



United Way
of Northeast Florida



United Way
of St. Johns County



JESSIE BALL
DU PONT
FUND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund prepared for 2018 hurricane season

Relief Fund partners granted more than \$3.56 million in relief for Hurricane Irma

Jacksonville, Fla. (June 25, 2018) – Following the first named storm of the season and the official start of the 2018 hurricane season, partners of Florida's First Coast Relief Fund are prepared to once again activate the Relief Fund if disaster strikes.

Last year, in the wake of Hurricane Irma, Florida's First Coast Relief Fund granted more than \$3.56 million to 33 Northeast Florida nonprofits providing disaster-relief services. Through this, more than 253,231 individuals and households were served.

"The generosity of our community in that time of crisis – neighbors helping neighbors – was incredible," said Michelle Braun, president and CEO of United Way of Northeast Florida, the fiscal agent and grant manager for the Relief Fund. "We are so thankful for the individuals, corporations and partners who came together to heal Northeast Florida."

Created in 2016 to aid with Hurricane Matthew relief and to establish a permanent disaster relief fund, Florida's First Coast Relief Fund is a strategic collaboration founded by United Way of Northeast Florida, United Way of St. Johns County, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville and the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

Each year, Mayor Lenny Curry and his team have been integral to the launch and success of the Relief Fund, encouraging donors to generously support the fund and other important relief efforts.

The Relief Fund supports immediate and intermediate unmet needs. One hundred percent of all donations go to relief efforts. Nearly \$3.8 million was raised for Hurricane Irma relief. The Relief Fund's remaining \$200,000 will be available for immediate response for future disasters.

"We are deeply grateful for the foundations, corporations and individuals who recognized the need and delivered in substantial ways," said Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund distributes grants only to organizations helping individuals and households impacted by natural disasters in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. The Relief Fund provides resources to meet needs not met by insurance, FEMA, or other state and federal programs or to fill the gap while other long-term assistance is being put in place.

"Being able to quickly activate the fund is crucial to saving lives and getting our community on the road to recovery," said Sherry Magill, president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, which kick-started the fund in 2016 with a \$500,000 commitment.

After Hurricane Irma, the top three relief needs fell into the following categories: rent and mortgage assistance; home/nonprofit stabilization and repair; and food. All distributions from the Relief Fund are

overseen by a committee comprised of representatives of the Relief Fund partners, the City of Jacksonville, Mayo Clinic and the Jaguars Foundation.

While the Relief Fund activities are winding down from Hurricane Irma, long-term recovery efforts are scaling up.

“There are still people who are not completely back on track following Irma,” said Michael Boylan, chair of the Northeast Florida Long Term Recovery Organization. “These long-term needs are why we are working hard to build out a robust LTRO for Northeast Florida.”

For more information, on the LTRO, visit duvaldisasterrecovery.org.

Meanwhile, nonprofits in the area, spearheaded by the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida, are working to become better prepared for disasters, including the establishment of a Community Organizations Active in Disaster coalition, or COAD.

For more information on Florida’s First Coast Relief Fund, including the official Hurricane Irma report, please visit unitedwaynefl.org/relieffund/reporting. Any inquiries related to the report can be emailed to Sarah Henderson, United Way’s director of marketing and communications, at sarahh@unwnefl.org. Donations to the Relief Fund are accepted at any time.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO FLORIDA’S FIRST COAST RELIEF FUND

Online: unitedwaynefl.org/relieffund

Text: STORM to 50503

By check: Pay to the order of United Way of Northeast Florida and mail to P.O. Box 41428, Jacksonville, FL 32203-1428

** Be sure to note “Florida’s First Coast Relief Fund” on the check.

HOW TO ACCESS EMERGENCY INFORMATION

A comprehensive list of emergency resources is available here and updated, as needed, pending any imminent disasters: unitedwaynefl.org/emergency

United Way’s 2-1-1 is a free information and referral hotline available 24 hours, seven days a week to connect callers to emergency resources, including disaster-relief efforts.

About United Way of Northeast Florida

With a rich 93-year history, United Way of Northeast Florida is a respected and efficient philanthropic organization. We envision a community of opportunity where everyone has hope and can reach their full potential. Our mission is to solve our community’s toughest challenges by connecting people, resources and ideas. United Way’s long tradition of addressing the human service needs in Duval, Baker, Clay, Nassau and Northern St. Johns counties is made possible through the commitment of thousands of volunteers, contributors and community partners. unitedwaynefl.org

About United Way of St. Johns County

United Way-SJC fights for the health, education of financial stability of every person in St. Johns County. For 60 years, this has been done by strategically investing in quality programs, building partnerships, advocating for better policies, engaging the community and leveraging resources to focus on community problems that matter most. Success is measured not by dollars raised, but by lives improved and changed. www.unitedway-sjc.org

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Florida’s oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their

philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 54rd year, the Foundation has assets of \$398 million and has made nearly \$450 million in grants since 1964. www.jaxcf.org.

About the Jessie Ball duPont Fund

The Jessie Ball duPont Fund works to expand access and create opportunity by investing in people, organizations and communities that were important to Jessie Ball duPont. The Fund has assets of \$300 million and has awarded more than \$328 million in grants since 1977. www.dupontfund.org

About the Jewish Federation of Jacksonville

The Jewish Federation of Jacksonville is a fundraising organization supporting the members of our community and providing for health, education and welfare, and ensuring the dignity of life. For more information, visit jewishjacksonville.org.

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MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION

United Way of Northeast Florida

Sarah Henderson
Director of Marketing/Communications
904-300-8366
sarahh@uwnefl.org
unitedwaynefl.org

United Way of St. Johns County, Inc.

Melissa Nelson
President & CEO
904-910-6442
904-829-9721
Melissa.Nelson@UnitedWay-SJC.org
unitedway-sjc.org

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

Susan Datz Edelman, VP
Strategic Communications
904-356-4483
sedelman@jaxcf.org
jaxcf.org

Jessie Ball duPont Fund

Mary Kress Littlepage
Communications
904-616-0050
mekl@comcast.net
dupontfund.org

Jewish Federation of Jacksonville

Alan Margolies
Executive Director
904-448-5000
alanm@jewishjacksonville.org
jewishjacksonville.org