

A satellite image of Earth showing a large hurricane with a distinct eye and spiral cloud structure over the Florida Keys region. The land is green and brown, and the ocean is dark blue. The hurricane's clouds are white and grey, swirling in a clockwise direction.

# FLORIDA KEYS

**2017 HURRICANE IRMA  
DISASTER RELIEF INITIATIVE**

VISION  
20  
20

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**



Funding provided a helping hand to veterans, the elderly, special populations and others most in need.

# MORE THAN 3,000

families were living in hotels or other temporary housing after the storm.



Food, water, clothing and housing were urgent needs supported through the relief funds.

On September 10th, 2017, the Florida Keys was struck by one of the most devastating hurricanes in history. Hurricane Irma brought Category 4 winds as strong as 130 mph and a storm surge as high as 12 feet. No part of the Keys was spared. Thousands of residents were affected by the destruction and damage to homes and property, cars, boats, businesses and work places.

“

You helped families who had previously never needed any type of assistance now in great, urgent need.

”

Within days of Hurricane Irma’s strike on the Keys, the Community Foundation activated the **Florida Keys Emergency Relief Fund** and mobilized efforts to raise and distribute critical funding for emergency needs and recovery. Within three weeks, relief grants were distributed. By the end of the year, **\$1,016,900** was disbursed through **74 nonprofit partners**, greatly benefiting thousands of residents from Key West to Key Largo. Vital aid went directly to the dire residents who needed it most—children and families, people who lost their homes, teachers, police officers, workers in the depleted tourism industry, fishermen, artists, special needs populations and more.

Thousands of individuals, businesses and foundations across the country and as far away as New Zealand contributed to CFFK’s disaster relief initiative through generous donations to the **Florida Keys Emergency Relief Fund** and the **Landau Family Hurricane Relief Fund for the Upper Keys**.

100% of all contributions went directly to community needs, thanks in part to the Dogwood Foundation who made a grant to underwrite a portion of the costs to administer this enormous initiative. *And our efforts are not over yet as our community continues to recover and rebuild.*



Members of the Upper Keys Advisory Committee, one of four community groups representing all areas of the Keys formed to assist CFFK with grant review, presented checks for recovery to the nonprofit recipients from Islamorada and Key Largo.

This report is a snapshot of CFFK’s Hurricane Irma disaster relief initiative through Spring 2018. Data is currently being collected on the work still going on throughout the Keys. The quotes and photos are representative of the stories and thank yous expressing the heartfelt gratitude of our Keys residents served through this undertaking. **To learn more about CFFK’s disaster relief initiative, please visit [cffk.org](http://cffk.org).**

“

A family with an infant was thrown out of housing because families had doubled up. We were able to house the family immediately thanks to a grant from CFFK.

”

**OVER  
27,600**

homes were either totally destroyed or received substantial damage.

**OVER  
2.5 MILLION**

cubic yards of storm debris was removed from the keys.

**1,700** water vessels were lost or damaged in the storm.



*Pet care, sheltering and supplies were aided with relief funding.*



*Relief funding delivered meals, groceries, and gift cards for food to those in need.*

## RELIEF FUNDS AT WORK

Here's How Funds Helped Keys Residents:

- Food and Meals
- Home Building and Repairs
- Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance
- Medical Care and Counseling
- Transportation
- Pet Care and Supplies
- Hotels and Housing
- Child Care and Special Programming
- Household Goods and Supplies
- Debris Removal and Clean-up
- Assistance and Referrals



*Funding aided storm debris removal and clean up throughout the Keys.*

“ I was so overwhelmed by my life after Irma. A piece of my life was restored with the help. I have hope again. ”



*The commercial fishing industry, which employs over 4,000 Keys residents, received funding assistance.*

**320**

**Monroe County School students became homeless as a result of the storm.**

## >> LOOKING AHEAD

The Florida Keys are resilient and recovery efforts to date have been nothing short of incredible. It will take several more years for our community to fully recover and rebuild. Working with the Long-Term Recovery Group, CFFK is assessing the hurricane's lasting impact and determining long-term needs up and down the Keys. We continue to receive donations to help with long-term recovery, and we'll continue to make grants to assist Keys residents to get their lives and homes restored. **To see updates and to learn more about how you can help, visit [cffk.org](http://cffk.org).**

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to the over 645 caring individuals, businesses and foundations from around the world who contributed to our disaster relief initiative and had a significant impact on Keys recovery efforts. We're also grateful to the thousands of people who generously shared through a variety of fundraisers for the relief funds from concerts and special events to T-shirt sales and match campaigns and more. Working together, we're making the Florida Keys strong.



**Caring people around the country launched creative fundraising campaigns.** In Devon, PA, April Tellam Timmerman and her family raised funds by delivering plastic pink lawn flamingoes to anyone in their neighborhood donating \$25 or more.

**Youth of all ages and school groups throughout South Florida jumped into the fundraising efforts.** Eli Morris, a 5th grader at Sigsbee Charter School, raised money by selling "Zombie Water" during the Zombie Bike Ride in Key West.



**Concerts, auctions and special events to benefit the relief funds transpired in cities across the country.** The Tampa Bay Rays baseball team generously donated to Keys recovery.

“The funds provided by CFFK and the Landau Family have saved families and staff who were on the verge of collapse.”



## PARTNERS IN PARADISE 2018

Given the unique circumstances, it is clear why CFFK has chosen to focus our annual celebration on our community's enormous efforts to help the Keys recover following Hurricane Irma. We're especially grateful to the 2018 Partners in Paradise Award honorees:

### JON AND JULIE LANDAU



Jon and Julie Landau created the *Landau Family Hurricane Relief Fund for the Upper Keys* at CFFK, which aided thousands of residents in the hard hit Upper Keys with relief, recovery and rebuilding.

### FLORIDA PANTHERS FOUNDATION



The professional ice hockey team generously donated the lead gift of \$250,000 to CFFK's *Florida Keys Emergency Relief Fund* that assisted residents throughout Monroe County with food, housing, counseling and medical care.

### LOWER KEYS MEDICAL CENTER



The hospital's emergency room reopened within hours of Hurricane Irma's strike on the Keys and LKMC assisted hundreds of Lower Keys residents through a generous contribution to CFFK's disaster relief initiative.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS



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