

Mission **MOMENT**

AFTER THE HURRICANE

After the hurricane, a year-long wait. After the wait, another hurricane. After that, the loss of a loved one. Then, finally, the help Billy James Mason needed.

Mr. Mason, a resident of Daytona Beach, Florida, is no stranger to struggle. As a young man, he served in the military during the Vietnam War, and more recently he has served as the primary caregiver for several family members during the final years of their lives. When Hurricane Matthew hit in the fall of 2015, it destroyed the roof of Mr. Mason's home. Less than a year later, Hurricane Irma wreaked havoc throughout Florida, further damaging Mr. Mason's home. Though he received some assistance from FEMA and had some resources of his own, it was not enough to make the necessary repairs. In the fall of 2017, Mr. Mason connected with a group that was able to help him in more ways than he could have ever imagined: the Volusia Interfaiths/Agencies Networking Disaster (VIND).

VIND is a non-profit organization of community leaders, businesses, churches, and agencies coordinating recovery efforts in Volusia County in response to Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. Prioritizing people who are most vulnerable, VIND is working with homeowners who are low-income, elderly, or disabled.

"It's a Godsend." Mr. Mason said. "Out of the blue I got a call... I had never heard of VIND before. I am so happy they chose me to get this done. This house has a lot of memories."

The work of VIND was about more than just replacing a roof and repairing storm damage. It is about restoring hope. According to Terry Foley, Project Manager for VIND, Mr. Mason is "a changed man." Before volunteer crews came, he was "very emotional and appeared to be depressed," Foley notes. But by Christmastime, he was happy, finishing up painting the interior of his house, and expecting a visit from a niece over the holidays.

Week of Compassion grants helped VIND process dozens of cases for homeowners like Mr. Mason, procure needed materials, and hire contractors to oversee repairs. After the hurricane, came your generosity. After the hurricane, there was hope. Through your generous gifts, Mr. Mason--and hundreds like him in Florida, Texas, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, and elsewhere--have had their lives changed for the better. Through your gifts, God is doing **More Than We Can Imagine!**



Volunteer crews helped Billy James Mason replace his roof and repair damage from Hurricanes Matthew and Irma.
[photo: Terry Foley; VIND]