





Quarterly Newsletter

Stay up to date with Headwaters Relief Organization

Hello Friend!

Headwaters Relief Organization's recovery work from Hurricanes Helene and Milton

This fall, with the help of our dedicated volunteers, we were able to mobilize an impressive disaster response effort to support Florida communities devastated by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Our call for action resonated deeply, bringing together compassionate individuals willing to assist in the aftermath of the storms. Volunteers traveled to the affected areas in the months of October and November, dedicating their time to assist with debris cleanup, mold remediation, and emotional support.

We also conducted a donation drive and collected a truckload of essential supplies for mothers and young children. Two of our volunteers drove them down to Florida and handed them over to our local partners for effective distribution.

Some stories from the Ground in Florida





One team, led by Ashley Emry, focused on the Homosassa and Crystal River areas. They tackled projects such as mold removal and drywall demolition. Despite limited tools, the team persevered to begin to restore a livable space for the families.

A veteran received crucial assistance with major repairs to his flood-damaged home. His gratitude underscored the value of helping those who have served our country. The team also extended support to a neighboring community member and identified additional families in need.

Another group, led by Jenny Schraut, worked in Clear Lake. Among the homeowners helped was a father navigating FEMA funding challenges after purchasing a previously storm-damaged home. The team not only removed extensive water-damaged drywall but also guided the homeowner in better understanding the recovery process.

In another home, the elderly resident faced health challenges exacerbated by storm damage. Volunteers carefully removed moldy materials while respecting her need for a secure, locked home. The owner expressed her appreciation by calling her family to share the volunteers' kindness.

Supplies Delivered with Care

In addition to hands-on efforts, our volunteers delivered donations, including water, hand wipes, work gloves, and essential supplies for mothers and young children. These items provided immediate relief to families struggling to regain stability.





A Community of Compassion

We believe that these efforts of our volunteers, coupled with the generous support from donors and partners, have made a positive impact on these resident's journey to recovery. Each individual we helped and every house we worked on represents a step toward healing and rebuilding. This work is possible because of your generous spirit. Whether you join us on the ground or contribute to our disaster relief fund, your involvement makes all the difference. This article captures the essence of your efforts in Florida and highlights the inspiring contributions of your teams and supporters. Let me know if you'd like adjustments or additional details included!

Headwaters Relief Organization's 6th Annual Mardi Gras Gala

Saturday, February 22, 2025 Watson Block, Minneapolis, MN

Join us for an enchanting evening as we celebrate milestones achieved with your unwavering support! The Mardi Gras Gala pays homage to our beginnings in New Orleans during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, back in 2005. It's a night to honor the progress we've made together.

With your help, Headwaters has impacted countless lives through disaster relief efforts, public health initiatives, and dedicated volunteerism. We invite you to be part of this special celebration, commemorating nearly two decades of brining hope and building resilience in communities affected by natural disaster.

Mark your calendars and get ready for an unforgettable night!



Dear Friends of Headwaters Relief:

I hope this letter finds you well. We are contacting you because of your prior history of support and commitment to our organization. Headwaters provides assistance to victims and communities both nationwide and worldwide that have experienced a natural disaster. As you know, the past several years have been characterized by an ever-increasing number of natural disasters, seemingly everywhere.



The most recent events, that are still so fresh in our memories, have been the back-to-back hurricanes Helene and Milton that wreaked havoc on the southeastern section of the United States. The added dilemma in these current cases is the enormous amount of flood damage that has caused many homes to become uninhabitable with many victims finding they do not have insurance coverage or very low payout limits. Meanwhile the federal government support from FEMA has not been able to cope and respond to the large volume of those affected. This is especially the case for those victims in outlying isolated areas which get little or no help other than what local donors and volunteers are able to contribute, along with disaster relief organizations and non-profits such as Headwaters. The importance and effectiveness of Headwaters is characterized by our willingness to seek out individuals and families without sufficient resources.

As we end 2024 year, it is more evident than ever that organizations such as Headwaters are key players in providing assistance to those most in need with the least resources. As such, your contribution, regardless of size, can help Headwaters achieve our goal to bring hope for a brighter future to those we serve. Your support is a true lifeline for the people we serve. We appreciate your partnership in this work. I encourage you to visit the Headwaters Relief Organization website at <u>https://headwatersrelief.org/</u> for more information and updates. I feel it is also important to note that Headwaters Relief has no paid employees and depends totally on volunteers for all of our work. 100 % of donated funds support our work with the victims of natural disasters.

In summary, to make donations you may do so through our website or by sending your contribution to

Headwaters Relief Organization

9400 Golden Valley Road,

Golden Valley Minnesota 55427.

With Heartfelt Gratitude,

Daniel G Leitner, Headwaters Board President.



Monthly Volunteer Events

Over the past year, we have been dedicated to supporting troops, their families, children, and communities around the globe through the sponsorship of North American Banking Company. One way we have accomplished this is by packing military care packages, children's activity kits, and clean-up kits.

Our military care packages include snacks and other treats that are thoughtfully packaged and sent to soldiers deployed. A majority of the treats we send are to soldiers deployed overseas. These items provide a taste of home and remind our troops that we appreciate their service and sacrifice.

We have created activity packs for children in disaster-affected areas, designed to keep them engaged and occupied as we collaborate with caregivers and educators on vital public health and mental health education. Our disaster clean-up kits complete with sponges, scrub brushes, gloves, n95 masks, towels, and mold removal spray—are essential tools for those who find themselves in need after a disaster.

We are inspired by the way our community unites to volunteer and uplift others in their time of need. These acts of kindness have the power to transform lives, both for those impacted by disasters and for our deployed troops. With gratitude, we look forward to continuing this vital work in 2025.





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