

OCTOBER 2026

HURRICANE MILTON TWO-YEAR REPORT



**American
Red Cross**

A LETTER FROM

Cliff Holtz, President and CEO, American Red Cross



Two years ago, Hurricane Milton swept across Florida, bringing widespread flooding, damaging winds and prolonged power outages. For many residents, the storm was yet another devastating setback, striking communities still recovering from recent disasters, including hurricanes Ian, Ida, Helene and other major storms. In anticipation of the hurricane's impact, the American Red Cross prepared shelters, positioned relief supplies and mobilized trained volunteers to help people in harm's way.

Even before Milton made landfall, the Red Cross helped support safe refuge for more than 20,000 evacuees. In the days that followed, our volunteers provided meals, relief supplies, emotional support, emergency financial assistance and other critical services across affected communities. When I visited Florida after the storm, I saw firsthand the dedication of our disaster workers and the remarkable strength of people facing tremendous loss.

Today, our commitment to Hurricane Milton survivors remains steadfast. Over the past two years, Red Cross caseworkers have helped individuals and families navigate the recovery process, connect with available resources and overcome ongoing challenges. We have provided additional financial assistance to some of the hardest-hit households and, through our Long-Term Recovery program, funded grants to community partners delivering vital recovery and resiliency services across Florida.

As we mark two years since Hurricane Milton, I am deeply grateful to the volunteers, partners and donors who continue to make this work possible. Together, we are helping individuals, families and communities recover, rebuild and emerge stronger. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for your generosity and compassion.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cliff". The signature is stylized with a cursive, flowing script.

Cliff



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Thousands of Red Cross disaster workers mounted a massive response to help people impacted by Hurricane Milton. They have:



Reached an estimated **13,000** people with relief and recovery services, including **\$12.6 million** in financial assistance



Served more than **500,000** meals and snacks with partners



Provided over **153,000** overnight shelter stays with partners



Provided relief items to more than **1,800** households

Delivering Compassionate Care in Milton's Wake

In October 2024, Hurricane Milton struck Florida's Gulf Coast near Siesta Key, just two weeks after Hurricane Helene had already inundated parts of the state with severe coastal flooding. With sustained winds of 115 mph, the Category 3 storm battered communities along Florida's western shoreline, damaging homes, disrupting critical infrastructure and driving a powerful storm surge into many already vulnerable areas.

As Milton crossed the peninsula, its outer bands spawned a historic tornado outbreak that devastated neighborhoods in southern and eastern Florida. Destructive tornadoes tore through homes, businesses and communities, while torrential rainfall caused widespread flooding across central Florida, adding to the extraordinary challenges residents were already facing.

Even before Milton made landfall, hundreds of American Red Cross disaster responders were on the ground supporting people affected by Hurricane Helene. Working alongside community organizations and emergency response partners, Red Cross teams quickly expanded operations, opening shelters and delivering critical services as tens of thousands of residents evacuated ahead of the storm.

In Milton's aftermath, Red Cross volunteers worked tirelessly to reach impacted communities, navigating flooded and obstructed roads to deliver meals, water, relief supplies, cleanup kits and emotional support. Many

Above: Volunteers with Red Cross Community Adaptation Program partner EPIC helped conduct damage assessments in Englewood, Florida, after Hurricane Milton. Englewood suffered severe damage, with many homes torn apart or buried under sand. EPIC volunteers also mucked and gutted homes, provided meals, and staffed a community resiliency hub. Photo by American Red Cross of North and Central Florida

*Cumulative figures as of September 9, 2026.

survivors faced prolonged power outages and mounting hardships after enduring multiple hurricanes in a short period of time. To help families address urgent needs, the Red Cross also provided financial assistance that could be used for essentials such as food, clothing, transportation and other immediate recovery expenses. Additionally, our Shelter Resident Transition teams worked with individuals and families staying in disaster shelters to identify barriers, connect them with resources, and develop individualized plans for moving into stable housing and other longer-term recovery solutions.

Volunteers from across the country answered the call to help, with many returning to Florida for multiple disaster deployments. In addition to supporting shelter and feeding operations, they staffed community resource centers, assisted with damage assessments, provided basic health services and offered emotional support and crisis counseling. Their compassion and commitment brought comfort, hope and stability to people facing an uncertain path forward.

Two years after Hurricanes Helene and Milton struck Florida in rapid succession, the American Red Cross remains committed to helping affected individuals, families and communities recover and rebuild.

Standing with Survivors Through Their Recovery Journey

Two years after Hurricanes Helene and Milton struck Florida in rapid succession, the American Red Cross remains committed to helping affected individuals, families and communities recover and rebuild. Along with additional direct financial assistance for households with severe disaster-caused damage, the Red Cross also invested in long-term recovery efforts through strategic partnerships with organizations that bring specialized expertise and local knowledge to recovery work..



Volunteer Taylor Sausen speaks with Tina Rushing shortly after her arrival at a Red Cross shelter in Clearwater, Florida. Like many of her neighbors, Tina found refuge at the shelter after Hurricane Milton flooded her home. Photo by Marko Kokic/American Red Cross

Generous Supporters Powered Financial Assistance for Milton Survivors

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Red Cross launched a multi-phase financial assistance program to help individuals and families whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged by Hurricane Milton.

In the weeks following the storm, emergency financial assistance provided flexible support that allowed survivors to address their most urgent needs. Whether used for groceries, fuel, temporary lodging, utility bills or transportation costs, these funds helped families begin the recovery process on their own terms.

As recovery progressed, the Red Cross provided a second round of financial assistance to households facing significant ongoing challenges. This additional support helped bridge critical gaps as families worked to repair homes, replace damaged belongings, address health-related expenses and manage other recovery costs while awaiting longer-term resources. Over the past year, powered by generous financial support from donors, we launched a third round of financial assistance to help people with persistent and complex recovery needs.

As of September 9, 2026, the Red Cross had provided approximately **\$12.6 million in direct financial assistance** to help Hurricane Milton survivors address some of their most pressing recovery needs.

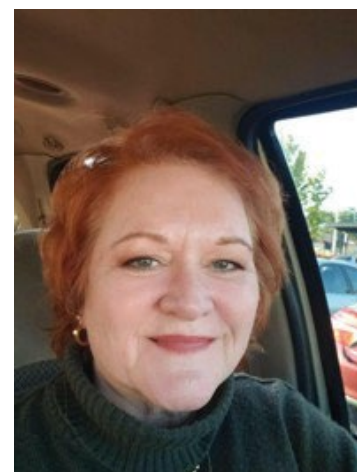
“I’ve never had help like that ... a miracle.”

**LUANNE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA,
ON RECEIVING RED CROSS
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
HELP WITH HOME REPAIRS**

LUANNE’S STORY: LuAnne, who has lived in Orlando, Florida, since she was one year old, was one of the recipients of this year’s latest round of Red Cross financial assistance. Her home was damaged by Hurricane Milton, and she told us that she could smell the mold, even though she had to continue living in the house for financial reasons.

LuAnne used the assistance she received from the Red Cross to repair her roof, which had been leaking for eight months. She called the assistance “a tremendous blessing.” She was able to repair her roof and help pay some overdue utility bills just in the nick of time. “I’ve never had help like that ... a miracle,” she said.

LuAnne told us that people today are hungry for contact. “We’re so busy, not slowing down to pay attention,” she explained. In this spirit, before her engine blew, she had been taking her old, disabled neighbors to the grocery store in her car. To her, reaching people in need is the greatest work. Knowing that generous Red Cross supporters have now done the same for her, LuAnne told us that she will always be grateful. “Bless the Red Cross,” she said.



LuAnne, an Orlando, Florida, resident whose home was severely damaged by Milton, received Red Cross financial assistance to help repair her leaking roof. Photo by American Red Cross

Grants to Partners Help Communities Recover, Become More Resilient

Red Cross recovery grants support a wide range of individual, family and community needs. These investments help fund services such as home repair, food assistance, mental health programs and legal support for survivors. Grants also strengthen broader community recovery efforts by supporting local leadership, advancing preparedness initiatives and helping communities become more resilient to future disasters.

To date, the Red Cross has distributed approximately **\$11.2 million in grants supporting recovery, preparedness and resilience** for people and communities affected by Hurricane Milton, with additional investments continuing as needs evolve.

“To leave my home would have killed me. I would not have been able to repair it without their help.”

JOAN, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, ON RED CROSS-SUPPORTED REPAIRS TO HER HOME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

JOAN'S STORY: For nearly 30 years, Joan Hupp's Florida home has been the center of her family's life, filled with memories of her late brother, husband and loved ones. After Hurricane Milton damaged the roof, repeated leaks caused water damage throughout the home and left Joan worried each time it rained, since the family lacked the resources to make needed repairs. After her husband's passing in 2025, Joan faced even greater uncertainty about whether she could remain in her cherished home.

Thanks to generous Red Cross donors, we provided recovery funds to Indian River Habitat for Humanity to help people like Joan rebuild and recover after Hurricane Milton. Critical roof repairs were completed, restoring the safety and stability of Joan's home.

“To leave my home would have killed me,” Joan said. “I would not have been able to repair it without their help.”

Today, Joan remains safely in the home that holds decades of family memories, thanks to the support of Red Cross donors and community partners.



Joan Hupp, of Indian River County, Florida, stands in front of her longtime family home, newly repaired thanks to a partnership between the Red Cross and Indian River Habitat for Humanity. Photo by American Red Cross

“[Our] volunteers will continue investing thousands of hours of skilled and compassionate service this next year in South Sarasota County and Manatee County, Florida. As put best by the Red Cross, their home repairs are delivering support to hurricane survivors when help can’t wait.”

**CHRIS GIBSON, DIRECTOR
OF DISASTER RESPONSE
SERVICES FOR RED CROSS
COMMUNITY PARTNER
WORLD RENEW**

WORLD RENEW (SARASOTA): Another Red Cross grantee, World Renew, has partnered with the Sarasota County Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) and Hope Pathways, Inc., to provide volunteer labor for repairs and reconstruction of Milton-damaged homes. This work addressed essential needs for impacted families, including installing new drywall, repairing or installing flooring and cabinetry, repainting homes and more. Volunteers repaired homes under the guidance of construction supervision, committed to providing safe and secure housing to lift up vulnerable disaster survivors across Florida.

“[Our] volunteers will continue investing thousands of hours of skilled and compassionate service this next year in South Sarasota County and Manatee County, Florida,” said Chris Gibson, director of Disaster Response Services for World Renew. “As put best by the Red Cross, their home repairs are delivering support to hurricane survivors when help can’t wait.”

Building Community Resilience

Another key focus of our Hurricane Milton response is strengthening locally led Long-Term Recovery Groups through grant funding. These investments help accelerate recovery today while building lasting community capacity. Long after our operation ends, these groups will remain in place and be ready to mobilize if future disasters affect their communities.

The Red Cross has awarded 20 grants to long-term recovery groups serving communities affected by Hurricane Milton. These capacity-building grants are focused on supporting these groups, as they continue with program activities related to recovery two years after landfall.

In addition, our local Sarasota County Community Adaptation Program (CAP) field team has been working to build the capacity of hyper-local nonprofit organizations, helping to increase community resilience and lessen the impact of disaster-caused displacement on the most vulnerable.

This paid off during the 2024 hurricane responses, as three of these partner organizations, all within five minutes of each other, used their training to activate and respond to Hurricanes Helene and Milton alongside the Red Cross.



Red Cross Community Adaptation Partner Streets of Paradise is one of three hyper-local partners in Sarasota County that activated to support our hurricane response. After a family lost their home and all its contents to Milton, they helped the family with replacement furnishings. Another CAP partner, Mothers Helping Mothers, provided baby supplies for the oldest daughter’s new baby. Photo by American Red Cross of North and Central Florida

Compassionate Supporters Power Relief and Recovery for Milton Survivors

Thanks to generous supporters, the Red Cross has raised **\$13 million** designated for our Hurricane Milton response to help people impacted by this disaster — including the value of critical donated goods and services. As of September 9, 2026, the Red Cross had already spent or made commitments to spend approximately **\$43.3 million** on emergency relief and recovery efforts for Hurricane Milton. To fill this large gap, and to continue to support the long-term recovery needs of people and communities affected by Hurricane Milton in the months to come, the Red Cross is also using funds from our combined Hurricanes Milton and Helene designation.¹

Hurricane Milton Expenses and Commitments^{2,3,4} (in millions) As of September 9, 2026

Expense Categories	Food, Shelter and Relief Items	Health and Emotional Support	Financial Assistance	Community Recovery & Resilience	Total	Expense %
Long-term recovery programs to help unmet needs	—	—	\$11.1	\$11.2	\$22.3	52%
Deployment of volunteers and staff (includes airfare, lodging, meals and vehicles)	\$3.8	\$0.6	\$0.9	\$0.1	\$5.4	12%
Financial assistance, food, shelter and other relief items	\$3.3	\$0.1	\$1.5	—	\$4.9	11%
Temporary disaster hires	\$0.3	—	\$0.1	\$2.3	\$2.7	6%
Full-time Red Cross employees	\$0.8	—	\$0.2	\$0.5	\$1.5	3%
IT, communications and call centers	\$0.5	—	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.8	2%
Freight, postage and warehousing	\$0.8	—	—	—	\$0.8	2%
Equipment, maintenance and fueling of Red Cross emergency vehicles and rented trucks	\$0.3	—	—	—	\$0.3	1%
Kitchen, shelter and other logistics that enable service delivery	\$0.2	—	\$0.1	—	\$0.3	1%
Total Program Expenses	\$10.0	\$0.7	\$14.1	\$14.2	\$39.0	90%
Management, general and fundraising					\$4.3	10%
Total Spent & Committed					\$43.3	100%

¹ As of September 9, 2026, the Red Cross had raised \$51.7 million for the combined Hurricanes Milton and Helene designation.

² Dollar figures are rounded to the nearest \$100,000; therefore, expenses \$49,999 and below are represented as zero.

³ Includes expenses reimbursed by the State of Florida.

⁴ Management, general and fundraising expenses support our work at its core and are indispensable to running the organization and helping people in need. They include the people and systems to maintain our enterprise-wide computer and telecommunications, HR and payroll systems to support nearly 18,000 employees and more than 265,000 volunteers, fundraising and communications functions, and other support services across all program lines. Through June 30, 2026, ninety cents of every dollar spent for Hurricane Milton supported the delivery of care and comfort for people affected by this disaster. As of July 1, 2026, that figure has increased to 91 cents of every dollar spent or remaining to be spent, reflecting our efforts to maximize the resources available to deliver our humanitarian mission.



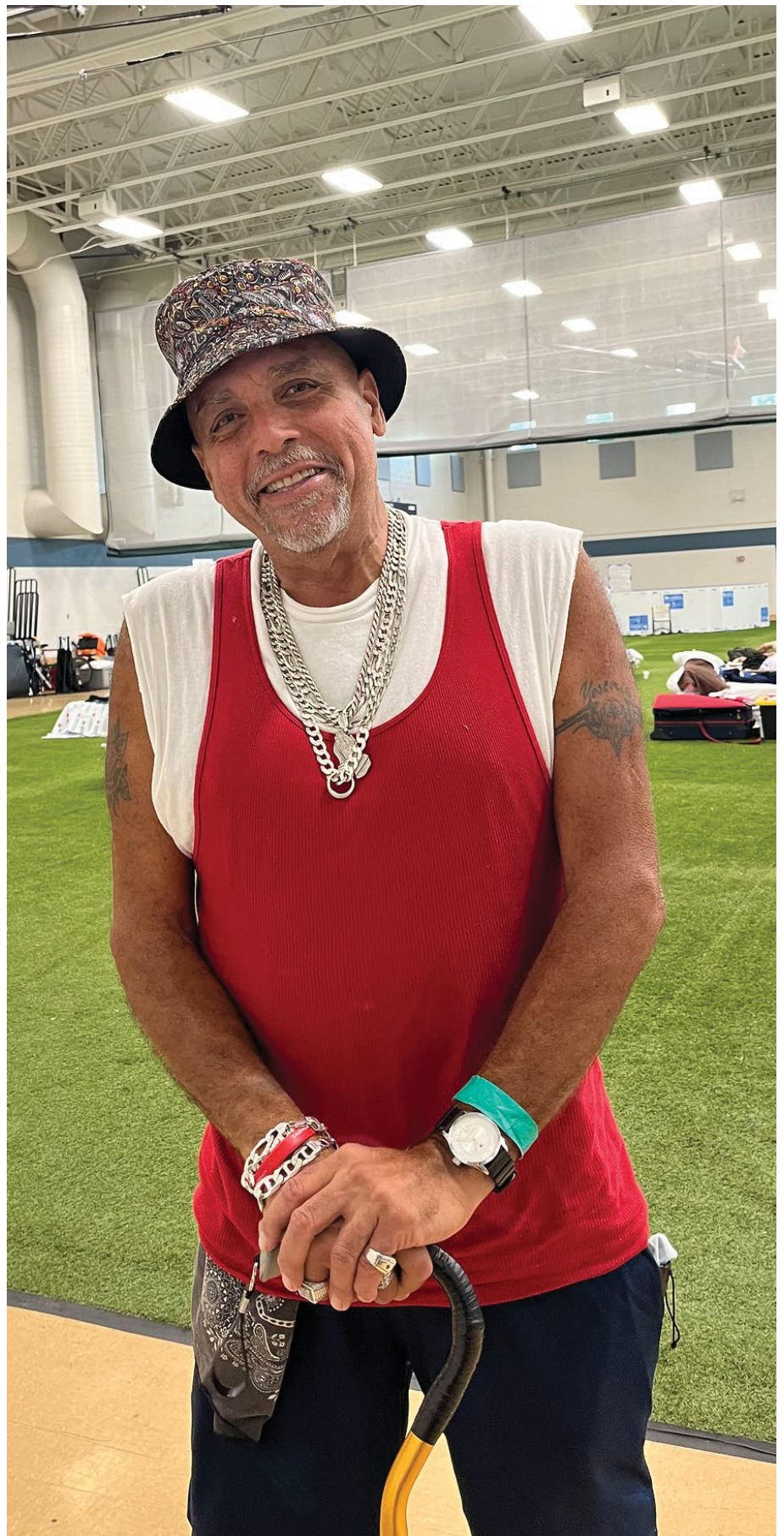
Your Support Made a Real Difference

The extraordinary generosity of the public helped tens of thousands in need before, during and after Hurricane Milton. To learn more about our response and some of the people we've helped, please visit our Hurricane Milton Stewardship Story Map at redcross.org/hurricane-milton.



“I have my own apartment now. It brings a tear to my eye,” said Steve. “I get to meet new people and finally have a sense of community I have been missing since my mother passed.”

Steve Surillo was all smiles as he prepared to leave the Red Cross shelter he's been staying at since Milton made landfall. Working with local resources, the Red Cross Shelter Resident Transition team was able to get Surillo a new apartment in a 55+ community. Everything he needs can now be found in his apartment complex.





Thank you!



**American
Red Cross**

The Red Cross must be ready for every disaster, big or small, and we respond to an average of more than 60,000 disasters each year — including home fires, severe weather, floods and wildfires. Those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us right after the disaster and throughout their recovery. Your donation helps us fulfill this promise. We are grateful for your trust.

Red Cross volunteer Andrew Korb from Ohio sits with New Port Richey, Florida, resident Sandy Johnson at the Veterans Memorial Center shelter in Hudson, Florida. Her community was impacted by both Helen and Milton. Photo by Marko Kokic/American Red Cross



The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.