



FlaDisasterFund.org
Managed by Florida's Foundation

2007

Florida Disaster Recovery Fund to Help in Tornado Recovery - Deadly tornadoes strike Central Florida; Governor Crist and Florida Disaster Recovery Fund (chaired by Senator Connie Mack) resolve to set Fund's work in motion for long-term recovery; change name of the Fund (from Florida Hurricane Relief Fund) to reflect this expanded service

Fund Changes Name; Gov. Pledges Help in Long-Term - Governor Crist and Volunteer Florida Foundation/Florida Disaster Recovery Fund announce at devastated Lady Lake Church of God, name-change of the Fund, and its dedicated service to long-term recovery for tornado survivors.

Presidential Declaration for Christmas Day Storms - Governor Crist successfully secures a declaration of disaster for Volusia County residents affected by the Christmas Day tornadoes; officially opens door for Florida Disaster Recovery Fund to assist.

Indianapolis Colts Contribute to Fund - Governor Crist and Volunteer Florida Foundation announced Colts owner Jim Irsay and the Super Bowl Champs contributed \$100,000 to the Florida Disaster Recovery Fund for tornado survivors. Announcement made in recovering Lady Lake, Florida.

FEMA Makes WILMA Close-Out Grants to Fund - Recognizing the long-term recovery success of VFF/Florida Disaster Recovery Fund in managing local nonprofits, FEMA makes a close-out grant to the Fund to assist in moving Wilma survivors out of FEMA housing into permanent housing. The Fund engages 12 nonprofits in 12 counties, to assist with 643 families.

Florida Disaster Recovery Fund grants long-term - Two grants in the amount of \$25,000 each are awarded to long-term recovery organizations, Lake and Sumter Emergency Response and Volusia Interfaith Network in Disaster.

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Tornado Heroes/Points of Light Recognized at Mansion Fundraiser - Governor Crist and Lt. Governor Kottkamp celebrate selfless heroism by naming four Tornado Heroes/Governor's Points of Light award recipients at Mansion fundraiser for tornado recovery. Event held in conjunction with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, raises \$38,000 for long-term tornado recovery.

Senator Connie Mack Urges Preparation for Hurricane Season - In lead column of *VFF eNews*, Fund Chair Connie Mack urges all Floridians to get a plan and get prepared (refers to states' Florida Disaster website) for hurricane season, underscores sales tax holiday. eNews sent to more than 40,000 recipients – including private citizens, corporate leaders, government leaders, faith- and community-based leaders.

PSA for Sales Tax Holiday, Hurricane Preparedness - VFF/Florida Disaster Recovery Fund places 30-second PSA alerting Floridians about Gov. Crist's sales tax holiday on preparedness items. PSA is carried statewide through pro bono contributions by Comcast and Florida Cable Television Association.

RFP's for Recovery Grants Announced - VFF/Florida Disaster Recovery Fund announce the release of RFPs for long-term recovery needs. Applications are due in July and grant awards will be announced by the end of August. Timing coincides with Red Cross ending immediate relief work in devastation areas by end of June, turning all case management over to long-term recovery organizations.

PSA for Hurricane Preparedness - VFF/Florida Disaster Recovery Fund places 30-second PSA to "Get a Plan" on cable stations statewide through pro bono airtime through Comcast and Florida Cable Television Association.

2008

Lake City Tornado in March – The fund made a \$25,000 grant to Suwannee Valley Long-Term Recovery Committee/United Way of Suwannee Valley Inc., to help support that organization in assisting survivors of a devastating tornado in the Lake City area.

Presidential Declaration for Tropical Storm Fay - Governor Charlie Crist announced that Florida had received an Emergency Declaration from the President of the United States, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as a result of the flooding rains and severe weather caused by Tropical Storm Fay on August 18, 2008 and after.

Tropical Storm Fay - Governor Crist activated the Fund for Tropical Storm Fay on August 23, 2008. Corporations giving to the Fund for Tropical Storm Fay included AT&T, PBS&J, Florida Power & Light, Bank of America, BP Foundation, and Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC. Fund chairman Senator Connie Mack and his wife Priscilla donated \$10,000. The FDRF Advisory Council committed up to \$1 million for reactivation and recovery grants to nonprofits in the affected areas.

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Tropical Storm Fay Grants - Governor Charlie Crist announced that the Florida Disaster Recovery Fund will provide three \$25,000 grants to long-term recovery organizations in Brevard, St. Lucie and Volusia counties to help storm survivors rebuild from the devastation of Tropical Storm Fay.

2009

Lt. Governor Kottkamp Delivers \$350,000 in Grants to Survivors of Tropical Storm Fay - Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp announced that the Florida Disaster Recovery Fund will provide an additional \$350,000 in grants to long-term recovery organizations in Brevard, St. Lucie, Duval, Seminole and Volusia counties to help storm survivors rebuild from the devastation of Fay.

Governor Charlie Crist's Video Message on May 28, 2009 urged all Floridians to **BE PREPARED** for the beginning of the 2009 Hurricane season.

PSA for Hurricane Preparedness - VFF/Florida Disaster Recovery Fund places 30-second PSA to "Get a Plan" on cable stations statewide through pro bono airtime through Comcast Cable.

Spring Flooding – Volusia County declared for Individual Assistance on **May 27, 2009**, and Public Assistance on **June 4, 2009**.

Governor Crist presented Volusia Interfaith Networking in Disaster (VIND) with a \$25,000 administrative grant from the Fund to support the organization in assisting flood victims on **June 4, 2009**.

On August 13, 2009, Governor Crist announced AT&T Florida President Marshall Criser as advisory council chairman for the Florida Disaster Recovery Fund, succeeding Senator Connie Mack who had held the position since its inception.

On the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Charley, Governor Crist praises work of the Florida Disaster Recovery Fund and Disaster Response Organizations in a press release on **August 13, 2009**.

2010

On January 13, 2010, Governor Crist announced that he was activating "Neighbors to the Rescue" through the Florida Disaster Recovery Fund and asked Floridians to donate responsibly to survivors of disasters, including those in Haiti.

Governor Crist on January 29, 2010 announced the commitment of \$75,000 from Wells Fargo & Company to the "Neighbors to the Rescue – Haiti Fund", to help assist with unmet needs of Haitian evacuees coming into Florida. The Governor reminded Floridians that they could donate to "Neighbors to the Rescue – Haiti Fund" through the Florida Disaster Recovery Fund.

The Florida Disaster Recovery Fund in May 2010 formally changes its name to **Florida's Disaster Fund Neighbors to the Rescue**. The mission of Florida's Disaster Fund is to help Floridians with recovery from natural disasters through strengthening families and rebuilding communities. We are your Neighbors to the Rescue – Floridians helping Floridians on the long road to recovery through donations, in-kind services and plain, old-fashioned work in Florida's communities. Florida's Disaster Fund is managed by **Florida's Foundation**.

On May 18, 2010 a **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed between the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Florida's Foundation, recognizing the Foundation as a member of the Florida State Emergency Response Team and recognizing Florida's Disaster Fund as the official disaster recovery fund promoted by the State Emergency Response.

Florida's Disaster Fund is a program of nonprofit Florida's Foundation, dedicated to strengthen Florida by making the positive changes in the lives of Florida's families through initiatives developed under the leadership of the State of Florida and its citizens. Charitable registration number is CH8536.