

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**Volunteers and Donations
Help Hurricane Victims**
1-800-FL-HELP-1
www.volunteerflorida.org

9.3 Million Meals Served by Volunteers
of which **8 Million** Meals were

26 Million Bottles of Water

1 Million Bags of Ice

6,184 Roofs Tarpred/D

Cost savings through donated Food/Water

85,572 Volunteers worked 1.5

Cost savings through Volunteers: **\$26**

Total savings: **\$67.3 Mil**

Value of Volunteers: **PRIC**



volunteerflorida



JOHN DAVIS

Volunteer Florida Commission Chair



JOSEFINA TAMAYO

Chief Executive Officer

Friends and Partners,

We are pleased to present Volunteer Florida's 2023 Annual Report, which illustrates the extraordinary commitment and hard work that is routine among our Commissioners and dedicated staff. Volunteer Florida has continued to serve the people of Florida through the coordination of volunteers and donations following disasters, coordinating volunteer support for the Governor's priority initiatives and promoting volunteerism. We strive every day to strengthen communities and make Florida a better place to live through service.

This upcoming year marks 30 years of Volunteer Florida serving the Sunshine State! Our partnerships with the private sector and community organizations are the driving force behind the many accomplishments and positive impacts we have achieved, enabling us to support disaster resiliency, increase national service, and foster volunteerism to advocate for our mission. As we commemorate this milestone, we will embark on a statewide tour, including service projects, volunteering, and continuing to support Florida communities as they recover from disasters.

Our agency would not be able to #ServeFL without the strong support of Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis, our partners in the Florida Legislature, as well as Volunteer Florida's Commissioners, Foundation Directors, staff, sponsors, and partners who continue to fortify our efforts to serve Florida's communities. We are proud of three decades of service and look forward to continued success in 2024!

Yours in Service,

John Davis
Commission Chair

Josefina Tamayo
Chief Executive Officer



In 2023, Volunteer Florida secured over \$75 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 \$58 in non-state funding.



VOLUNTEER FLORIDA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Volunteer Florida was established in 1994 Florida Statutes to manage national service programs, such as AmeriCorps, and to advocate for volunteerism throughout Florida.



After Hurricane Andrew, Volunteer Florida became the state's lead agency for mobilizing volunteers and coordinating donations before, during and after disasters.



Through the years, Volunteer Florida has hosted a number of large service projects including wheelchair ramp building (6 Days 6 Ramps), tree planting, and environmental cleanup.



VOLUNTEER FLORIDA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Over the years, Volunteer Florida's logo has changed, but our mission has not.



VOLUNTEER FLORIDA IS TURNING 30!



The start of 2024 marks 30 years of Volunteer Florida serving the Sunshine State, and our partnerships are the driving force behind the many accomplishments and positive impacts we have achieved, enabling us to promote disaster resiliency, increase national service, and foster volunteerism to advocate for our mission. To commemorate this milestone, CEO Tamayo will embark on a statewide tour, including service projects and volunteering, as well as presenting Volunteer Florida's Excellence in Volunteerism Award every month beginning in January.



Since our inception, **Volunteer Florida** has given every Floridian an opportunity to help solve Florida's biggest challenges in education, the environment, human needs and public safety. We look forward to serving the State of Florida for another 30 years and beyond!

VOLUNTEER FLORIDA COMMISSION

Special thanks to everyone who served on the Volunteer Florida Commission during 2023.

JOHN DAVIS | TALLAHASSEE
Secretary, The Florida Lottery

SHERRY WHELOCK | CLERMONT
President & CEO, Special Olympics Florida

CHRISTINA BONARRIGO VILLAMIL | CORAL GABLES
President, The Villamil Group

KERRY ANNE SCHULTZ | NAVARRE
Attorney, Schultz Law Group

JAYNE CERIO | TALLAHASSEE
AT-LARGE (JULY-PRESENT)
Community Advocate

THOMAS ALLEN | TALLAHASSEE
Executive Vice President of Real Estate Management, Capital City Bank

TAJIANA ANCORA-BROWN | ORLANDO
SERVED JANUARY - MAY 2023
External Affairs Director, Walt Disney World

CHRISTINA BRODEUR | TALLAHASSEE
Partner, Ballard Partners

LYNETTE CARDOCH | MIAMI
IMMEDIATE PAST AT-LARGE MEMBER (JANUARY-JUNE 2023)
Director, Resilience and Adaptation, Moffatt & Nichol

DAVID COFFMAN | ATLANTA, GA
AMERICORPS REPRESENTATIVE | *EX-OFFICIO
AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager, Southeast Regional Office

HENRI CROCKETT | PEMBROKE PINES
Chief Executive Officer, The Crockett Foundation

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

GINA EVANS DEW | TAMPA
NEWLY APPOINTED JUNE 2023
Director of Government and Community Relations,
Hillsborough County Aviation Authority

ADAM FAUROT | TALLAHASSEE
Chief Executive Officer, Titus Sports Academy

DAKEYAN GRAHAM | GAINESVILLE
Director of Educational and Equity Outreach,
Alachua County Public Schools

JESSICA HAYS | SARASOTA
NEWLY APPOINTED JUNE 2023
President and CEO, Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center

STEFANIE INK EDWARDS | FORT MYERS
NEWLY APPOINTED JUNE 2023
CEO, Community Cooperative

AUTUMN KARLINSKY | WESTON
Registered Dental Hygienist

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

AMANDA MORROW | PONTE VEDRA BEACH
Realtor, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

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

MARIA SULLIVAN | PONTE VEDRA
Former Program Assistant, The Sontag Foundation

KELLI WALKER | TALLAHASSEE
District Volunteer Coordinator, Leon County Schools

LINDSEY ZANDER | TALLAHASSEE
Executive Director, Florida Department of Education Foundation



VOLUNTEER FLORIDA FOUNDATION BOARD

Special thanks to everyone who served on the Volunteer Florida Foundation Board during 2023.

TAMELA PERDUE | TALLAHASSEE

Senior Vice President of Legislative and Government Affairs, Sunshine Health

CYNTHIA O'CONNELL | TALLAHASSEE

Director, Florida Prepaid College Foundation

CATHERINE AGUIRRE | PEMBROKE PINES

Executive Director, Aetna Public Segment

STEVE ARTUSI | DEERFIELD BEACH

Senior Vice President and General Counsel, JM Family Enterprises

MONESIA BROWN | TALLAHASSEE

Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations, Walmart

CAMERON COOPER | TALLAHASSEE

Director of State Government Affairs, Duke Energy Florida

DEREK COOPER | WEST PALM BEACH

Vice President of Government Affairs and Community Investment, Comcast

BRITTNEY HUNT | TALLAHASSEE

Vice President of External Affairs, UnitedHealth Group

DEBRA KERR | MIAMI

SERVED JANUARY - JULY 2023

Chief Executive Officer, Debra Kerr, LLC

KERRY ANNE SCHULTZ | NAVARRE

NEWLY APPOINTED OCTOBER 2023

Attorney, Schultz Law Group PLLC

STEPHANIE SMITH | TAMPA

NEWLY APPOINTED JUNE 2023

Vice President of State and Regional Affairs, TECO Energy

DWAINE STEVENS | JACKSONVILLE

Corporate Director of Community Relations, Publix Super Markets Inc.

LINDSEY ZANDER | TALLAHASSEE

NEWLY APPOINTED JUNE 2023

Executive Director, Florida Department of Education Foundation



PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM

In 2023, the Volunteer Services department continued to support Volunteer Florida's vision to strengthen volunteer engagement participation and volunteer programming. During the year, the department provided capacity-building opportunities, facilitated the use of Volunteer Connect, managed a variety of special projects and promoted The Nature of Volunteerism in Florida survey, which was commissioned by Volunteer Florida, and conducted by the University of Florida.

Presentations and workshops were provided to a variety of audiences to promote volunteer engagement, Volunteer Florida's research study and Volunteer Connect. Speaking opportunity highlights included participation in the following:

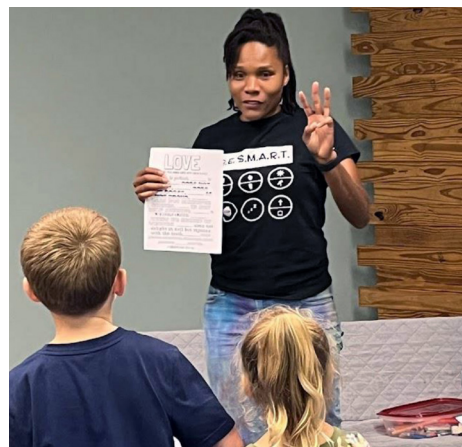
- Second Harvest of the Big Bend
- Florida Department of State Preservation on Main Street
- Governor's Hurricane Conference
- Guardian ad Litem
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT LEADERSHIP CONVENING

Volunteer Florida coordinated and hosted a variety of informative training sessions and workshops to encourage and instruct volunteer engagement leaders as they expand the impact of service across the Sunshine State. During the year, topics included:

- Context and Preparation - Effectively Mobilizing Volunteers in Disaster Relief
- Government Groups and Volunteer Engagement
- Cross-Sector Collaboration: Volunteerism and Private Sector Engagement
- The Nature of Volunteerism in Florida - Regional Similarities and Differences (this workshop was held both virtually and in-person in both Tampa and Miami)
- Volunteer Engagement Strategic Planning Workshops
- Equipping Staff for Success: Training Colleagues to Engage Volunteers



SUITS FOR SESSION

In April, Suits for Session, Volunteer Florida's signature service project, resulted in the collection of more than 4,500 items of professional attire for job-seekers in need. The service project included twenty-five state agency donation drives and simultaneous day-long events on April 4th and 5th - a curbside drop off location outside Tallahassee City Hall and the project's hallmark event inside the Florida Capitol.

Recipient Organizations:

- Bridges of Orlando
- Career Source Tampa Bay
- Florida Department of Education
Division of Blind Services
- FSU ProfessioNOLE Clothing Closet



"We are so grateful to receive the donation from Volunteer Florida and excited to implement a clothing closet in Tampa to assist our job seekers with their interviewing needs and job preparation. The goal is to help them look as confident on the outside as they feel on the inside."

-- Michelle Zieziula, Chief Impact Officer, CareerSource Tampa Bay

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 when called upon during times of disasters.

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

- In 2023, Emergency Management staff conducted 16 trainings across the state.
- Emergency Management staff presented at 5 conferences, leading 14 different workshops.
- Emergency Management staff hosted the 6th Annual Volunteer Florida Emergency Management/ESF-15 Convening in which state, federal, nonprofit and private partners came together in Orlando to showcase their collaboration and partnership.

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 efforts in 2023. In addition to continued recovery support for Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, staff supported two additional disasters, the Broward Floods and Hurricane Idalia. In less than 12 months, the State of Florida received four Federal Disaster Declarations.

- On April 12, 2023 Southeast Florida experienced a 1-in-1,000-year rain event. The Broward Floods dumped over 25 inches of rain in a 24-hour period which sparked flash flooding, closed Ft. Lauderdale International Airport and displaced thousands of residents.
- On August 30, 2023 Hurricane Idalia made landfall in Taylor County as a Category 3 Hurricane. 18 counties throughout the Big Bend and Gulf Coast declared for Federal Individual Assistance. Emergency Management Department staff deployed to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to support response efforts.



- ESF-15 coordinated Hurricane Idalia response with dozens of partners including: Cajun Navy Ground Force, Catholic Charities, Feeding Florida, Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church, Global Empowerment Mission, HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response, Mercy Chef, Operation BBQ, SBP, and ToolBank.
- Volunteer Florida staff deployed as State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) to the State/FEMA Branch Office in Alachua to support recovery efforts.
- Both the Emergency Management Director and Emergency Management Deputy Director were recognized by their peers for the works they do to support nonprofits and survivors following disasters.



FLORIDA DISASTER FUND GRANTS

The Florida Disaster Fund, administered by Volunteer Florida Foundation, was established in 2004 to fulfill unmet needs after disasters. The Volunteer Florida Foundation distributes the Florida Disaster Fund among voluntary organizations that have identified unmet needs and are engaged in disaster response and long-term recovery activities in Florida.

In 2023, Volunteer Florida managed 118 Florida Disaster Fund Grants for three unique disasters: Hurricane Ian, Hurricane Idalia and the Broward Floods. Highlights of grantee outcomes are below:

Hurricane Ian

- Bridge a Life assisted families with foster and adoptive children by repairing roofs and fences, and helping families return home after over a year of being displaced.
- Collier Disaster Alliance facilitated the repair/rebuild of 21 homes and funded impact windows for low-income community members.
- Hardee County Education Foundation supported 4,719 students financially and allocated resources to vulnerable student populations including 405 migrant students and 400 homeless students.
- Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties provided financial assistance, beds, furniture, and gift cards to hurricane victims.
- NU-HOPE Elder Care Services opened a meal and activity center and distributed 2,000 meals monthly across Highlands and Hardee Counties.



Hurricane Idalia

- Convoy of Hope distributed emergency supplies worth over \$575,000 to over 15,000 survivors.
- Feeding Florida distributed 66,000 meals, providing food boxes and assistance to families in need,
- Florida State Animal Response Coalition coordinated the delivery of over 16,200 lbs of donated animal food and operated emergency pet-friendly shelters in multiple counties.
- Madison County Foundation for Excellence in Education distributed \$100,000 amongst more than 365 teachers and staff of Madison County schools.
- Operation BBQ Relief employed local food trucks and served 145,000 hot meals in eight counties.
- ToolBank Disaster Services provided \$24,000 in tools to hurricane response organizations which assisted in the repair of 48 homes and facilitated cleanup efforts.

Broward Floods

- 211 Broward managed 19,770 contacts, curated a comprehensive resource database, provided 137,559 referrals, conducted 56,139 needs assessments, and performed multiple crisis interventions.
- Feeding South Florida distributed approximately 387,519 pounds of food to 1,801 households during extreme flooding, addressing immediate food needs.
- Global Empowerment Mission delivered aid worth over \$1.5 million, including family necessities kits, water, mattresses, and appliances to thousands of flood-affected individuals.

FLORIDA DISASTER FUND: HURRICANE IAN RECOVERY

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Governor and First Lady DeSantis, over \$63 million in Hurricane Ian relief funds were raised through the Florida Disaster Fund. Over multiple rounds of awards, grant funding has been awarded to food banks, school board foundations, children's advocacy organizations, first responders, elder care organizations, community legal service organizations and long-term recovery groups.



"Dolores is an elderly woman whose trailer lost power and running water for seven months after the storm. Our All Hands and Hearts volunteers restored her water supply, cleaned up the yard, and performed a thorough mildew removal cleaning." -- All Hands and Hearts Smart Response



"Luiba is a retired farmer living on social security who lost her home and possessions during Hurricane Ian. She didn't qualify for FEMA assistance and had been living in a friend's trailer since the hurricane. It had no roof and every time it rained, Luiba was forced to open patio umbrellas inside the trailer for protection from the elements. She came to Mothers Helping Mothers (MHM) and was given some basic supplies such as a blanket, towels and a hygiene kit. She was so grateful she began to cry as she had not had a clean fresh towel in months. Grant funds from the Florida Disaster Fund paid for Luiba's apartment deposit, first month's rent and household items to furnish her new home. Luiba states that MHM is "her angel" and was the only organization to offer her any sort of help after Ian hit." -- Mothers Helping Mothers



"Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay has helped me through the nightmare of having that dreadful hurricane literally flip my home upside down. All the workers have been just an absolute god send and my grandkids aren't sleeping on lawn chairs anymore. We are eternally grateful! They are true heroes."

-- Jaqueline, Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay client



FLORIDA DISASTER FUND: HURRICANE IDALIA RECOVERY

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Governor and First Lady DeSantis, nearly \$4 million in Hurricane Idalia relief funds was raised through the Florida Disaster Fund. Grant funding has been awarded to food banks, school board foundations, animal-care organizations and long-term recovery groups.

Team Rubicon's roof tarping and debris removal services improved the immediate safety and accessibility of community members' properties. Local roadways were opened for vehicles, including emergency services, through Team Rubicon's route clearance services. This outcome ensured homeowners and their families could return home safely and begin taking the next steps toward long-term recovery.



The **Cajun Navy Ground Force** was on-site within hours of Hurricane Idalia making landfall. Their medical and mental health team prioritized the vulnerable elderly and shut-ins who were at high risk due to prolonged lack of water and electricity. The Ground Force served 14,000 hot meals in the first nine days after landfall and distributed 271,231 pounds of food, water and critical supplies overall.



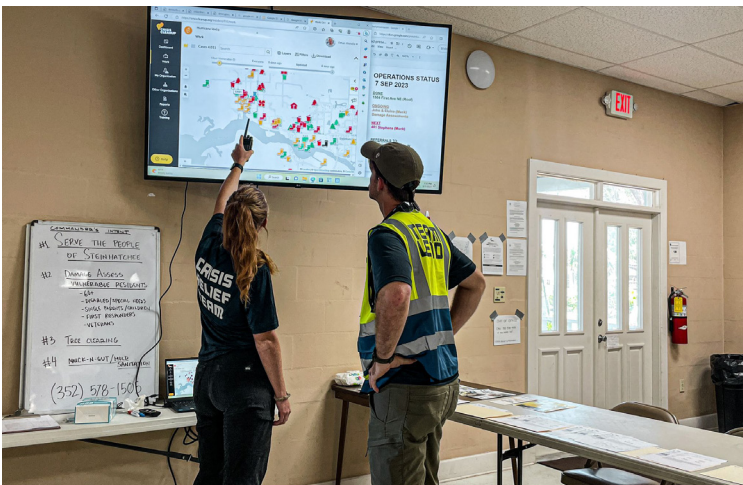
In addition, the Cajun Navy Ground Force assisted 71 homes with tree removal, debris cleanup and gutting. Over 20 of these homes were owned by veterans. In one instance, Mr. Lange, a 76-year-old green beret veteran was attempting to perform tree removal and debris cleanup, but was not able due to his age and health conditions. He was brought to tears when the Ground Force showed up with a tractor and an NCCC AmeriCorps team to assist him.



SPECIAL THANKS TO HURRICANE IDALIA FLORIDA DISASTER FUND DONORS

Hurricane Idalia made landfall in Florida on August 30, 2023. To date, the Volunteer Florida Foundation has collected nearly \$4 million in donations for Hurricane Idalia 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.

Amazon	\$50,000	Florida Power & Light	\$250,000	Poarch Creek Indians	\$50,000
AmeriHealth Caritas	\$10,000	GEO Group	\$25,000	Publix	\$100,000
Buc-ees	\$25,000	Grant Works	\$10,000	RaceTrac	\$25,000
Capital Health Plan	\$40,000	Greenberg Traurig	\$50,000	Reliaquest	\$10,000
Caresource	\$50,000	HCA	\$250,000	Robinhood	\$50,000
Charter Communications	\$50,000	Humana	\$100,000	Sunshine Health	\$750,000
Comcast	\$200,000	IGT	\$50,000	TECO	\$50,000
Corradino Group	\$10,000	James and Margaret Ruffalo	\$39,645	Verizon	\$25,000
CVS	\$100,000	JM Family	\$50,000	Walgreens	\$50,000
Denta Quest	\$25,000	JPMorgan Chase Foundation	\$100,000	Walmart	\$250,000
Duke Energy	\$50,000	KPMG	\$35,000	Wells Fargo	\$500,000
Excess Line Association of New York	\$15,000	Lewis, Longman and Walker	\$10,000	Various Checks	\$53,373
Florida Blue/GuideWell	\$50,000	Liberty Dental	\$10,000	Additional Donations (Credit Cards, Online Checks, Etc.)	\$150,899
Florida Manufactured Housing Assc	\$25,000	Molina	\$250,000		



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.

- In 2023, Volunteer Florida awarded 20 Community Emergency Response Team grants, totaling \$130,000.
- Volunteer Florida partnered with the National CERT Association and FEMA to create a National Qualifying System Course and implement it in Florida.
- Volunteer Florida formed a CERT working group that met monthly to collaborate, coordinate, and communicate best practices and current CERT activities throughout the State.

In 2023, Florida's
53 CERT Teams

served more than
72,000 hours

a value of more than
\$2 million



Florida's Community Emergency Response Teams were active on multiple fronts during Hurricane Idalia. **Charlotte County, Escambia County, Tampa City and Walton County CERT** deployed to Suwannee County and participated in the following response activities:

- Door to door assessments and provided information to rural residents on how to request assistance.
- Partnered with local businesses, churches and organizations to host several outreach events which included tabling, sharing information, passing out informational flyers, and filling out unmet needs surveys.

Ft. Lauderdale CERT deployed to Dixie County/Horseshoe Beach and participated in the following activities:

- Assisted with food distribution and, in partnership with Verizon, purchased 200 BBQ meals for survivors.
- Worked with Putnam Fire Rescue Task Force to remove debris and damaged goods from salvageable homes in preparation for de-mucking and other professional services required prior to a rebuild.

Miami-Dade CERT deployed to Dixie County/Horseshoe Beach and participated in the following activities:

- Managed the warehouse operations for receiving and distributing donations in Horseshoe Beach.
- Distributed approximately 4,000 lbs. of goods and delivered approximately 1,000 lbs. of goods.
- Distributed 60 hot meals per day in partnership with local community-based organizations.
- Conducted needs assessments in the field and provided emotional support to distressed residents.



The Miami-Dade CERT team connected with Eileen, an Idalia survivor whose husband, a Navy veteran, had recently passed away. The hurricane had knocked over a flagpole that had flown US and Navy flags belonging to her late husband. The team fixed the flagpole and purchased new flags. They were raised in commemoration of 9/11.

*"It meant the world to me knowing that his service to his country was recognized. He would've been amazed by all this and would've felt like he didn't deserve it."
-- Eileen, Hurricane Idalia survivor*



DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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). 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** has hired 115 disaster case managers, contacted over 13,000 clients and placed 325 clients in direct housing. Some selected success stories are below:

- On the day that DCM Provider **Compass 82** first called Ms. M.G. to conduct a phone screening, the client had woken up at 3 am, with terrible anxiety about her recovery from Hurricane Ian. She was feeling hopeless and helpless, so she prayed for aid. After speaking with Compass 82, she felt her prayer had been answered. She was immediately connected to emotional and spiritual support resources in her area. After speaking with Compass 82 about her recovery needs and possible resources, Ms. M.G. could already see the light at the end of the tunnel. By the end of the week, Compass 82 had arranged for a local church to install a new roof on the client's mobile home and had identified a furniture resource to replace her belongings once the home was weather-tight.
- DCM client Christine, a single parent with two children, including one with a disability, faced significant challenges after Hurricane Ian caused damage to her home in Pinellas County and left her displaced. She partnered with **Disaster Services S.V.D.P** for assistance in the FEMA appeal process to find permanent housing. One major obstacle was the need to clean up her home and remove debris to start the recovery process. Fortunately, a group of compassionate volunteers from the Scientology Volunteer Ministry stepped in to help. As these volunteers worked tirelessly, the atmosphere shifted from despair to hope, and Christine found strength in the kindness of those around her. The collaboration between Christine and the volunteers went beyond physical cleanup; it represented the emotional support and solidarity of a united community. Over the next several months, Christine's home was rebuilt and her journey serves as a testament to the transformative impact of volunteer assistance.



- Shortly after Hurricane Ian, DCM provider **Endeavors** decided to make Thanksgiving a special occasion for the families they were currently assisting. They provided Thanksgiving baskets to 70 families, each containing a gift card for a turkey and a bag filled with essential items such as stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, vegetables, and gravy. The baskets were delivered by Endeavors staff the week before Thanksgiving, ensuring that all their clients could enjoy the holiday, despite any financial challenges they might be facing due to Hurricane Ian.

ISRAEL ATTACK RESPONSE

On October 7, 2023, Iran-backed Hamas terrorists from Gaza and the surrounding region infiltrated Israel's borders and executed a coordinated attack on the State of Israel. ESF-15's response included:

- Hosted regular partner calls.
- Worked with State Partners to identify unmet needs.
- Coordinated with national and state VOAD partners to support multi-agency resource center.
- Coordinated Partner Agency Participation at airport with the following agencies:
 - Global Empowerment Mission
 - Jewish Federation
 - Islamic Relief USA
 - American Red Cross
 - Capacity Path
 - HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response
 - Church World Services
 - Gulf Coast Jewish Family Community Services



MAUI WILDFIRE RESPONSE

At the request of the State of Hawaii, Volunteer Florida's Emergency Management Director deployed through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to support response and recovery efforts from the Maui Wildfires.

- Supported Hawaii Volunteers Active in Disaster (VOAD).
- Helped support the coordination of AmeriCorps teams.
- Deployed to the Hawaii State Emergency Operations Center to work along side Hawaii State Voluntary Agency Liaison and FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons.
- Provide technical assistance to support Hawaii with the management of spontaneous volunteers and unsolicited goods.
- Shared Florida's best practices for coordination with National and local partners for response and recovery efforts on the ground.



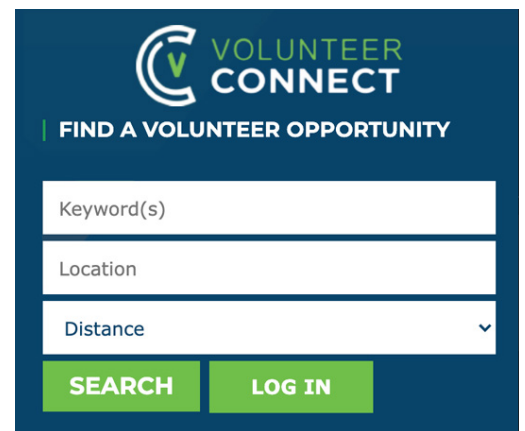
SERVICE ENTERPRISE

Service Enterprise is a national, research-based program model providing assessment, training and coaching opportunities so that organizations can fundamentally and strategically leverage volunteers to better achieve their missions. Volunteer Florida is a Service Enterprise Hub and manages the program for interested Florida organizations. Over the last 18 months, the following five organizations participated in the program, and are all now accredited Service Enterprises for the next three years.

VOLUNTEER CONNECT

The state's official volunteer opportunities platform, Volunteer Connect, served as a streamlined hub for service across the state:

- 820 nonprofit and government organizations are registered and able to seek needed volunteers
- Registered organizations represent 57 of Florida's 67 counties
- More than 500 volunteer opportunities were available to volunteers during the past year



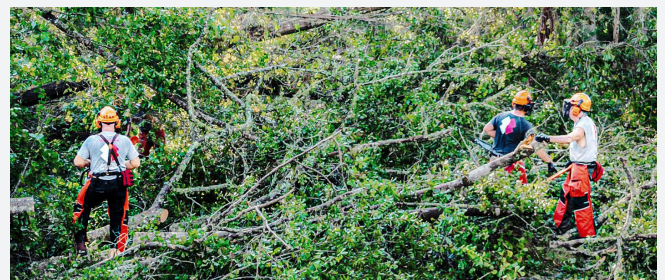
The screenshot shows the Volunteer Connect search interface. At the top, there is a logo for 'VOLUNTEER CONNECT' with a green 'V' icon. Below the logo is a navigation bar with the text 'FIND A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY'. The search area includes three input fields: 'Keyword(s)', 'Location', and 'Distance' with a dropdown arrow. At the bottom of the search area are two green buttons: 'SEARCH' and 'LOG IN'.

Volunteer Connect: An Asset in Times of Disaster

When Hurricane Ian (Fall 2022) and Hurricane Idalia (Fall 2023) made landfall, individuals across the nation immediately desired to provide disaster relief to entities and individuals in affected areas. Key government and nonprofit partners posted opportunities and routed potential volunteers to Volunteer Connect as an effective way to meet disaster relief needs through service.

More than 3,500 unique individuals connected to organizations serving the areas affected by Hurricanes Ian and Idalia. Dozens of organizations posted service opportunities, including:

- American Red Cross chapters
- Boys and Girls Club of Lee County
- Department of Elder Affairs
- Dixie County ESF 15: Volunteers and Donations
- Operation BBQ Relief
- Second Harvest of the Big Bend
- Team Rubicon



AMERICORPS FLORIDA

In 2023, Volunteer Florida administered 38 AmeriCorps programs made up of 1,657 AmeriCorps members. They provided 1.04 million hours of service to Florida. A value of \$30.5 million.



- These AmeriCorps members served 57,548 Florida students in 297 Florida schools across 39 Florida counties.
- AmeriCorps members were eligible to receive \$7.4 million in college scholarships upon completion of their year of service.
- In addition, AmeriCorps members leveraged an additional 2,250 volunteers who served alongside national service programs for an additional 27,490 hours valued at \$808,480.
- Volunteer Florida has engaged in a number of successful initiatives to support AmeriCorps member enrollment including an AmeriCorps Recruitment Consultant, Member Incentive Program and Member Financial Assistance Fund.

Seniors in Service

Seniors in Service AmeriCorps members assess, inform, guide and connect veterans, active military personnel and family members to available community resources throughout Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. During 2022-2023, the program has:

- Provided outreach, resource navigation and referral services to 7,207 veterans.
- As a result, 6,195 veterans reported an improved capacity for independent living, including transitioning into short term and permanent housing.
- In addition, 885 veterans reported an increase of health knowledge.
- The program also engaged 64 volunteers who collectively contributed 1,722 volunteer hours in support of veterans.



VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) increases the capacity of nonprofit organizations to recruit, manage and retain skills-based volunteers. Skills-based volunteerism expands the impact of these organizations by leveraging the skills of professionals, such as IT consultants, accountants and lawyers. Those organizations promote disaster preparedness and opioid abuse awareness, while also helping job-seekers find employment and teaching financial literacy and work readiness skills to Floridians.

In 2023, Volunteer Florida's 8,995 skills-based Volunteer Generation Fund volunteers provided 139,295 hours of service in Florida. A value of \$4.1 million.

VGF programs engaged in diverse volunteerism activities including:

- **Arcadia-DeSoto County Habitat for Humanity** engaged skills-based volunteers to assist Hurricane Ian affected families in the community.
- **Bonnet Springs** volunteers provided a Saturday STEM program to 3,604 individuals and led a citizen scientist program recording monarch butterfly, eggs, larva and adults, data that helps determine the viability of the species.
- **Genesis Health Center** supported 434 skills-based volunteers who served 483 persons living with a disability through the Adaptive Sports program.
- **Shepherd's Hope** engaged 441 volunteers who provided free medical services to more than 1,623 patients throughout five health centers.
- **United Way of Northwest Florida** engaged volunteers in the VITA free tax return program to secure nearly 3 million dollars in tax refunds for vulnerable low income families.



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 2023, 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.



FLORIDA VOLUNTEER MONTH

Every April, Volunteer Florida celebrates Florida Volunteer Month and recognizes outstanding volunteers on social media. Whether they are supporting veterans and their families, mentoring students, or stocking their local food pantries, every volunteer makes the Sunshine State a better place to call home.



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

VOLUNTEER MONTH IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, volunteers serve every day in Florida and work to make our communities safer, stronger, and healthier; and

WHEREAS, volunteers improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens, including seniors, children, and those with unique abilities; and

WHEREAS, volunteers in Florida serve as tutors and mentors at schools, helping students achieve academic success and preparing them for the workforce; and

WHEREAS, volunteers in Florida support veterans by providing job training and engaging veterans in community service; and

WHEREAS, volunteers in Florida work to protect and restore our precious natural resources, from beaches to rivers and forests to lakes; and

WHEREAS, a volunteer saves an average of \$27.68 an hour for the organization it volunteers for; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer Florida serves as the Governor's lead agency for service and volunteerism in Florida, promoting volunteerism and mobilizing Floridians to serve; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer Florida's 13,818 skills-based Volunteer Generation Fund volunteers provided 250,412 hours of service in Florida at a value of \$6,931,404; and

WHEREAS, Volunteer Florida continues to increase awareness of the state's official volunteer opportunities platform, assists those in finding volunteer opportunities in our communities; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Casey DeSantis launched Hope Florida – A Pathway to Purpose to help facilitate volunteer opportunities for Florida's seniors, breaking down silos to match volunteer-minded "Hope Heroes" with those in need of their kindness and generosity; and

WHEREAS, during Hurricane Ian, Florida Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) served more than 5,553 hours, a value of more than \$153,707 to that affected community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 2023, as *Volunteer Month in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of April, in the year two thousand twenty-three.


Governor

COMMISSION AND FOUNDATION MEMBER SERVICE PROJECT

During the summer Volunteer Florida Board Meetings, Volunteer Florida Commissioners, Foundation Board members and staff had the opportunity to visit Global Empowerment Mission (GEM) and participate in a service project. Global Empowerment Mission's main objectives are to deliver the most amount of aid, to the most amount of people in need, in the shortest amount of time and with the least amount of costs to donors. GEM has deployed over 355 disaster relief missions in 57 countries and all 50 states.

During the service project at GEM's Doral, Florida headquarters, commissioners and board members boxed up disaster relief supplies for those in need.





volunteerflorida

Serving Florida's Communities for 30 Years!