

# VOLUNTEER FLORIDA

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**VF30**  
volunteerflorida



SHERRY WHEELOCK

Volunteer Florida Commission Chair



JOSEFINA TAMAYO

Chief Executive Officer

Friends and Partners,

We are pleased to present Volunteer Florida's 2024 Annual Report, showcasing the extraordinary commitment and hard work of our Commissioners, Foundation Directors, dedicated staff, and partners. Throughout the year, Volunteer Florida has continued its mission to serve the people of Florida by coordinating volunteers and donations following disasters, supporting the Governor's priority initiatives, and promoting volunteerism across the state. Each day, we strive to strengthen communities and make Florida a better place to live through service.

This year, we proudly celebrated 30 years of Volunteer Florida serving the Sunshine State! Over the past three decades, our partnerships with the private sector and community organizations have been the cornerstone of our success, enabling us to enhance disaster resilience, expand national service, and inspire volunteerism statewide. To honor this milestone, CEO Tamayo embarked on a statewide tour, featuring impactful service projects and volunteer opportunities to support Florida communities in their recovery and growth.

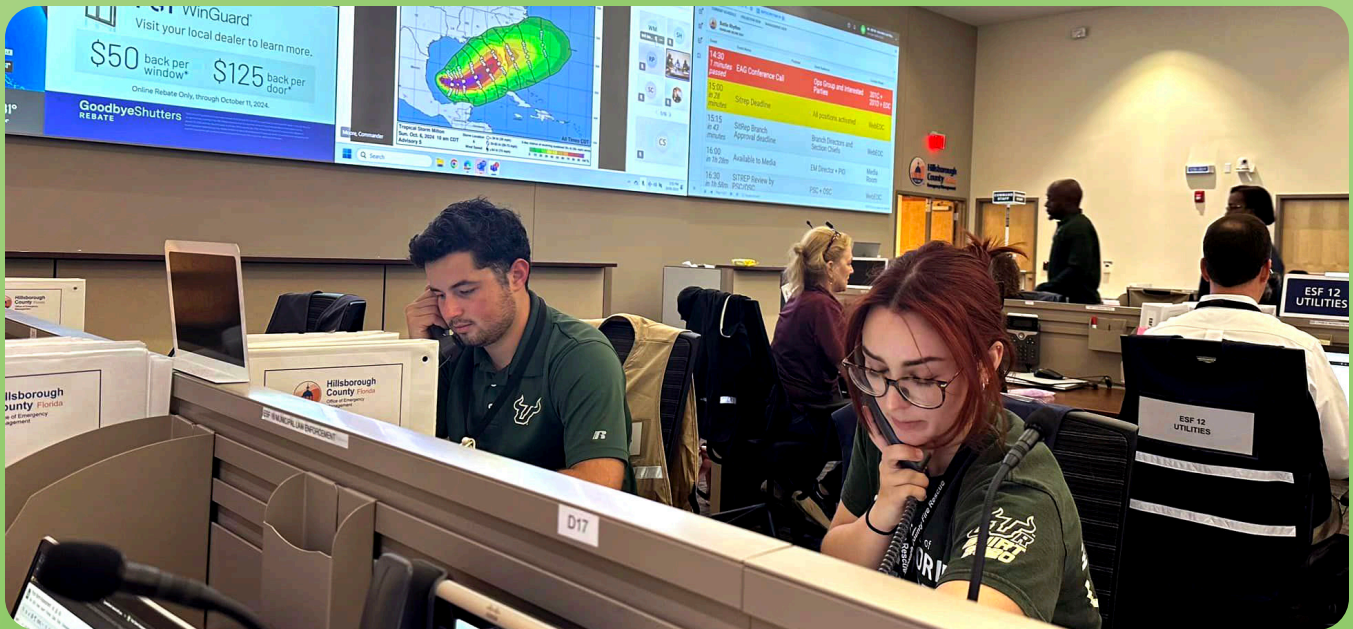
Our achievements would not be possible without the unwavering support of Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis, our partners in the Florida Legislature, and the collective efforts of our Commissioners, Foundation Directors, staff, sponsors, and community partners. Together, they fortify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

As we reflect on three decades of service, we are inspired by what we've accomplished and excited to build on this legacy in the years ahead, with great anticipation for continued success in 2025. Thank you for joining us on this journey to #ServeFL and strengthen our great state.

Yours in Service,

Sherry Wheelock  
Commission Chair

Josefina Tamayo  
Chief Executive Officer



***In 2024, Volunteer Florida secured over \$90 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 \$50 in non-state funding.***



# VOLUNTEER FLORIDA COMMISSION

Special thanks to everyone who served on the Volunteer Florida Commission during 2024.

**SHERRY WHEELOCK** | CLERMONT  
CEO, Special Olympics Florida

**CHRISTINA BONARRIGO VILLAMIL** | CORAL GABLES  
Chief of Staff to the CEO, Red 6

**CHRISTY BRODEUR** | TALLAHASSEE  
LEADERSHIP JULY - DECEMBER 2024  
Partner, Ballard Partners

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

**ADAM FAUROT** | AT-LARGE | TALLAHASSEE  
LEADERSHIP JULY - DECEMBER 2024  
CEO, Titus Sports Academy

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

**LYNETTE CARDOCH** | MIAMI  
SERVED IN LEADERSHIP JANUARY - JUNE 2024  
Director of Resilience and Adaptation, Moffatt & Nichol

**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  
AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager, Southeast Regional Office

**HENRI CROCKETT** | PEMBROKE PINES  
CEO, The Crockett Foundation

**EBO ENTSUAH** | CLERMONT  
Director of Government Relations, Project Lead the Way

**GINA EVANS DEW** | TAMPA  
Director of Government and Community Relations,  
Hillsborough County Aviation Authority

**RHEA GOFF** | PANAMA CITY BEACH  
Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President,  
St. Joe Company

**DAKEYAN GRAHAM** | GAINESVILLE  
Assistant Principal, Rawlings 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

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

**KERRY ANNE SCHULTZ** | NAVARRE  
SERVED IN LEADERSHIP JANUARY - JUNE 2024  
Attorney, Schultz Law Group

**KELLI WALKER** | TALLAHASSEE  
District Volunteer Coordinator, Leon County Schools

**LINDSEY ZANDER** | TALLAHASSEE  
Executive Director, Florida Education Foundation



# VOLUNTEER FLORIDA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

In 2024, Volunteer Florida turned 30! To celebrate three decades of serving Floridians, Volunteer Florida gathered with commissioners, board members, program staff and legislators to recognize outstanding volunteer programs across the great state of Florida.



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Volunteer Florida performs the lead agency role for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 15, Volunteers and Donations, in accordance with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The purpose of this ESF is to provide a central point for the coordination of information and activities of voluntary agencies responding in time of disaster and the effective utilization of donated cash, goods, and services. Volunteer Florida is prepared and trained to activate with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) when called upon during times of disasters.

As part of this role and during blue skies, Volunteer Florida conducts statewide training for counties and volunteer organizations on volunteer and donation management.

- In 2024, Emergency Management staff conducted 14 trainings across the state, including:
  - **Community Mass Care and Emergency Assistance:** introducing key topics such as sheltering, feeding, distribution of emergency supplies, family reunification and support for individuals with access and functional needs.
  - **Volunteers and Donations Management:** focusing on strategies for effectively managing volunteers and donated goods during disasters.
  - **Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters:** addressing planning considerations, volunteer coordination, safety and concludes with a hands-on exercise training in establishing and running a Volunteer Reception Center.
- Emergency Management staff presented at 7 conferences, including:
  - **Florida Emergency Preparedness Association Annual Meeting:** presented on "Success of FLVOAD and Volunteer Florida – A great example of the 4C's" and "How Florida Navigates Community Long-Term Recovery Groups"
  - **Florida Disaster Collaboration Conference:** presented "Long Term Recovery Groups & Disaster Case Management"
  - **National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters Conference:** presented "United in Recovery: An Innovative Approach to Establishing an LTRG"
  - **Governor's Hurricane Conference:** presented "Volunteers and Donation Management"
  - **Preparing Your Communities for Disasters Summit:** presented "Lessons Learned from Florida Disasters"
  - **Florida Community Emergency Response Teams Annual Conference:** presented "Florida CERT Instructor Process" and "Use of Campus CERT in Florida"
- Hosted the **7th Annual Volunteer Florida Emergency Management Convening**, a no-cost event that brought together partners from across the state for emergency management training sessions and leadership development. 70 different organizations, 21 counties, 5 state agencies, university, private sector, federal agencies and volunteer organizations from across the state and nation were represented.
- Participated in Statewide Exercises including the "Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant Exercise" and the "Statewide Full-Scale Functional Exercise"



## 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 2024, including:

**Hurricanes Helene and Milton:** Helene, a powerful Category 4 storm, caused widespread devastation across multiple counties while Milton, which struck just 13 days later, compounded response and recovery challenges across the state. Over 200 unique voluntary agencies have deployed resources and volunteers across 52 declared counties in Florida to support disaster survivors. Recovery is ongoing and key services include:

- **Food, Hydration, Shelter:** 10 feeding partners are providing meals while our non-profit partners distribute pallets of water, tarps, flood buckets and meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) to survivors.
- **Transportation and Security in the form of debris management & repairs:** Volunteers are engaged in muck and gut operations, roof tarping, route clearance, tree cutting, and long-term rebuilding.
- **Mental health & emotional care:** Teams are providing spiritual support, wellness checks, and mental health services.
- **Legal assistance & case management:** Teams are helping survivors with housing, insurance recovery, and long-term recovery planning.
- **Fuel and Energy:** Florida Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with Volunteer Florida, is providing fuel to State and National VOAD partners through state managed fuel depots.
- **Communication:** The Volunteer Florida team hosts daily coordination calls with nearly 200 participants, including local, state, and national VOAD partners and county Emergency Management Volunteer and Donations leads to foster vital resource-sharing and logistical coordination.



**Multi-Agency Donation Warehouses:** In partnership with Adventists Community Services, donation warehouses were set-up in key locations to allow for a centralized facilities to collect, sort, and distribute donated goods.

**Volunteer Villages:** In recent years, the State of Florida has recognized the tremendous role that Volunteer Organizations play in disaster response efforts. Volunteer Florida and FDEM identified strategic locations throughout the state near impact areas to provide safe, clean and secure lodging to groups deploying to the impacted areas. This freed up nonprofit dollars to serve survivors and ensured hotel space for survivors.

**AmeriCorps and Florida Conservation Corps Deployment:** Teams were deployed across disaster affected areas of Florida to assist with debris removal, mucking and gutting and other essential services.

**State Home Repair Connection (SHRC) Program:** This program connects homeowners in need of limited repairs with volunteer partners who can perform the work. It prioritizes applicants deemed ineligible for FEMA assistance and has assisted 1,277 home-owners with repairs since Hurricane Ian.

**Other Response Efforts** include Haiti Humanitarian Relief, Big Bend Tornado recovery and continued support for Hurricanes Ian, Idalia, and Debby.

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERT)

The CERT Program trains Floridians in basic disaster response skills so they can provide critical support in their local communities by giving immediate assistance to victims before emergency first responders arrive on scene. Their local knowledge and extensive training enable them to swiftly integrate into state operations, complementing professional responders and strengthening community resilience year-round.

In 2024, Florida's  
**53 CERT Teams**

served more than  
**82,000 hours**

a value of more than  
**\$2.6 million**

This is an increase of **10,000 service hours** and **over \$600,000** from 2023.



CERT teams were active in responding to Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton and assisted with evacuations, first aid, shelter support, search and rescue efforts, donation management, and supply distribution. Highlights of their activity include:

Charlotte County CERT: Established a Call Center to assist Crisis Cleanup and provided Point of Distribution (POD) assistance as essential supplies were distributed to members of the local community.

Citrus County CERT: Assisted the evacuation of residents from a Crystal River assisted living facility as well helping first responders with high-water rescues of residents who were trapped at their homes. Also, assisted with traffic control and meal distribution at a Crystal River community center.

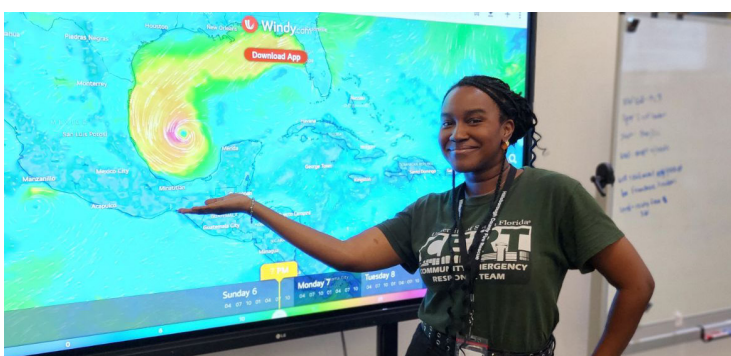
Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Walton County CERTs: Assisted with donation intake and distribution, donation warehouse operations, and needs assessments in Taylor County.

Ft. Lauderdale CERT: Assisted Madison County with the staffing and management of six comfort stations. Also, distributed roofing tarps and helped distribute hot meals on a daily basis.

Jefferson County CERT: Assisted local sheltering efforts and provided Point of Distribution assistance as essential supplies were distributed to members of the local community.

University of South Florida CERT: Assisted the Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management and worked with the Salvation Army to distribute food to communities experiencing flooding and power outages.

Walton County Emergency Management CERT: Operated a community information center, established a host shelter, deployed message boards, and provided sandbag support to local residents.





## FLORIDA DISASTER FUND DONORS: HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON

The Volunteer Florida Foundation has collections and commitments of nearly \$22.5 million in donations for Hurricanes Helene and Milton relief through the Florida Disaster Fund. A special thank you to all the businesses, organizations and individuals who donated. You have been instrumental in getting Floridians back on their feet. The list below includes all donors who gave over \$10,000.

ADS Foundation	\$15,000	Florida Manufactured Housing Association	\$10,000	R&S Charitable Fund	\$25,000
Ajax Paving	\$50,000	FP&L	\$350,000	RaceTrac	\$100,000
Alfred Lee	\$25,000	Google	\$500,000	Rawson Family Charitable Fund	\$13,000
Amazon	\$100,000	Gothams	\$10,000	Rick and Glenys Hull Charitable Fund	\$12,500
American Bankers Association	\$50,000	HCA Healthcare	\$250,000	Ripple	\$125,000
American Online Giving Foundation	\$92,914	Helen and Chuck Schwab	\$2,000,000	Robinhood Markets	\$100,000
American Express	\$50,000	Hiscox Foundation	\$50,000	RoomsToGo	\$25,000
Amgen	\$200,000	Hoehn Family Charitable Trust	\$20,000	Roy D. Johnson Charitable Fund	\$30,000
AMH Cares Foundation	\$20,000	Humana Foundation	\$250,000	Simply Healthcare	\$250,000
ASC Processing Systems	\$25,000	IEM	\$50,000	Skyway Underwriters LLC	\$100,000
Assurant Foundation	\$20,000	IGT Global Solutions	\$100,000	Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation	\$24,893
AT&T	\$150,000	Intrafi	\$25,000	Sprouts	\$1,108,982
Bain Capital	\$50,000	James Sixsmith	\$50,000	Stephen and Elaine Cormier	\$20,000
Barge Design Solutions Community Fund	\$25,000	JM Families	\$150,000	Sunshine Health	\$25,000
Bayview Asset Management	\$25,000	JM Families Employees	\$1,500	Taipei Economic and Cultural Office	\$300,000
Blackrock	\$500,000	Joseph F Umosella Family Foundation	\$20,000	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	\$125,000
Boeing	\$500,000	Josh Pankow	\$20,000	TECO	\$100,000
Boyer Capital	\$25,000	Kate Colby	\$25,000	Tenet Health	\$75,000
Bruce and Deborah Duncan Foundation	\$15,000	Kathleen Kiefer	\$100,000	The de Moya Group	\$50,000
Builder's Insurance	\$20,000	Legere Family Foundation	\$25,000	The GEO Group Foundation	\$40,000
C.H. Robinson Worldwide Foundation	\$35,000	Lemoine Disaster Recovery	\$10,000	The Martin Foundation	\$15,000
Cencora	\$50,000	Lennar Corporation	\$5,000,000	TikTok	\$100,000
Charter Communication	\$150,000	Lu Anne Schwartz	\$20,000	Tom Brady	\$100,000
Chevron	\$100,000	Macro Companies	\$10,000	UnitedHealth Group	\$500,000
Codeware	\$50,000	Mahaffey Apartment Company	\$100,000	Valley National Bank	\$12,500
Comcast	\$150,000	Major Food Group	\$10,000	Various Donations	\$2,945,862
Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond	\$350,000	Margaret Ruffalo	\$26,938	Verizon	\$450,000
CVS	\$125,000	Mattamy Homes	\$265,500	Vibraslab	\$50,000
Delta Dental Community Care	\$100,000	Metro LLC	\$25,000	Walmart Foundation	\$1,000,000
DentaQuest	\$50,000	Michel's	\$19,500	Warren and Augusta Hume Foundation	\$20,000
Derrick Bhole	\$55,000	Milner Hotels Foundation	\$25,000	Waste Management	\$250,000
DSF Charitable	\$100,000	Molina Healthcare Foundation	\$50,000	WAWA	\$500,000
Duke Energy	\$100,000	Mosaic	\$100,000	Weis Builders	\$25,000
Energy Transfer LP	\$25,000	Paula Ladwig Revocable Trust	\$25,000	Wells Fargo/YourCause/Blackbaud Giving	\$500,000
ExxonMobil	\$150,000	Pilot Travel Centers, LLC.	\$20,000	Zurich	\$10,000
Florida Blue Foundation	\$100,000	Prize Picks	\$25,000		
Florida Community & State Medicaid	\$15,000	Publix	\$350,000		



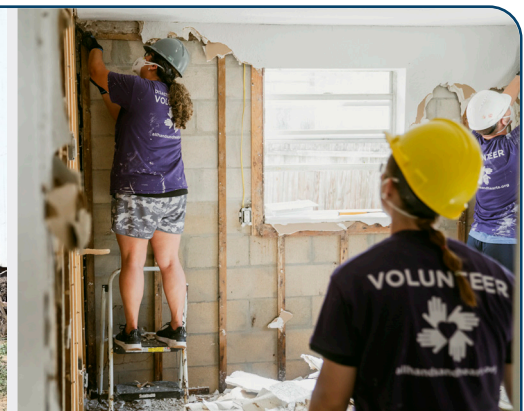
## FLORIDA DISASTER FUND IMPACT: HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON

In 2024, Volunteer Florida managed 143 Florida Disaster Fund (FDF) grants for Hurricanes Ian, Idalia, Debby, Helene and Milton. These grants supported educational foundations, feeding programs, family services, elder care, rebuilding efforts, and first responders. Organizations funded provided critical assistance, such as distributing millions of meals, repairing homes, and offering financial aid for housing and utilities. Helene and Milton grantees include:

**Hillsborough Education Foundation (HEF):** "Hurricane Helene and Milton relief efforts funded by the Florida Disaster Fund have reached thousands of students and teachers with direct services to date. We have distributed over 500 backpack kits to students in need to ensure they have the essential supplies they need to be fully engaged in learning. This has allowed hundreds of students the opportunity to return to school with a sense of normalcy. We have provided over 140 teachers and support staff with financial assistance so far and are still processing hundreds of applications for aid. These funds have helped teachers and support staff continue to work in our community. Similarly, hundreds of students are able to continue learning due to the essential supplies that HEF has been able to provide to dozens of schools impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton."



**The Florida Professional Firefighters:** "In response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton, efforts were focused on supporting our firefighters and EMS workers who experienced damage to their homes and property. Assistance included providing repair support and offering guidance to help them address the damages effectively. These efforts prioritized addressing the immediate needs of these essential personnel, enabling them to recover and regain stability following the hurricanes' impact, thereby helping them continue serving their communities during this challenging time."



*"We came to Pasco County for a better life. We bought this house three months ago and then it was completely flooded during Hurricane Milton. What I thought was going to be forever got shattered overnight. It's an amazing thing to have All Hands and Hearts here to help us. I'm forever grateful for this, and I can't wait to pay it forward."*

*-- Brad, Hurricane Milton survivor*

## FLORIDA DISASTER FUND IMPACT: HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON

**Better Together:** "We canvassed Pinellas County neighborhoods that had undergone severe devastation from **Hurricanes Helene and Milton**. In a Clearwater shelter, we met Carresse and her three children. They had fled a garage they were living in as Hurricane Milton neared. With a COVID-19 outbreak at the shelter where they were staying, the feeling of uncertainty as to where she would take her children next became too much for her to endure alone.

Our team wrapped their arms around Carresse and let her know that we would be there to help her get back on her feet. We provided her with the resources needed to seek employment and are providing short term care for her children so she can work. We are also assisting her in finding safe housing for her family. We assured her that we would be there to help her on the long road to recovery and long-term stability."



*"Team Rubicon, you showed up when we were about to give up and you gave us hope. Then you worked for two full days and completely demolished all of the wet moldy walls, doors, and floors to help save our home. We will be forever grateful and have told everyone about you. God Bless!!! Thank you!!!"*

*-- Pasco County Resident, Hurricane Helene and Milton survivor*



**Family Initiative** provides support and services to families with children on the autism spectrum. After **Hurricanes Helene and Milton**, Family Initiative distributed approximately 500 sensory kits to families affected by the storms. These kits include items to assist children with coping during times of stress. Family Initiative was also able to provide needed supplies to families who were unable to travel to distribution sites.

**Hurricane Helene** was the first time the newly acquired Mobile Response Sensory Trailer was used and the response was overwhelming. The state-of-the-art trailer is equipped with air conditioning, wireless internet and an array of calming and soothing items inside which allowed children and young adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder a safe place to relax. The trailer also provided respite for parents who knew their children were safe and supervised if they needed to connect with any other agencies present to access assistance and support.



# FLORIDA DISASTER FUND IMPACT: HURRICANES IAN AND IDALIA

## HURRICANE IAN



- \$25 MILLION** = HURRICANE IAN BUILDING PROGRAM.
- \$10.2 MILLION** = UNMET NEEDS TO AID WITH RECOVERY.
- \$7 MILLION** = BUSINESS RECOVERY AND REOPENING.
- \$5 MILLION** = SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES.
- \$5 MILLION** = LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUPS AND LOGISTICS.
- \$4.5 MILLION** = BOOTS ON THE GROUND RECOVERY SERVICES.
- \$3 MILLION** = MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.
- \$2 MILLION** = LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRST RESPONDERS.
- \$1.5 MILLION** = FLOOD RECOVERY IN SOUTHEAST FLORIDA.

## COMBINED RELIEF EFFORTS: HURRICANES IAN AND IDALIA

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED  
**7,399,001**

NUMBER OF MEALS SERVED  
**95,467,974**

NUMBER OF ITEMS DISTRIBUTED  
**18,248,277**

NUMBER OF HOMES MUCKED  
**2,001**



# FLORIDA DISASTER FUND IMPACT: HURRICANES IAN AND IDALIA

## HURRICANE IDALIA



- \$1 MILLION** = HOME REPAIRS FOR IMPACTED RESIDENTS.
- \$700 THOUSAND** = EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS TO SUPPORT IMPACTED TEACHERS.
- \$700 THOUSAND** = CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN DISASTER RESPONSE.
- \$700 THOUSAND** = SHELLFISH AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRIES.
- \$550 THOUSAND** = LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUPS.
- \$200 THOUSAND** = LOCAL COMMUNITY CHURCHES.
- \$100 THOUSAND** = TAYLOR COUNTY WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

## COMBINED RELIEF EFFORTS: HURRICANES IAN AND IDALIA

NUMBER OF ROOFS REPAIRED

**2,465**

NUMBER OF HOMES REPAIRED

**7,717**

VOLUNTEERS UTILIZED

**43,151**

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

**1,707,334**



# DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: HURRICANE IAN

Disaster Case Management (DCM) is designed to provide assistance and support to individuals and households affected by disasters. The program is funded by FEMA and distributed by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) through Volunteer Florida. It aims to help disaster survivors navigate the recovery process and connect them with resources and services that can aid in their recovery and rebuilding efforts. DCM involves a partnership between a case manager and a disaster survivor to develop and carry out a Disaster Recovery Plan. The partnership provides the client with a single point of contact to facilitate access to a broad range of resources. The process involves an assessment of the client's verified disaster-caused unmet needs, development of a goal-oriented plan that outlines the steps necessary to achieve recovery, organization and coordination of information on available resources that match the disaster-caused unmet needs, the monitoring of progress towards reaching the recovery plan goals and, when necessary, client advocacy.

Thus far, the **Hurricane Ian Disaster Case Management Program** run by **Compass82**, **Society of St. Vincent De Paul Disaster Services** and **Endeavors** has hired 115 disaster case managers, contacted over 103,000 clients and made 10,000 referrals. Some select success stories are below:

- Ms. S, a single mother of six, faced a heartbreaking situation after Hurricane Ian struck. The hurricane damaged her rental home and furniture causing her family to be displaced. Ms. S had limited income through social security and one of her children was oxygen dependent. She and her family were in critical need of safe and secure housing. Although she received some FEMA assistance, the funds were not enough for her to fully recover from Hurricane Ian.

**Endeavors'** Disaster Case Manager came to her aid and referred her to **Convoy of Hope** for furniture assistance. Thanks to their support, Ms. S was approved for seven new beds, valued at \$4,229. Additionally, she received \$4,500 in **Red Cross** ERA funds to help with immediate needs. Her situation improved further with the assistance of the **Saint Bernard Project**. They helped her appeal to FEMA, resulting in an additional \$3,383 in support. Throughout this challenging time, she remained hopeful and expressed immense gratitude for the assistance she received. The collective efforts of Convoy of Hope, Red Cross, and the Saint Bernard Project played a crucial role in helping her rebuild her life and provide for her children.



- After Hurricane Ian's devastating floodwaters, an 83-year-old widow and lifelong Orlando resident awoke to an unimaginable crisis, six inches of water in her home of 64 years.

Navigating FEMA's processes and appeals, the DCM helped her secure \$11,328 in financial assistance for repairs, moving and storage. Her insurance payout was too small to fix her roof, so the DCM worked with **RESTORE LTRG** to fund a \$15,840 roof replacement. Additional needs like flooring, baseboards and bathroom fixtures were addressed through a **Lowe's** grant, and furniture replacements were secured in early 2024. The client also received \$3,500 from the **Red Cross** for final expenses. Thanks to collaborative advocacy, her home - including the roof, kitchen, bathrooms, and floors - was fully restored. The client is profoundly grateful to be back in her home, resting in her own bed and starting anew.

## DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: HURRICANE IDALIA

Started in May 2024, the **Hurricane Idalia Disaster Case Management Program** run by **Endeavors** has hired 40 disaster case managers, contacted over 13,000 clients and made 500 referrals. Some select success stories are below:

- Ms. K. is a senior citizen from Taylor County. Her home, along with all her furniture and belongings, was completely destroyed by Hurricane Idalia. Ms. K. applied for FEMA assistance, but the funding was not enough to purchase a new home. Instead, Ms. K. used the money to purchase a simple shed, which she placed on her property and used as housing, despite its lack of plumbing or electricity.

Thankfully, the Disaster Case Management Program met Ms. K. at this point and quickly began to address her living conditions. Her Disaster Case Manager (DCM) secured funding from the **Taylor County Strong Long Term Recovery Group** for a temporary stay at a local hotel so that she was safe while they worked on a permanent housing solution. Over the next few weeks the DCM introduced Ms. K to a rental program through the USDA, helped her to complete and submit the application and obtained funding for all associated fees. Once Ms. K. was approved for her new rental unit, her DCM arranged for a full complement of furniture to be provided through the long term recovery group. With the support of Volunteer Florida's Disaster Case Management Program, and the assistance of several disaster recovery organizations, Ms. K. has fully recovered from Hurricane Idalia and is joyful to be in her new home.



- Mr. B.'s Pasco County home was severely damaged by the winds and flooding of Hurricane Idalia. When he first met his Volunteer Florida Disaster Case Manager (DCM), Mr. B. was making small repairs on his own with the money he received from FEMA but was quickly becoming frustrated with his lack of progress and shortage of resources. The DCM immediately applied for several programs through which Mr. B. would be eligible for assistance with his repairs.

The non-profit construction team from **SPB** took on the home repair project. **Team Rubicon** was called on for debris removal and volunteer labor. By coordinating the efforts of these generous volunteer organizations, the Volunteer Florida Disaster Case Management Program has started Mr. B. on his path home.

## DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: HURRICANES HELENE AND MILTON

In December, Volunteer Florida through the Florida Division of Emergency Management submitted an application for a combined Disaster Case Management Program grant to support individuals who were impacted by both Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The award, which requires congressional approval, would be over \$53 million. This combined approach would be a first for the State of Florida. The program aims to hire at least 250 caseworkers to assist survivors of both hurricanes. With Hurricanes Helene and Milton impacting largely the same region of the state just 13 days apart, this approach recognizes the challenges survivors face when distinguishing damages and needs between two closely timed events. By streamlining services under one grant, survivors can focus on recovery without unnecessary complications.

# PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM

In 2024, the Volunteer Services department continued to support Volunteer Florida’s vision to strengthen volunteer engagement and programming, and emphasize its critical importance throughout the state. 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 and workshops were provided to a variety of audiences to promote volunteer engagement and Volunteer Connect. Training and support highlights include the following:

- Governor’s Hurricane Conference
- Florida Emergency Management Convening
- Florida Department of Children and Families
- United Way of Indian River County



# 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.



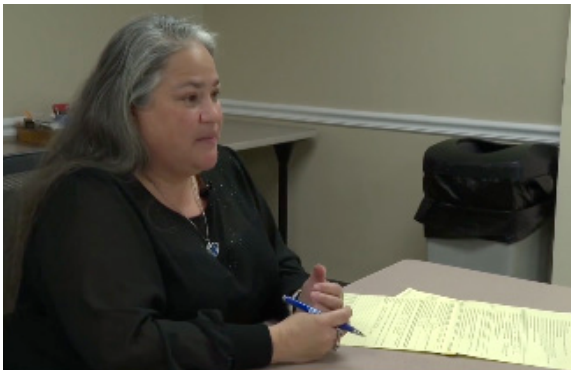
Commissioner Jessica Hays volunteering with Rebuilding Tampa Bay to distribute hurricane supplies



Volunteer Florida staff sorts food at the Second Harvest Food Bank



Board Treasurer Stephanie Smith sorts food and donations at Feeding Tampa Bay



Volunteer Florida Deputy Finance Director Tracie Lambright is an IRS-certified volunteer with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)



Volunteer Florida Commissioner Stefanie Ink Edwards serves with Community Cooperative to distribute turkeys and food to those in need



Volunteer Florida CEO Josie Tamayo beautifies the community in Brooksville



# SUITS FOR SESSION

Volunteer Florida's ninth annual Suits for Session service project resulted in the collection of 3,023 items equaling 2,705 pounds of professional attire. This signature service project included 25 state agency donation drives and simultaneous day-long events on February 20th and 21st, 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:

- SailFuture
- Career Source Tampa Bay
- FSU ProfessioNOLE Clothing Closet

Since 2016, Suits for Session has donated **more than 34,000 items of clothing** to job-seekers in need across Florida.



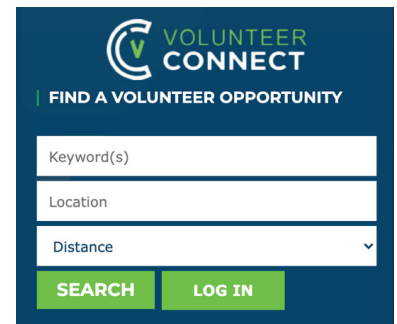
*"The SailFuture Academy exists to bridge the gap between high school and the real world. Professional attire is necessary for our 11th and 12th grade students' work study placements, and we couldn't be more grateful to Volunteer Florida for donating items to stock our clothing closet. Thank you to everyone who participated."*

*-- Michael Long, CEO, SailFuture*

# VOLUNTEER CONNECT

The state's official volunteer opportunities platform, Volunteer Connect, served as a streamlined hub for service across Florida. Volunteer Connect strengthens communities by making it easier for organizations to find volunteers and for volunteers to find opportunities in their area related to their interests.

- Over 1,000 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



## Volunteer Connect: An Asset in Times of Disaster

During Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton, individuals across the nation immediately responded with the desire to provide disaster relief to the affected areas. Key government and nonprofit partners posted volunteer opportunities and routed potential volunteers to Volunteer Connect as an effective way to meet disaster-related needs through service.

Throughout the 2024 hurricane season, more than 1,000 Floridians connected to organizations serving the areas in Florida impacted by Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton. Dozens of organizations posted service opportunities, including:

- American Red Cross chapters
- Hillsborough County Volunteers
- Hope Villages of America
- Mercy Chefs
- Operation BBQ Relief
- United Way Broward
- World Central Kitchen



# SERVICE ENTERPRISE

Service Enterprise is a national, research-based program model providing training and coaching opportunities so organizations may strategically leverage volunteers to better achieve their mission. Volunteer Florida partnered with the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement to become a Training and Implementation Partner and offers the Service Enterprise Accreditation Program to interested Florida organizations. Over the past year, the following six organizations completed assessments and training and began individualized coaching while working towards their 3-year Service Enterprise accreditation.



## 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 Rural Community Assets Fund awardees include:

- Arcadia-DeSoto County Habitat for Humanity - DeSoto County
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - Statewide
- Kids Inc Of the Big Bend - Jefferson and Madison Counties
- Take Stock in Children Palm Beach County - Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay
- United Way of Northeast Florida - Baker, Clay, Duval and Nassau Counties
- United Way of Northwest Florida - Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington Counties
- United Way of West Florida - Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties



## AMERICORPS IS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Volunteer Florida's AmeriCorps members receive workforce development certifications, credentials and pre-apprenticeship training. AmeriCorps members are prepared to enter the employment marketplace, supporting Florida's strong workforce. Examples include:

**Greater Miami Service Corps:** Volunteer Florida's first AmeriCorps apprenticeship program supporting members to achieve pre-apprenticeship training in Construction Craft and Carpenter aligned with the Building Performance Institute.

**Teach for America:** members obtain and maintain a temporary educator certificate through the Florida Board of Education, which allows them to serve for two years in Florida public schools before pursuing a professional educator certificate or a master's program.

**Collier Health Services:** members receive the Community Health Worker credential and complete the Center for Disease Control Foundational Training for Public Health, preparing the next generation of public health workforce.

**Community Training Works:** members receive a number of certifications associated with their projects to restore public lands including from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Natural Areas Training Academy, FEMA, OSHA, Advance Maintenance of Traffic (AMOT) and Florida Department of Transportation.



# 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 2024, Volunteer Florida's **1,789 AmeriCorps members** provided **1,265,466 hours of service** to Florida, a value of over **\$40 million.**



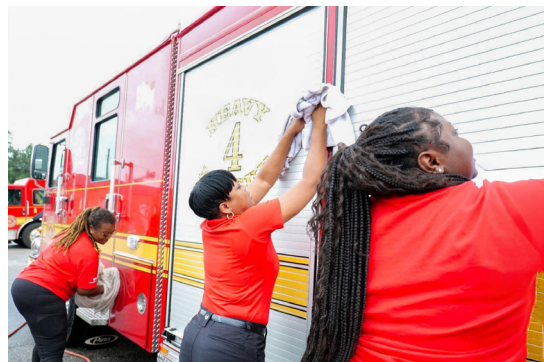
- AmeriCorps members served **42,061 Florida students** in **275 Florida schools.**
- Members were eligible to receive **\$7.9 million in college scholarships** upon completion of their year of service.
- In addition, AmeriCorps members leveraged an additional **2,656 volunteers** who served alongside national service programs for an additional **37,047 hours** valued at **\$1,171,055.**

## SEPTEMBER 11TH DAY OF SERVICE

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!



Overtown Youth Center AmeriCorps members erected a memorial to honor and remember those who fell on September 11th, 2001.



Duval Reads AmeriCorps members and staff held a firetruck cleaning day at Jacksonville Fire Station 4.



AmeriCorps Branches members assembled and delivered more than 150 care packages to first responders in Miami-Dade County.



Boys and Girls Club of Martin County AmeriCorps members and staff partnered with the Treasure Coast Food Bank to serve in their food production facility.



BBBS Reads AmeriCorps members packed activity bags for children filled with coloring books, crayons, toys and a handwritten note telling each child how special they are.



Metropolitan Ministries AmeriCorps members packed meal kits to benefit US Hunger.

## AMERICORPS FLORIDA DISASTER RESPONSE

Hurricane Debbie, Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton severely impacted Florida's communities. Volunteer Florida's AmeriCorps members, residing in communities impacted, stepped up to serve. Over 450 AmeriCorps members served at 50 unique service sites including shelters, food banks, supply distribution sites, veteran centers, county emergency management offices, clean-up operations and community parks. AmeriCorps members contributed over 1,663 hours of service in disaster response.



Boys and Girls Club AmeriCorps members distributed water and ice to families impacted by Hurricane Milton and helped to clear branches and debris after the storms passed.



City Year Jacksonville AmeriCorps members were deployed to local schools to set up and staff shelters for evacuees ahead of Hurricane Milton's landfall.



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's AmeriCorps Team assisted with roof tarping, hazardous debris and tree removal, performing damage assessments, and making crisis cleanup calls following Hurricane Helene.

# 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 'For Commitment to Leadership, Service and Impact.'

## OPERATION AMERICORPS CITY OF ORLANDO

Operation AmeriCorps members work directly with high school juniors and seniors residing in Orlando's lowest income neighborhoods. The types of service the members provide include tutoring, SAT/college prep, workforce development, post-secondary planning, mentorship as well as community service projects.

During the 2023-2024 program year, Operation AmeriCorps:

- Provided academic support including in the classrooms, career centers and course recovery labs for 1,178 high school juniors and seniors.
- Helped 884 high school seniors graduate high school with a career, college, military or service plan.
- Provided work readiness interventions, coaching and career resource navigation through the Opportunity Jobs Academy for 287 students with the majority of students achieving graduation of the curriculum.



# AMERICORPS FLORIDA



## AmeriCorps Member of the Year: Bryant Cromwell AmeriCorps Brigade Mobile Outreach Team, Metropolitan Ministries

The AmeriCorps Member of the Year Award recognizes a member that embodies the values of Service and Excellence through dedicated commitment. In the past year, Bryant Cromwell's service has directly impacted nearly 300 individuals, providing access to essential benefits and housing services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

*"Bryant's commitment to consistent service with dignity is something that sets him apart. His dedication to meet the unmet needs of the community is commendable and unwavering. His passion to serve and uplift those in need is what makes him such a dependable ally for individuals experiencing homelessness in our community."*

*-- JohnPaul Comas, Senior Director, Metropolitan Ministries*



# 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.

In 2024, 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 Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month Art and Essay Contests and the Excellence in Education Awards. In addition, Native American Heritage Month contests were celebrated and recognized in collaboration with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. 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 **165 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 \$1.5 million in scholarship funds** have been generously provided by **The Florida Prepaid College Foundation** for the last 25 years.



## LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES RECEPTION

In September, the Volunteer Florida Foundation helped Governor Ron DeSantis host the Lake Mary Florida Little League World Champion baseball team for a night of fun and congratulations at the Governor's Residence. There was a recognition ceremony as well as baseball themed games and prizes for the whole Lake Mary team.



*"Through their discipline, determination, and hard work, they have achieved something that no Florida team has ever achieved and have made Florida proud!"*  
-- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis

## VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION BOARD

Special thanks to everyone who served on the Volunteer Florida Foundation Board during 2024.

**STEVE ARTUSI** | HIGHLAND BEACH  
LEADERSHIP JULY - DECEMBER 2024  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel, JM Family Enterprises

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

**STEPHANIE SMITH** | TAMPA  
LEADERSHIP JULY - DECEMBER 2024  
VP of State and Regional Affairs, TECO Energy

**CATHERINE AGUIRRE** | PEMBROKE PINES  
Executive Director, Aetna Public Segment

**LINDSEY ZANDER** | TALLAHASSEE  
LEADERSHIP JULY - DECEMBER 2024  
Executive Director, Florida Department of Education Foundation

**MONESIA BROWN** | TALLAHASSEE  
VP of Government Relations, North Highland

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

**BRITNEY HUNT** | TALLAHASSEE  
SERVED JANUARY - JUNE 2024  
Vice President of External Affairs, UnitedHealth Group

**CINDY O'CONNELL** | TALLAHASSEE  
LEADERSHIP JANUARY - JUNE 2024  
Director, Florida Prepaid College Foundation

**TAMELA PERDUE** | TALLAHASSEE  
LEADERSHIP JANUARY - JUNE 2024  
Senior Vice President of Legislative and Government Affairs, Sunshine Health

**KERRY ANNE SCHULTZ** | NAVARRE  
SERVED JANUARY - JUNE 2024  
Attorney, Schultz Law Group

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

# VOLUNTEER FLORIDA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Volunteer Florida was established in 1994 and for the past 30 years we have been fostering volunteerism, increasing national service and promoting disaster resiliency across the state of Florida. To commemorate three decades of serving Florida's communities, our CEO Josie Tamayo embarked on a statewide tour which included service projects and volunteering, as well as recognizing our amazing volunteers by presenting Volunteer Florida's Excellence in Volunteerism Award to unsung heroes across the state.



In January, CEO Tamayo participated in a clean-up service project at a Florida State Park in Niceville.



In the Spring, Excellence in Volunteerism Awards were presented to Tim Keith-Lucas for his service with Franklin County Emergency Management and to Chan Perry for his amazing contributions to Mayo Beach's Idalia recovery.



In addition, VF CEO Josie Tamayo and former CEO Corey Simon served food and distributed supplies to Woodville residents who were impacted by the tornadoes in May.

# VOLUNTEER FLORIDA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS



In July, CEO Tamayo partnered with Samaritan's Purse for a hands-on service project, clearing debris and assisting a homeowner whose house had suffered significant damage in the Tallahassee tornado.



Over the summer, Volunteer Florida's Excellence in Volunteerism Award was awarded to long-time volunteer Deb Rasmussen, who has made a lasting impact on the Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach.



In the Fall, CEO Tamayo also served with the Salvation Army of Florida, Mercy Chefs, Southern Baptist Disaster Services, Rebuilding Together and Second Harvest after Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

We are so grateful for the thousands of Floridians who volunteer to make our state great. Volunteer Florida looks forward to serving Florida for another 30 years and beyond.



volunteerflorida

Serving Florida's Communities for 30 Years!