

**The Disaster of Hurricane Matthew is not over!**



Dear UCC Conference Disaster Coordinator,

For those who don't know me, I am a CDC for the Florida Conference, the VP and Operations Manager of **VIND** – **V**olusia **I**nterfaiths/**A**gencies **N**etworking in **D**isaster. **VIND** is the long-term recovery organization helping Hurricane Matthew survivors with unmet needs. Volusia County had over 17,000 FEMA registrations, (the highest in the state), 6,531 were below the poverty level and the clean-up generated over 1.3 million cubic yards of debris.

We are now in the LONG-TERM RECOVERY stage of the Hurricane, when no one knows about us anymore and we are never in the newspapers or on TV. Our organization has 8 case managers, a program coordinator, and a construction manager. We have a little money and are trying to raise more, and we need volunteers to help rebuild homes.

We estimate that there will be upwards of 1300-1500 homes that will need assistance, and we plan to repair 120-140 per year. At approximately \$5,000 per home for materials plus salaries for employees, it's easy to see that we're going to need over \$1,000,000 (1 Million Dollars!) each year for the next few years.

I know that a lot of congregations send volunteer work groups on mission trips to help others recover from a disaster elsewhere in the county or even overseas. This year I'm hoping that you could arrange to have some of your volunteers come to Volusia County in Florida to help rebuild the homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew, or send dollars for building materials – or BOTH. Even smaller congregations can make a difference in the life of one low-income household. Please send this request to the congregations in your Conference who usually send members on a mission trip and to whomever could respond?

For more information, or if you would like to speak with me personally, please click or call. In advance, thank you for your positive response.

With sincere wishes for many blessings.

David N. Heald

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