



**My Safe Florida Home Nonprofit Program  
Progress Report**  
*Submitted by Volunteer Florida Foundation*

*Reporting Period: January 2008 – March 2008*

In accordance with Section 215.5586(2)(j), Florida Statutes, Volunteer Florida Foundation (VFF) submits this report of progress on activities and use of funds for the quarter ending March 31, 2008.

Through the My Safe Florida Home Nonprofit program, Florida homeowners may sign up for services through a local nonprofit organization rather than receiving assistance directly from the Department of Financial Services (DFS). This nonprofit program is managed by Volunteer Florida Foundation, chosen because of its long relationships in working with nonprofits in hurricane recovery.

Through this program, nonprofit organizations are chosen through a competitive RFP process. Nonprofit partners leverage the value of mitigation to homes through discounted services and volunteer labor, helping make mitigation dollars stretch.

Through March 31, 2008, 6,176 homeowners have been enrolled representing 76% of our goal, as the program and partner base continues to expand. Volunteers have been engaged in outreach, enrollment, education, preparation and mitigating homes. Volunteer hours exceeded 7,800 representing a contribution of more than \$148,000 to the state.

**How it Works**

The local nonprofit organization certifies the homeowner meets income qualifications (less than 80% AMI). The nonprofit is seen as the manager for this homeowner through the entire process. The nonprofit provides the enrollment information required by DFS, explains the inspection report to the homeowners and completes the procurement process. At no point is the homeowner required to pay for the services provided, nor does money change hands between the homeowner and the nonprofit.

The nonprofit organization advocates for the low-income homeowners and address issues as they arise with solicitors, inspectors and insurance companies. The nonprofit often completes the necessary paperwork to pull permits, arrange for insurance discounts and assists those homeowners who opt for the DFS matching program with the necessary paperwork. A listing of nonprofit organizations is provided on page two.

Each homeowner is provided with a survey and postage-paid envelope addressed to the Volunteer Florida Foundation. Surveys demonstrate over 99% satisfaction with the program. One homeowner put it best: "Thank you for providing some peace of mind I couldn't possibly afford – everyone was helpful and it was a perfect experience. I couldn't ask for anything better at any price, much less free!"

### **Partnerships and Progress**

The Foundation has currently active 18 nonprofit organizations serving 16 counties. Twelve of the counties are deemed high-wind borne areas. The 18 nonprofits are providing services to low-income populations in their areas. Following is a table of nonprofits accomplishments to date.

Through March 31, 2008, 2,529 homes have been mitigated. This is a rate of over 250 homes mitigated each month this quarter, almost 9 homes every day. The pace has not slowed down. Going into the final quarter of the year over 300 homes were mitigated in April and we are on track to mitigate 400 in May.

The post inspection rate required by statute is 5%. VFF has requested post inspections to be completed by Wind Certification Entities (WCEs) in excess of 5%. In addition post inspections have been conducted by local county inspectors. There are few areas in the state that allow for the installation of panel shutters and other mitigation activities without a permit.

### **Administration of the Program**

Committed to this program are five VFF staff positions: one director, two program managers, a financial assistant and two database support assistants. The two program managers are strategically located -- one in Indian River County and serving the South Florida area, the second in Tallahassee serving the north and central Florida areas.

Additional foundation staff are utilized to complement the work of the dedicated program staff. VFF has experienced communication, grants administration and financial staff available to assist the program staff and sub-recipients as needed.

Staff are dedicated to monitoring for contract compliance and providing support to the local nonprofit organizations in administering this program. To provide frequent communication, VFF hosted mandatory conference calls with the sub-recipients and DFS through March 31, 2008. Technical assistance visits have been provided to all new programs. New programs and new fiscal staff participated in the Department of Financial Services' "Advancing Accountability Training" in February. We take seriously our fiduciary responsibility to be good stewards of state dollars and we have a policy that requires 30 days corrective action on any contract compliance issues. Monitoring visits were conducted in partnership with DFS within 120 days of mitigation services being provided.

### **Outreach and Accountability**

Our Revenue and Expense report for the funds expended is included. VFF's policy is to invest the funds received at the highest rate possible with moderate risk. At the current time, the funds

provided are invested at an interest rate greater than 2%. Unlike other state and federal programs, all of the foundation's expenses except for inspection fees and grants to nonprofits are defined as administrative and limited to 5%. This includes monitoring and database development costs for the homeowner registration as required by DFS to implement this program. To date \$9.6 million has been given to nonprofit organizations.

The current average cost per home is \$3,812, when including all administrative and program expenses.

Sub-recipients, while not required to provide match, are reporting match in significant amounts. Volunteers have been engaged in outreach, enrollment, education, preparation and of course mitigating homes. Volunteer hours exceeded 7,800, representing a contribution of more than \$148,000 to the state. Nonprofits have identified over \$2.4 million in savings through material and contractor discounts.

These Quarterly Reports to the Legislature, the VFF annual report and annual audit are posted on [www.volunteerfloridafoundation.org](http://www.volunteerfloridafoundation.org) website for public review.



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## *Listing of Nonprofit Partners*

Program	County	Homes to be Mitigated
United Way of Brevard <sup>1</sup>	Brevard	300
Liberia Social & Economic Development Corp <sup>3</sup>	Broward	34
Volunteer Action Center of Broward <sup>2</sup>	Broward	650
Housing Corp of Charlotte <sup>1</sup>	Charlotte	124
Rebuild NW Florida <sup>2</sup>	Escambia, Santa Rosa	3000
CREW	Glades, Hendry	100
Indiantown Non-Profit Housing <sup>2</sup>	Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie	378
FAVACA <sup>1</sup>	Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Broward	1000
Centro Campesino <sup>1</sup>	Miami-Dade	100
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Miami <sup>2</sup>	Miami-Dade	175
Miami Beach CDC	Miami-Dade	85
Osceola County Council on Aging <sup>2</sup>	Osceola	200
We Help CDC <sup>3</sup>	Palm Beach	1500
Homes for Independence <sup>2</sup>	Pinellas	150
Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County <sup>1</sup>	Pinellas	75
Rebuild Polk After Disaster <sup>2</sup>	Polk	431
Senior Friendship Center <sup>1</sup>	Sarasota	100
St. Johns Housing <sup>1</sup>	St. Johns	85
St. Lucie INTACT <sup>2</sup>	St. Lucie	400
United Way of Volusia-Flagler <sup>1</sup>	Volusia	75
		<b>8962</b>

*1 - New program*

*2 - Includes second year goals*

*3 - Program no longer operating*

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	<b><u>Aug '06 - March 08</u></b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
Grants	12,127,300.13
Interest Income	92,534.67
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>12,219,834.80</u></b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Accounting & Legal	2,888.21
Advertising	50.51
Bank & Credit Card Charges	562.16
Equipment	5,959.21
Salaries & Benefits	348,316.62
Office Supplies & Other Exp	5,223.00
Postage/Shipping/Delivery	2,146.63
Printing	5,095.82
Inspections & Translation Svcs	418,610.13
Rent/Lease Payment	2,921.71
Software	41,790.00
Subgrants	9,587,440.40
Telecommunications	6,313.24
Travel	51,887.33
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>10,479,204.97</u></b>