY)
Goodwill Industries of South Florida
Greater Miami Service Corps
Overtown Youth Center
Teach for America
The Sundari Foundation
Urban Paradise Guild

Okaloosa
University of Florida - Florida 4-H

Okeechobee
Big Brother Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties

Orange
City of Orlando - Operation AmeriCorps
City Year Orlando
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Palm Beach
Breakthrough Miami
Boys & Girls Club of Palm Beach County
Community Training Works
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
The Arc of Palm Beach County

Pasco
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Metropolitan Ministries

Pinellas
Habitat for Humanity of Florida
Metropolitan Ministries
ReDefiners World Languages
Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay

Polk
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Polk Education Foundation

Putnam
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Sarasota
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

St. Johns
Community Training Works

St. Lucie
Big Brother Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Taylor
Boys and Girls Club of North Central Florida
Community Training Works

Volusia
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Wakulla
Community Training Works
Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratories

RIISING STAR: UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA GATORCORPS

The AmeriCorps Rising Star Award recognizes a program within their first three years of funding, that has demonstrated significant improvement in recruitment and retention of members and strong member support, performance measures achievement and community impact.

GatorCorps members serve through disaster mitigation and capacity building in Jacksonville, Gainesville and Cedar Key, Florida. AmeriCorps members are responsible for increasing levels of knowledge in disaster preparedness among both residents and host organizations. GatorCorps cultivates a unique blend of science/environmental education, training in resilience tools and techniques, and capacity building to achieve increased disaster resiliency in the communities where members serve.



"GatorCorps is an important path for many of our students to continue their education through service to Florida communities. We are proud of their contributions and the lasting impact they are having on our state."

-- Chimay Anumba, Dean of the College of Design, Construction and Planning, University of Florida



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: BRANCHES, INC.

AmeriCorps members serving with Branches provide after school tutoring and mentoring to K-12 youth throughout Miami-Dade. AmeriCorps members increase the reading and literacy skills of students through after school and summer programming.



During the 2024-2025 service year, Branches AmeriCorps members:

- Provided tutoring to 456 K-12 students throughout Miami-Dade with 83% making significant academic gains.
- Worked with volunteers and students to package over 150 appreciation packages for First Responders during 9/11 Day of Service.
- Recruited 1,000 volunteers to help package, serve and deliver 5,300 meals during Thanksgiving to Miami-Dade County residents in need.
- Served alongside volunteers to support 213 families during the holiday season to wrap 1,300 toys gifted to over 390 children.
- Engaged 159 community members in beautification projects during MLK Day of Service.



“Our 15 year partnership with Volunteer Florida has created extraordinary benefits for those who serve as Branches’ AmeriCorps members, for our students and for the entire community. Together we have created life-changing opportunities for students that have resulted in 100% of our students graduating from high school AND pursuing a post-secondary plan. The results are truly remarkable and we are exceedingly grateful to Volunteer Florida for your transformative support and leadership in the area of voluntary service.”

-- Brent McLaughlin, President/CEO, Branches, Inc.

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA (VISTA)

Volunteer Florida administers an intermediary VISTA program in partnership with AmeriCorps, the federal agency. VISTA is an anti-poverty initiative that provides nonprofits and public agencies with the resources they need to strengthen their capacity to serve communities.

This year, VISTA members served communities by building capacity within organizations who were serving students in K-12, Veterans and Military Families, Environmental Stewardship, Housing, and Job Readiness.

VISTA members developed partnerships to support youth aging out of foster care, created systems for fundraising engagement and developed new ways to appreciate, train and retain volunteers. VISTA members actively collaborated with various AmeriCorps and non-AmeriCorps programs to enhance disaster recovery efforts.

These partnerships contributed to the effectiveness of organizations by expanding resources, strengthening preparedness, and improving response efforts. These collaborations provided insight into the hands-on recovery efforts that support community rebuilding, including debris removal, home repairs, and community engagement.

Volunteer Florida supported AmeriCorps VISTA member placements at the following organizations:

ORGANIZATION	SERVICE AREA
Coastal Connections	Vero Beach
Florida Coalition to End Homelessness	Orlando
Help Us Grow Foundation	Broward County
Operation New Uniform	Jacksonville
Starfish Disaster Recovery	Madison County
Sulzbacher Center	Jacksonville
Trinity United Methodist Church	Leon County
United Way of Broward County	Broward County



- 428 community volunteers were recruited and managed by Florida VISTA members in 2025
- 2,055 service hours were performed by community volunteers who were recruited and managed by VISTA members, a value of \$70,000

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA'S AMERICORPS PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

The Volunteer Florida Program of the Year Award recognizes not only a high performing program but also a program that has gone above and beyond exemplifying the Volunteer Florida values of: Service, Leadership, Collaboration, Excellence and Innovation.

HISPANIC UNITY OF FLORIDA

Hispanic Unity of Florida helps Floridians launch a new career, buy a new home, start a business, improve their nutrition and much more. AmeriCorps members with Hispanic Unity of Florida provide job readiness coaching and employability trainings as well as nutrition access and education. Over the past year, Hispanic Unity of Florida AmeriCorps members have:

- Connected **1,276 clients to income stabilization services, job skills training and job placement opportunities.**
- Through these connections, **375 clients saw an increase in job readiness** by completing resume building and computer development skills, job search skills and job interview training.
- Additionally, members **connected 476 clients to nutrition workshops**, cooking demonstrations, or grocery store tours to inform and overcome nutritional barriers in the community. Through this work, members assisted **364 clients who reported an increase in food security and 245 clients reported an increase in health knowledge.**
- Provided professional development opportunities to members in areas such as data management, enhancing service coordination and wrap around support, first-time home buyer education, health and wellness and entrepreneurship.



"At HUF, our AmeriCorps program began years ago as a way to expand capacity and has grown into a cornerstone of our mission. AmeriCorps members bring commitment, energy, innovation, and heart—helping us transform our clients' lives and strengthen the South Florida community. We could not have achieved this impact without their dedication and the support of Volunteer Florida. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient Florida."

-- Felipe Pinzon, CEO, Hispanic Unity of Florida

AMERICORPS FLORIDA MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The AmeriCorps Member of the Year Award recognizes a member, nominated by their AmeriCorps Program, who exemplifies the Volunteer Florida values of Service, Leadership, Collaboration, Inspiration and Innovation.

Isabella demonstrated outstanding dedication and impact as a Graduation Coach at Boynton Beach High School and Scholars Career Coaching. She engaged in the pivotal role of guiding high school students toward graduation, higher education, and career readiness. Isabella proactively identified students at risk of not graduating and implemented personalized support plans to keep them on track. Through one-on-one mentoring sessions, college prep workshops, and career coaching initiatives, Isabella has helped over 50 students navigate academic challenges and post-secondary planning.



"AmeriCorps did more than give me a place to serve — it connected me to my community."

-- Isabella Borges, AmeriCorps Member



Her leadership extends beyond direct service - Isabella has also collaborated with school administrators and career coaches to develop new mentoring strategies, ensuring that students receive the academic and emotional support they need.

One student shared, "Before meeting Isabella, I wasn't sure if I would graduate. She helped me stay focused and believe in myself."

"Isabella's contributions as an AmeriCorps member with the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County were exceptional. Her leadership and collaboration propelled her success as she went above and beyond to support and uplift her students. Her passion and dedication made it possible for students to reach their potential. She helped young people find their voices, stay on track for graduation and plan their futures. Upon completing the program, Isabella received a job offer with American Sugar Refining where she is a Research & Development Technician, finding new ways to utilize sugarcane and other plant fibers into compostable tableware and foodservice products."

-- Kristin Calder, CEO, Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management Department at Volunteer Florida leads the state's efforts to coordinate volunteers and donations during disasters through Emergency Support Function 15 (ESF-15). Working in partnership with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), the department strengthens community preparedness through training, partnerships, and disaster exercises while mobilizing resources to support response and recovery efforts. The department also manages the Community Emergency Response Team Program (CERT) and Disaster Case Management Grant Program (DCMP) to help build resilient communities statewide.

As part of this role and during blue skies, Volunteer Florida develops and maintains partnerships, participates in exercises, conducts trainings, and presents at conferences. In 2025, Emergency Management staff:

- Maintained 145 active memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with organizations and partners across Florida
- Participated in National Voluntary Agency Liaison Working Group
- Strengthened partnerships through sustained engagement with governmental and nonprofit emergency management partners and stakeholders statewide
- Delivered FEMA certified training statewide to strengthen local disaster response capacity
- Participated in Statewide Emergency Management Exercise
- Participated in Florida VOAD quarterly meetings
- Attended the National Hurricane Conference and presented on:
 - How to Navigate Over 40 Community LTRGs
 - Resilient HERoes: Women in the Field
- Participated in FDEM Human Services Summit and presented on:
 - Volunteers and Donations: A Full-Cycle Approach
 - Volunteer Florida and Florida VOAD: What's the Difference
 - Community Emergency Response Teams Responding Locally
- Participated in the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association Annual Meeting and presented on:
 - Collaborative Strategies for Shelter Transition
 - How Emergency Management Can Integrate with VOAD
 - Empowering Communities in Crisis
- Attended the National VOAD Conference and presented on:
 - Multi-State Collaboration in Disaster Response
 - When Disaster Hits Over and Over
 - Filling the Gaps in Disaster Response and Recovery Using CERT
 - State Emergency Management Support for Its Nonprofit Communities
- Presented at the United Way Worldwide Disaster Summit in Orlando
- Continued participation in Florida Emergency Preparedness Association working groups and the Disaster Services Unit Working Group
- Participated in Florida's 5th Annual Emergency Management Day at the Capitol
- Attended the State CERT Conference, presenting a workshop and delivering trainings
- Hosted the Volunteer Florida Annual Emergency Management Convening in Orlando bringing together 200 attendees from over 95 organizations. The largest convening since its inception in 2016.



DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

As ESF-15's primary mission is to be ready to activate and support the state during any crisis or emergency, Emergency Management staff was activated to support various response and recovery efforts in 2025, including:

- **Historic Florida Snowfall Activation**
 - Activated to the State Emergency Operations Center to support response efforts during Florida's historic winter weather and snowfall event, providing coordination and situational support alongside state and local response partners.
- **Central Texas Flooding Deployment**
 - Following severe flooding in Central Texas, the Emergency Management Director and Emergency Management Coordinator deployed with the Florida Division of Emergency Management on a 14-day mission to support recovery operations. Volunteer Florida led volunteer and donations management efforts, including:
 - Operating a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) in Keer County, Texas
 - Supporting local partners with volunteer coordination and donations management
 - Assisting in the establishment of Long-Term Recovery Teams
 - Providing technical assistance to community leaders and response partners strengthening recovery operations



- **Ongoing Response and Recovery Efforts in Florida**
 - Continued coordination with FEMA and the Florida Division of Emergency Management throughout the year
 - Deployed staff to the Joint Field Office to support 2024 Hurricane recovery operations
 - Participated in weekly Command meetings with FEMA and State Emergency Response Team leadership
 - Participated in statewide response and recovery coordination calls
 - Conducted regular recovery coordination calls with Florida VOAD members, supporting field-level response and long-term recovery efforts
 - Supported kick-off of 12 new Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) statewide – supported 42 LTRGs serving 47 counties in total
 - Participated in FDEM Mitigation and Recovery Statewide Task Force meetings
 - Supported efforts to align philanthropic funding with FEMA identified recovery priorities
 - Continued close collaboration with community partners to expand and sustain long-term recovery efforts across impacted regions
 - Provided technical assistance and strategic support to emergency managers, nonprofits, and volunteer organizations responding to disasters.
 - Oversaw the Multi-Agency Donation Warehouse for Hurricanes Helene and Milton which received over \$1.7 million in tangible contributions. The warehouse was open for 111 days following the 2024 hurricanes and supported over 200 deliveries of donated items to nonprofit partners for distribution to survivors. The warehouse was staffed and operated by our longtime MOU partners, Adventist Community Services. They provided 65 volunteers who contributed nearly 6,000 hours of service and distributed 1.5 million items to communities impacted by the storms providing critical resources and support during the recovery process.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERT)

The Florida CERT program trains Floridians in basic disaster response skills to they can provide critical support in their communities by giving immediate assistance to victims before first responders arrive on scene. Their local knowledge and extensive training enable them to swiftly complement professional responders locally and strengthen resilience year-round.



Community Engagement was the major theme throughout the year for CERT Teams. Highlights of their activity include:

- CERT Programs offered over **720 training courses** ranging from basic to advanced trainings.
- **1,503 individuals** became new Florida CERT members in 2025.
- **537 teenagers** were certified to become **Teen CERTs** in the state of Florida in 2025.
- CERT programs in six counties and cities held local full scale drills, boosting response skills and community coordination.
- CERT Teams across the state supported their communities by promoting heat awareness, distributing water at local events, and staffing cooling stations at parades, airshows, beaches, and other large gatherings - helping first responders by reducing heat-related medical emergencies.
- When cold weather hit the state of Florida, CERT teams helped open cold weather shelters, set up cots, and passed out blankets - helping first responders by reducing cold-related medical emergencies.

2024 - 2025 CERT GRANTEES

TEAM NAME	COUNTY SERVED	TEAM NAME	COUNTY SERVED
Bay County CERT	Bay	Jefferson County CERT	Jefferson
City of Miami Beach CERT	Miami-Dade	Orange County CERT	Orange
City of Orlando CERT	Orange	Osceola County CERT	Osceola
City of Pesacola CERT	Escambia	Santa Rosa Citizens Corps	Santa Rosa
City of Tampa CERT	Hillsborough	Town of Davie CERT	Broward
Escambia CERT	Escambia	Walton County CERT	Walton

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERT)

In 2025, Florida's **68 CERT Teams** served more than **86,000 hours** a value of more than **\$2.9 million**

This is an increase of **4,000 service hours** and **over \$300,000** from 2024.



Other 2025 CERT team highlights include:

Broward and Miami CERT joint exercise: The two counties gathered at Snyder Park in Ft Lauderdale for a two-day overnight CERT Deployment Training Exercise. Participants engaged in realistic disaster scenarios, working together to assess damage, provide medical aid, and coordinate response efforts.

Bay County CERT: Participated in an Elgin Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) exercise with the U.S. Air Force, supported their community through water distribution and portable shower setup during the hot months, and assisted over 150 individuals during the cold months by opening a cold weather shelter when historic winter storms brought snowfall and frigid temperatures.

City of Tampa CERT: Supported the local Hurricane Expo by staffing information tables, distributing disaster guides and supplies, and managing outside points of distribution. Throughout the course of the event, they provided sanitation kits, preparedness items, sandbags, and MREs helping over 800 families improve their hurricane readiness.



FLORIDA DISASTER FUND IMPACT: HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON

In 2025, the Florida Disaster Fund awarded over \$18.6 million dollars in grant funding to nearly 100 different statewide partners to assist Floridians in recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. These partners included long-term recovery groups, first responder organizations, disaster relief organizations and recovery and rebuilding projects.

In 2025, the Florida Disaster Fund awarded more than **\$18.6 million** to nearly **100 statewide partners.**

Habitat for Humanity of Florida: Chris, a Florida homeowner, was left with a damaged, leaking, unsafe roof after Hurricane Milton devastated her neighborhood. Habitat for Humanity's Hurricane Milton Home Repairs initiative, funded by the Florida Disaster Fund, was able to provide all needed materials and repairs and make Chris's home safe and habitable.

"I'm so thankful for a community that cares. It's a great feeling to know that I'm not alone. May God continue to bless you all." - Chris, Hurricane Milton Survivor

HURRICANE HELENE

THE **FLORIDA DISASTER FUND** ASSISTED ALMOST
50,000 HURRICANE HELENE SURVIVORS
AND SUPPORTED
50,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS
DEDICATED TO RESPONSE AND RECOVERY.

All Hands and Hearts: Roland's home was flooded by Hurricane Helene, with waters so strong they carried his belongings down the road. All Hands and Hearts transformed his water-logged house back into a true home - installing drywall, flooring, insulation, trim and paint - while licensed contractors handled other critical repairs like roofing, plumbing and electrical work.

"They've been a great help, I mean, wow, I wasn't expecting this. I can't wait to cook a meal again, in my own house!" -- Roland, All Hands and Hearts client



FLORIDA DISASTER FUND IMPACT: HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON



HURRICANE MILTON

THE **FLORIDA DISASTER FUND** ASSISTED ALMOST
65,000 HURRICANE MILTON SURVIVORS
AND SUPPORTED
52,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS
DEDICATED TO RESPONSE AND RECOVERY.



Area Agency on Aging of Pasco: Valerie's home was impacted by both Hurricane Helene and Milton. She had no hot water after her hot water heater was destroyed by Hurricane Milton and could not afford a plumber. She was unable to prepare her own meals and while a friend donated their trailer for her to live in, she didn't have the funds to pay a deposit or rent on the trailer lot.

Florida Disaster Fund grantee The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas County was able to use Florida Disaster Fund monies to help in a variety of ways. Valerie was provided with financial assistance that allowed her to move into the donated trailer, get her hot water running again and supply food for her and her pet.

"Thank you so much. I was at the point of being completely hopeless. Honestly, I thought I'd die here. I never expected anyone to help me. This is amazing. Thank you for everything you have done for me. I'm so relieved."
-- Valerie, Area Agency on Aging of Pasco client

DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: HURRICANE IAN

The FEMA Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) is a federally funded program administered by Volunteer Florida to support individuals and families recovering from disasters. The program provides survivors with a dedicated case manager who helps assess disaster-caused unmet needs, develop an individualized recovery plan, and connect with local, state, and national resources. Through strong partnerships with Long-Term Recovery Groups and community organizations, DCMP helps survivors navigate the path toward stability and recovery.

The Hurricane Ian Disaster Case Management Program was closed in September 2025. At final count there were over:

194,000
client contacts

14,700
referrals

and 10,200
services provided.

Some select Success Stories are below:

At 62, a resilient Hurricane Ian survivor faced overwhelming hardship after the storm severely damaged her 1976 mobile home, ultimately leading to its condemnation. Despite receiving \$49,417 in FEMA aid, she exhausted her savings trying to repair the home - which required everything from mold remediation to essential utilities and appliances. When the structure was ultimately deemed uninhabitable, she lived between her laundry shed and car until FEMA placed her in a temporary apartment in February 2023.

Determined to rebuild, she purchased land outside the flood zone and was later approved by the Transform386 Housing Repair and Replacement Program for a new mobile home valued at \$181,250.

As she waited for placement, a rent increase threatened her housing stability. With limited Social Security income and high monthly expenses, she turned to her Endeavors Disaster Case Manager, who secured rental assistance through the Reach Resilience LTRG. This critical support has helped her remain safely housed while awaiting the final stages of her recovery.

When Endeavor's disaster case manager (DCM) first met the client in February 2024, the client was facing severe challenges in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. Their roof had sustained major damage, resulting in persistent leaks throughout the home. Although the client had applied for FEMA and other assistance, the only support received up to that point was for mold mitigation.

Understanding the urgency, the DCM immediately began coordinating recovery efforts. A Construction Cost Analyst completed a damage estimate identifying over \$30,000 in necessary repairs. The client was approved for \$4,500 in Red Cross Expanded Recovery Assistance and later their case was approved for roof repair, pending available funding through RISE Orange County.

Finally in June 2025, the client received \$29,860 in funding, enabling the full restoration of their roof. The client expressed deep gratitude, sharing that the repairs would not have been possible without the ongoing support of Endeavors. With the roof restored, their case was successfully closed and the client's recovery journey was complete.

DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: HURRICANE IDALIA

In May 2025, FDEM submitted a request to FEMA for an extension of the Hurricane Idalia Disaster Case Management Program as recovery needs persisted beyond the original period of performance. FEMA approved a 12 month extension, through August 2026.

Currently there are 53 Disaster Case Managers (DCMs), over 53,580 client contacts, and 2,937 referrals.

An example of the work DCMs do is below:

Pinellas County – Rising from the Rubble

When Hurricane Idalia hit, floodwaters filled Jane's home with four to five feet of water, destroying nearly everything she owned. The aftermath forced her to live in unsafe, mold-filled conditions while she was also enduring years of domestic violence.

Eventually evicted, she packed two garbage bags and fled, spending months sleeping in her car before finding her way to Endeavors.

Her DCM coordinated with multiple agencies and was able to secure \$1,156 from Pinellas LTRG for move-in assistance. Jane contributed \$760 of her own savings toward the deposit on an apartment, demonstrating her determination to rebuild her life.

To turn her newly-acquired but empty apartment into a true home, Jane's DCM connected her with New Life Warehouse, who provided a full furniture and household package, including a queen bed, dining set, couch, and even a Bible.

When she saw her new home, she wept with gratitude, saying it was the first time she'd felt safe in years. In total, Endeavors helped secure \$3,656 in recovery support, helping her find not just shelter, but dignity and peace.



DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON



In May 2025, Volunteer Florida, through the Florida Division of Emergency Management, was awarded a **\$56 million FEMA Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) grant** to support individuals impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, marking the first combined DCMP award for two disasters in Florida's history.

Because the storms struck the same region just 13 days apart, this approach allows survivors to receive support without having to distinguish which hurricane caused specific damage, streamlining services and accelerating recovery. The grant, which runs through September 2027, supports services across 10 service areas covering 52 of Florida's 67 counties and includes a pilot model empowering two Long-Term Recovery Groups to serve as direct providers in their communities.

PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM

In 2025, the Volunteer Services Department continued to support Volunteer Florida's vision to strengthen volunteer engagement and programming. During the year, the department provided key capacity-building opportunities, supported and increased the use of Volunteer Connect, provided informative training and communications, and spearheaded special projects to foster volunteerism in Florida.

Presentations, workshops and service projects were provided to a variety of audiences and organizations to promote volunteer engagement and Volunteer Connect. Training and support highlights include the following:

- Department of Juvenile Justice Restoring Hope Training Summit
- 2025 Volunteer Engagement Leadership Series
- CEO Promotes Volunteerism in Statewide Presentations
- VF Staff Direct Service Engagement Projects
 - Second Harvest of the Big Bend-Food Distribution
 - Leon County High School - Campus Heritage Display Clean Up
 - Elder Care Services - Tallahassee Elder Elf Gift Donation



VOLUNTEER CONNECT

As the state's official volunteer engagement platform, Volunteer Connect brings partnering organizations and volunteers together across Florida. As the digital landscape of volunteer engagement and outreach continues to evolve, Volunteer Connect serves as a centralized hub for service statewide. By simplifying the process of matching volunteers with meaningful opportunities aligned to their interests, the platform strengthens communities and expands the capacity of organizations to make a lasting impact.

- Over **1,200 nonprofit and government organizations** are registered and able to seek needed volunteers
- Registered organizations represent all of Florida's **67 counties**
- More than **800 volunteer opportunities** were available to volunteers during the past year
- More than **24,000 volunteers** are registered in Volunteer Connect

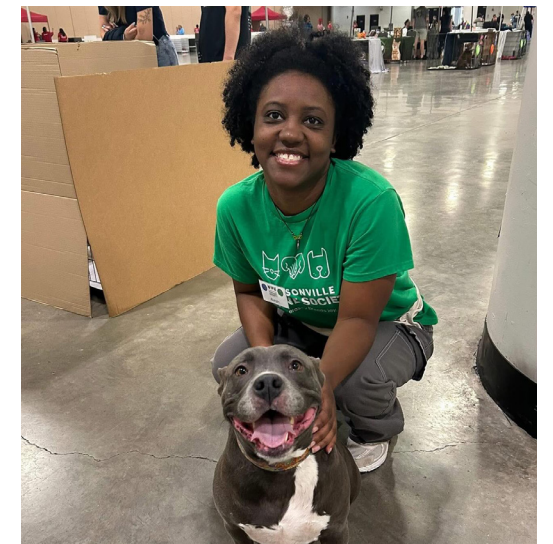


SERVICE ENTERPRISE

Service Enterprise is a nationally recognized, research-based program model that provides training and coaching to help organizations strategically leverage volunteers to advance their missions. Through Volunteer Florida's continued partnership with the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (ALIVE) as a Training and Implementation Partner, the Service Enterprise Accreditation Program is offered to nonprofit organizations across Florida.

Over the past several years, nine organizations have earned Service Enterprise accreditation. This year, three organizations - Ridge Area Arc, Jacksonville Humane Society, and Safe Families for Children - have joined this distinguished group.

Additionally, two organizations, EveryPets (formerly First Coast No More Homeless Pets) and Global Empowerment Mission, have completed their site visits and are awaiting final approval for their three-year Service Enterprise accreditation, anticipated in January 2026.



SERVING FLORIDA

Volunteer Florida is committed to serving Florida both through its programming and through direct service. Our board members, leadership and staff are committed to making Florida a great place to live through their consistent service throughout many Florida communities.



Volunteer Florida Leadership and Commissioners pack food boxes at Food for Thought in Santa Rosa Beach during our annual commission meeting.



Volunteer Florida Foundation Treasurer, Stephanie Smith, pulls invasive species with the Nature Conservancy and serves a pre-Thanksgiving meal with the "Children with a Vision" non profit organization.



Volunteer Florida Deputy Finance Director, Tracie Lambricht, reads with Reading Pals, serves with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, and picks up trash with Keeping Wakulla County Beautiful.

SERVING FLORIDA



Foundation Chair, Steve Artusi, serves meals at the Broward Partnership's kitchen and rings the Salvation Army bell while Foundation Vice-Chair, Cameron Cooper, delivers Thanksgiving meals with Second Harvest.



Commissioner Rhea Goff serves on a number of boards including Florida's Great Northwest Board, Northwest Florida State College board, and the Seacoast Collegiate High School board.



Commissioner Stefanie Ink Edwards hands out a turkey during the Community Cooperative Full Plates Project and embraces a young boy waiting in line at the Community Market food pantry.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived his life serving others. Following his example, millions of Americans serve on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. At Florida schools, food banks, community parks or lending a hand to help our neighbors – Florida AmeriCorps members bring to life his vision of neighbors working together to build a better future.

AmeriCorps Florida programs beautified their communities, participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King Freedom Breakfast, joined a parade, created reading kits, baked cookies for Ronald McDonald House residents, and packed food at food banks. Hundreds of volunteers honored Dr. King throughout Florida through their service.



SEPTEMBER 11TH DAY OF SERVICE

The 9/11 Day of Service is a national day of remembrance and volunteering that takes place each year on September 11th to honor the victims and heroes of the 2001 terrorist attacks. It was created to transform the anniversary of the tragedy into a positive day of doing good and has become the largest day of charitable service in the United States. Activities include community service projects, like meal packing and food bank volunteering, as well as acts of kindness, and donations to support victims and first responders.

Across the United States, AmeriCorps honors those who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001 with service projects within their communities. Volunteer Florida AmeriCorps programs held grocery distribution stations, educational sessions with students, park beautification, shoe collection and distribution and much more!



VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION

The Volunteer Florida Foundation is Volunteer Florida's direct support organization, providing private funds through fundraising efforts 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, Hispanic Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Month student contests and celebrations.

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION BOARD

Special thanks to everyone who served on the Volunteer Florida Foundation Board during 2025.

STEVE ARTUSI | CHAIR | HIGHLAND BEACH
Senior Vice President and General Counsel, JM Family Enterprises

CAMERON COOPER | VICE CHAIR | TALLAHASSEE
Director of State Government Affairs, Duke Energy Florida

STEPHANIE SMITH | TREASURER | TAMPA
VP of State and Regional Affairs, TECO Energy

CATHERINE AGUIRRE | AT-LARGE | PEMBROKE PINES
Executive Director, Aetna Public Segment

HEATHER TURNBULL | AT-LARGE | TALLAHASSEE
LEADERSHIP JUNE - DECEMBER 2025
Managing Partner, Rubin Turnbull & Associates

LINDSEY ZANDER | AT-LARGE | TALLAHASSEE
LEADERSHIP JANUARY - JUNE 2025
Executive Director, Florida Department of Education Foundation

MONESIA BROWN | TALLAHASSEE
President/CEO, Monesia T. Brown LLC

DEREK COOPER | WEST PALM BEACH
VP of Government Affairs and Community Investment, Comcast

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

TAMELA PERDUE | TALLAHASSEE
Senior Vice President of Legislative and Government Affairs, Sunshine Health

GINA EVANS DEW | TAMPA
SERVED JUNE - DECEMBER 2025
Project Director, HNTB

KERRY ANNE SCHULTZ | NAVARRE
SERVED JANUARY - JUNE 2025
Attorney, Schultz Law Group

DWAINE STEVENS | JACKSONVILLE
Corporate Director of Community Relations, Publix Super Markets

RURAL COMMUNITY ASSETS FUND

The Volunteer Florida Foundation's Rural Community Assets Fund (RCAF) strengthens the capacity of community organizations to further their missions through engaging volunteers who serve Floridians in rural communities. As a result of funded project activities, awardees increase measures such as number of individuals served, types of services offered or number of services provided. Additionally, awardees grow the number of volunteers recruited and retained during the grant year.

2024 - 2025 Rural Community Assets Fund awardees:

RCAF GRANTEE

Arcadia-DeSoto County Habitat for Humanity
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Kids Inc Of the Big Bend
Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County
United Way of Northeast Florida
United Way of Northwest Florida
United Way of West Florida

AREA SERVED

DeSoto County
Statewide
Jefferson and Madison Counties
Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay
Baker, Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties
Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington Counties
Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties



RCAF funding helped provide equipment for volunteers in several organizations



Rural Community Assests Fund (RCAF) grantees Kids Inc of the Big Bend and United Way of Northeast Florida



"RCAF funding and training has enabled our organization to increase the number of dedicated volunteers working with us which in turn has reduced a previously overwhelming workload. The training helped me to become better organized which has greatly reduced my stress level."

-- H. Layport, Program Manager, Arcadia-Desoto County Habitat for Humanity

FLORIDA BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In February 2025, the Volunteer Florida Foundation, the Executive Office of the Governor, the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Lottery, and the Florida Department of State hosted the Florida Black History Month Art and Essay Contests along with the Excellence in Education Awards. All winners were individually recognized at the Governor's Mansion.



Essay contest winners each received a two-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation. Art contest winners each received gift cards for school supplies and a pass to the Florida State Parks while the Excellence in Education award winners each received a \$2,500 monetary prize from Volunteer Florida.

FLORIDA HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

In October 2025, the Volunteer Florida Foundation, the Executive Office of the Governor, the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Lottery, and the Florida Department of State hosted the Florida Hispanic Heritage Month Art and Essay Contests along with the Excellence in Education Awards. All winners were individually recognized at the Governor's Mansion.



Essay contest winners each received a two-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation. Art contest winners each received gift cards for school supplies and a pass to the Florida State Parks while the Excellence in Education award winners each received a \$2,500 monetary prize from Volunteer Florida.

FLORIDA NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

In November 2025, the Volunteer Florida Foundation, the Executive Office of the Governor, the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Lottery, and the Florida Department of State hosted the Florida Native American Heritage Month Art and Essay Contests along with the Excellence in Education Awards. All winners were individually recognized at the Governor's Mansion.



Essay contest winners each received a two-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation. Art contest winners each received gift cards for school supplies and a pass to the Florida State Parks while the Excellence in Education award winners each received a \$2,500 monetary prize from Volunteer Florida.

Since 2001, the Volunteer Florida Foundation has distributed
183 Florida College Plan scholarships
 to the essay contest winners for the
**Florida Black History Month, Florida Hispanic Heritage Month
 and Florida Native American Heritage Month celebrations.**

Over \$1.6 million in scholarship funds
 have been generously provided by
The Florida Prepaid College Foundation for the last 25 years.

SUITS FOR SESSION

Volunteer Florida’s tenth annual Suits for Session service project resulted in the collection of 3,833 items. This signature service project included 25 state agency donation drives and simultaneous day-long events on March 25th and 26th, a curbside drop off location outside Tallahassee City Hall and the project’s hallmark event inside the Florida Capitol. Professional attire donations support Florida job-seekers striving to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Recipient organizations included:

- FSU ProfessioNole Clothing Closet
- USF Suit-A-Bull Career Closet
- Orlando Bridge Community Release Center

Since 2016, Suits for Session has donated **nearly 38,000 items of clothing** to job-seekers in need across Florida.



“Suit-A-Bull empowers students by providing free access to career-ready attire, boosting their confidence, and ensuring they make a strong first impression at career fairs, job interviews, and in professional settings. By donating, supporters play a crucial role in leveling the playing field, allowing all students to pursue opportunities without the barrier of access to professional clothing. Just last year, Suit-A-Bull provided over 2,700 pieces of professional attire, equipping more than 1,300 students with the confidence and polished appearance needed to make a strong impression, impacting their professional paths. Thank you Volunteer Florida! Your donation made a crucial difference in the lives of our students.”

-- Addye Buckley-Burnell, Associate Vice President/Executive Director



VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION DONATIONS

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO GAVE \$5,000 OR MORE TO THE VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUND IN 2025



ORGANIZATION	DONATION
Baptist Health	\$50,000
Centene	\$25,000
Chesapeake Utilities	\$10,000
Comcast	\$25,000
CVS Health	\$25,000
Duke Energy	\$25,000
Florida Power and Light	\$10,000
Florida Transportation Builders Association	\$10,000
Holcombe Family Charitable Fund	\$ 5,000
JM Family Automotive	\$50,000
KPMG	\$25,000
Lewis, Longman & Walker	\$10,000
Stephen Artusi	\$ 5,000
Tampa Electric Company	\$25,000





volunteerflorida

Serving Florida's Communities for over 30 Years!