

UCC Disaster Ministries has just added a new hurricane recovery work site, to help Hurricane Michael survivors in Florida's Panhandle recover. The site, serving Bay and Washington counties, joins three other active volunteer work sites, in Volusia County, Fla.; Port Harvey, Texas, and Puerto Rico.

Volunteer! [https://www.ucc.org/disaster\\_disaster-volunteers](https://www.ucc.org/disaster_disaster-volunteers)

Here's what's happening at the four work sites:

**FLORIDA PANHANDLE** - Volunteers are being recruited now to help repair and rebuild homes in the Florida Panhandle. Hurricane Michael caused extensive damage when it made landfall there as a Category 4 storm in October 2018. Work will be in Bay and Washington counties, which suffered significant home, crop and tree damage. All skill levels of volunteers are accepted. Groups will be matched up with work that is suitable to their talents.

**VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA** – Donations and volunteers continue to be needed to: repair and rebuild homes in Volusia County, devastated by Hurricane Matthew in fall 2016 and retraumatized 11 months later by Hurricane Irma. Work includes roofing, gutting interiors, replacing insulation, siding, drywall repair and painting, flooring and other interior work as needed.

UCC Disaster Ministries is working with VIND (Volusia Interfaiths/Agencies Networking in Disasters) to address unmet needs through case management services. It is expected that 350 to 500 homes/mobile homes will enter long-term disaster recovery with VIND, estimated at more than \$7.5 million.

**PUERTO RICO** - UCC Disaster Ministries just released another \$100,000 to rebuild Hurricane Maria-battered homes in Puerto Rico. UCC's total aid to date tops \$600,000. The UCC and the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico are collaborating on a multifaceted response. Among other things, they recruit volunteer work teams, which have restored more than 75 homes so far! Many more houses are on the waiting list. There are openings for work teams into 2020.

**PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS** - UCC Disaster Ministries has released a new Hurricane Harvey volunteer recruitment video - <https://youtu.be/Xr1XzcNoSQw> -, announcing its goal of deploying 20 work teams of up to 20 people each this year. At the same time, the ministry has sent an additional \$50,000 for construction materials for its Harvey recovery work site in Port Arthur, Texas.

The United Church of Christ has been partnering with a local nonprofit to rehabilitate 17 low-income rental units that were flooded in the August 2017 disaster. "We are nearing the end of the 17 units, then it's on to Beaumont," reports the UCC's Joshua Lawrence. The UCC's total aid to Harvey recovery to date tops \$400,000.