



LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST

**DISASTER
RESPONSE
SERVICES**

**PENSACOLA,
FLORIDA**



THE STORM

People don't usually think of Florida as one of the last places on earth they'd want to be. But from April 7 to May 2, 2014, that's exactly how folks living in the Florida panhandle felt.

In the space of one month, four severe weather systems ripped through the region with a vengeance.

Severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and torrential rain damaged structures and produced life-threatening floods. Some areas received two feet of rainfall within 36 hours, inundating homes and washing out bridges and roads.

On May 6, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a Major Disaster Declaration covering the Florida panhandle region.



THE SURVIVORS

Though Florida is no stranger to severe weather, the disastrous flooding resulting from the combined storms hit thousands of people in the Pensacola area particularly hard.

One of those people was a single mother of four named Sienna. The storm sent a tree limb crashing through her roof, and the house was flooded with more than four feet of rising water. After the water finally receded, mold and mildew set in.

With a household income under \$10,000, completing the necessary repairs has proved impossible. Estimated costs for construction and replacement of the furnace, refrigerator, and furniture top \$35,000. The children's pre-existing medical issues make it unsafe for them to live in the house.

The family received \$1,600 in rental assistance from FEMA, but their mother does not believe they will recover without additional help.

They are not alone. Hundreds of other families in Pensacola are living in similarly difficult circumstances months after the storms hit.



THE NEED

In September 2014, World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) dispatched teams to the Pensacola area to assess disaster related needs. While some volunteers staffed a walk-in center, others went door-to-door to interview survivors.

The team personally interviewed 300 homeowners, revealing many with extensive ongoing needs that had not yet been addressed by federal disaster assistance. The team also made contact with an additional 1,280 homeowners to ensure they knew where and how to report their needs so that they could apply for assistance. Of the 300 people who sought help from DRS, the majority have an annual income of less than \$20,000. Many are vulnerable because of disabilities, medical problems, or advanced age. Most had no flood insurance, since this area of Pensacola does not lie in an official flood plain.

World Renew DRS estimates that the total uninsured construction costs for these clients equals \$5.3 million.



OUR MISSION

The mission of World Renew Disaster Response Services is

- **TO SHOW** God's love and bring hope to disaster impacted communities in North America by restoring the homes and lives of those who are most vulnerable,
- **TO HELP** communities build their capacity to prepare for and recover from disaster, and
- **TO PROVIDE** opportunities for Christians to honor the Lord by using their time, talents, and financial resources in service to others.

FUTURE RESPONSE EFFORTS

Partnering with local organizations is a cornerstone of World Renew's disaster response efforts.

After assessing the need, World Renew DRS signed a memorandum of understanding with Pensacola's local long-term recovery committee, Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies (BRACE), a faith-based non-profit organization.

World Renew DRS has made a commitment to BRACE to provide back-to-back three-week teams of 18-20 construction volunteers beginning on January 10, 2015. The provision of DRS construction supervisors and on-site managers will allow BRACE to focus their energy and resources on case management and fundraising for materials.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Since 1972, World Renew DRS volunteers have provided tangible, meaningful evidence of God's love to hurting people.

Your gift to World Renew DRS will provide funding to rebuild the homes—and the lives—of people in the Pensacola area who are suffering from long-term effects of the devastating spring 2014 storms.

World Renew DRS plans to work in Pensacola for two years. The funding needed to accomplish this disaster response is \$250,000; \$125,000 per year.

Thank you for considering how you can partner with World Renew DRS to bring hope and healing.

SUMMARY OF SITE EXPENSES

Account	Cost	%	Expenses
Administrative office expenses	\$ 8,750	7%	Administrative expenses of running the reconstruction site(not general World Renew DRS administrative expenses): office supplies, postage, first aid supplies, phone
Housing	\$ 41,250	33%	Food, rent (if we pay rent), utilities, other housing expenses
Travel	\$ 58,750	47%	Transporting volunteers who provide the labor and management of the site: fuel, airline costs, car rental, etc.
Vehicle expenses	\$ 16,250	13%	Vehicle maintenance on World Renew DRS vehicles on site.
Total for one year	\$ 125,000		

worldrenew.net/drs



US: 1700 28th Street SE • Grand Rapids MI 49508-1407 • 1-800-552-7972

Canada: 3475 Mainway • PO Box 5070 STN LCD1 • Burlington ON L7R 3Y8 • 1-800-730-3490