



Bringing Hope. Restoring Love. Rebuilding Communities.

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Helping Communities Heal

When a disaster strikes, the immediate response often fades long before the real work of recovery is complete. Families are left navigating complex systems, repairing homes, and carrying the emotional weight of loss, often with limited support. Serving and Loving Together Disaster Recovery, Inc. (SALT) was created to meet survivors in that long space between crisis and restoration.

Our commitment is simple but intentional: to walk alongside survivors for as long as it takes. Through disaster case management, volunteer coordination, and construction support, we help families move forward with dignity, clarity, and hope. We believe **recovery is not a one-size-fits-all process**, and every household deserves to be seen, heard, and supported.

This newsletter is one way we stay connected with you, our partners, donors, volunteers, and advocates. Inside, you'll find stories of resilience, updates from the field, and a glimpse of the impact being made possible through your generosity and trust. Thank you for standing with SALT and with the survivors we serve. Together, we are rebuilding more than homes, we are helping communities heal.

With gratitude,
Haley Shoemaker • Jill Hockin • Trish Warren
Co-Founders, SALT Disaster Recovery





*Client consent has been provided

Riding Toward Recovery: One Client's Journey

Hurricanes Helene and Milton (2024) destroyed our client's 5th wheel he called home. Displaced from Largo, he spent nearly 10 months in temporary housing in Orlando, adjusting to a new reality far from the community he knew.

When he returned to Largo, new challenges awaited. His lot still held the remains of his destroyed home, and navigating FEMA requirements was critical. Thanks to the dedication of local volunteers and our team, the lot was cleared, and the damaged 5th wheel was removed, ensuring compliance and a fresh start.

Recovery isn't just clearing debris, it's rebuilding independence. Our Disaster Case Manager, Sasha Greto, secured a bicycle for transportation through Bikes For Christ, and she connected him with CareerSource to support his job search. Each step has been a testament to resilience, his and ours.

Despite setbacks, our client refuses to let hardship define him. With the strength of community and ongoing support, he is moving forward with hope and determination toward long-term recovery.

Support From Our Community

This month, survivors of Hurricanes Helene and Milton received critical support thanks to the generosity of faith-based partners, community organizations, and private donors, stepping in when needs went beyond what grant funding alone could cover. We are deeply grateful for the ways our community came together, including:

- Trinity United Methodist Church: Food donations valued at approximately \$2,200, plus \$148 in dog food assistance, ensuring families and their pets had essential nutrition.
- Grace Family Church: \$375 in gift cards, giving survivors flexibility to purchase groceries and household necessities.
- LIHEAP and a private donor: \$689.70 and \$711, respectively, toward utility bills, helping households stay safely housed and avoid service disruptions.
- Bikes 4 Christ: Donated a bicycle valued at \$139, increasing access to employment, appointments, and essential services.
- D-Group Bible Study and other coordinated donors: Clothing, sneakers, blankets, food, and gift cards totaling over \$565, meeting immediate needs for warmth, nourishment, and dignity.
- Holiday toy assistance: Donors provided toys for two families valued at \$350, helping bring joy and normalcy to children during a difficult season.

Program Highlights



**11 new
cases
opened**



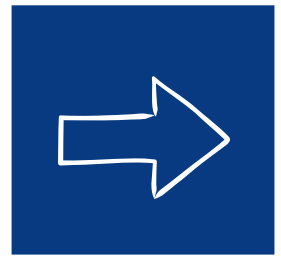
**11 homes
assessed
for repairs**



**167
individuals
contacted
through
outreach**



**11 recovery
plans
developed**



**40 referrals to
partner
organizations**

Each call, each referral, and each home visit is a step toward restoring stability for families.



We are deeply thankful to World Renew, Florida Presbyterian Disaster Alliance, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for awarding SALT grants totaling \$225,000. These funds are helping us provide critical disaster recovery support to families impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We also extend our gratitude to our fiscal sponsor, United Way Suncoast, for their guidance and support, which makes our work possible.

Your partnership allows us to walk alongside survivors, meet urgent needs, and help families rebuild with hope and dignity.



Make a Difference Today

Your financial support allows SALT to provide essential disaster recovery services, from case management to volunteer coordination and construction support. Every gift counts!



Scan the QR code to donate, or click [here](#).



Looking to make a real difference in your community? SALT volunteers help families recover from disasters by repairing homes, coordinating relief efforts, and offering hands-on support. Whether you have a few hours or a few days to give, your time and skills can transform lives. For more information, please scan the QR code to inquire about volunteer opportunities, or click [here](#) to receive a call from our Director of Volunteers, Jill Hockin.

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