

### FLORIDA HURRICANE RELIEF JULY 2024



# IMPACT IN FLORIDA

- 1,610+ INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED
  - 360+ JOBS COMPLETED
  - 240+ HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED
  - 830+ VOLUNTEERS
- 46,700+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

# JOB TYPE BREAKDOWN





37 & 69 DEBRIS & TREE REMOVALS



#### SUPPORTING RESILIENCE ALONGSIDE RECOVERY

Since the program's launch in October 2022, All Hands and Hearts (AHAH) has conducted various scopes of disaster relief work in Fort Myers and surrounding Lee County, which suffered massive damage to homes and infrastructure in the hurricane. As we progress through our second year of recovery, our goal remains to get vulnerable community members back into safe, secure and functional homes.

The impact of this work extends beyond physical improvements. For the over 1,610 individuals assisted so far, each property cleared, each home stripped of muck and mold or repaired provides a foundation for renewed hope. Taken together, the households assisted contribute to a stronger, revitalized community.

AHAH will continue its dedication to Florida hurricane recovery and resilience beyond the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Ian until the end of September 2024.

### **CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

In July, the team maintained a steady pace of consistent, diverse work in construction and community engagement, providing varied support to the Fort Myers area. We've been continuing our partnership with <u>local food bank</u> Gladiolus Food Pantry, serving community members' essential needs weekly by cleaning, stocking and sorting food for distribution.

Last June, several Hurricane Ian staff and volunteers were deployed to the Broward County area, in response to severe rain and flooding. In mid-July, a team returned to Hallandale Beach in Broward County. Thanks to donations from Lasko (50 fans, 50 dehumidifiers) and the WASH foundation (200 hygiene kits), the team distributed items to flood-affected individuals at Lakeshore and Bamboo Mobile Home Parks, where they had previously gutted seven homes. These items will help dry out homes and prevent mold growth, aiding the community's recovery and preparedness for future floods.

## **DISASTER PROFILE**

Hurricane Ian, a Category 4 storm, struck Lee County, Florida, on September 28, 2022, with sustained 150 mph winds and 12-foot storm surges in Fort Myers. Over 2.7 million residents lost power. It ranks as the fifth strongest storm to hit the U.S. Its near-category 5 strength caused significant home destruction and extensive flooding along the coast, including the Sanibel Causeway.

## **OUR WORK**

Our DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) arrived in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Ian to see how we could help. Within days, a skilled chainsaw team cleared fallen trees and debris from homes and streets. As of October 7, 2022, we officially opened our doors to volunteers and our team hit the ground running by mucking and gutting homes and eradicating dangerous mold growth. Beginning in March 2023, the clean-up and stabilization scopes of work gradually transitioned to conducting permanent, resilient home repairs.

The program operates out of a base in Fort Myers, Florida, where the team is surrounded by evidence that many vulnerable households are still waiting for repairs they cannot afford or do themselves. Fortunately, All Hands and Hearts' leadership has approved a program extension through the end of September 2024. The team remains committed to our mission of providing community-inspired, volunteer-powered disaster relief, responding to a persisting need 18 months after the disaster struck.



## **OUR PARTNERS**





allhandsandhearts.org