The Community Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency initiative explores and strengthens the efforts of people, organizations, and communities in navigating disasters.

Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund Grantmaking

The purpose of the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund (SDRF) is to support and benefit Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties for disaster recovery to improve individual, family, and community resiliency by helping people rebuild their lives beyond the initial rebuilding of structures damaged in the storm. You can learn more about the SDRF, organizations that have received funds, and the next grant application period by visiting the Community Foundation of Sarasota County website.

While grant cycles continue to occur and funds are disbursed to organizations still recovering from Hurricane Ian, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and The Patterson Foundation have come together to approach the SDRF and recovery in a fresh way. Starting in September 2023, a process was started to engage a community in participatory grantmaking related to long-term recovery. Participatory grantmaking is a practice that involves ceding grant-making power to community members and constituencies rather than keeping the decision-making power in the hands of the funder. Using $100,000 in funds provided by the SDRF, two organizations in DeSoto County were approached to spearhead a participatory grantmaking project led by and for community members. This ongoing effort is currently in its grantmaking stage, and grant recipients will be announced by the organizations soon. We are delighted to have placed the power of decision-making in the hands of the community affected and look forward to sharing more about this work in the future.

Getting Ready for Another Hurricane Season

While it may be only April, preparing for an ever-increasing hurricane season can be a year-round effort. And with forecasters already sounding the alarm about a potentially busy season due to uncharacteristically warm
water across the Atlantic Ocean and the return of La Niña weather patterns, the time to prepare is now!

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shared 5 tips to prepare for hurricane season:

1. Develop an evacuation plan.
2. Assemble disaster supplies: food, water, batteries, charger, radio, cast, etc.
3. Get an insurance checkup and document your possessions.
4. Create a communication plan with a hand-written list of contacts.
5. Strengthen your home.

Suncoast Remake Learning Days

Are you hurricane-ready? Join the Hope DeSoto Long Term Recovery Group as they sponsor a Suncoast Remake Learning Days event on Friday, May 3rd, from 3:15 to 4:30 at the First Baptist Church, 1006 N Brevard Ave, Arcadia, FL 34266.

Come learn how you and your family can be hurricane-ready. Each participating family will receive a "Hurricane Ready" bag and checklist. Supplies are limited!
The Gulf Coast Partnership is a collaborative movement among human service providers, non-profits, government, faith-based, and community activists who have come together to support innovative ideas for solving homelessness. Through their newsletter, The Catalyst, they share and celebrate stories of hope, resilience, and transformation through community collaboration. In a recent issue of The Catalyst, the efforts of the Long-Term Recovery (LTR) Department at Gulf Coast Partnership to assist individuals and families are shared. Read more [here](#).

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**Center for Disaster Philanthropy Initiative**

In the wake of disasters at a scale never before seen, donor generosity is reaching record amounts — but giving is often based on emotion, impulse, and limited information. The [Center for Disaster Philanthropy](#) is a nationwide resource for the philanthropic community that provides strategies, education, and funding opportunities that are timely, relevant, and thoughtful to increase donor impact throughout the lifecycle of domestic and global disasters.

View Helpful Resources on Disaster Philanthropy:
- [Disaster Philanthropy Playbook](#)
- [Network of Disaster Funders](#)
- [Basic Tips for Disaster Giving](#)

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**Cope:** Following a disaster or unexpected challenge, we first focus on ensuring our safety and addressing the immediate needs essential to survival.

**Adapt:** Getting accustomed to the reality of living with the situation, we adopt new systems and methods to create stability.

**Innovate:** Using imagination combined with a possibility mindset, we discover fresh ways to live, work, and play.
Phases of CPR-R

In the **Discovery Phase**, we will connect with and learn to identify existing community resources related to community engagement in the disaster preparedness, recovery, and resiliency arenas. Additionally, we will connect beyond our four-county region to identify programs and efforts to be replicated locally and create spaces for others to collaborate.

In the **Sharing/Engagement Phase** – we will engage people, organizations, and communities as we share our learnings.

In the **Action Phase** - We will strengthen our communities’ disaster preparedness, recovery, and resiliency in various ways.

We welcome your thoughts or any questions. Contact Karen Windon at kwindontpf@gmail.com.

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