AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

HURRICANE IRMA

August 30 - September 13, 2017, the Category 5 hurricane Irma caused widespread damage in the northern Caribbean as well as the Florida Keys before heading north. In Jacksonville, Florida, the wind and rain along with tidal flow met the already saturated inland waterways and caused the St. Johns River to jump its banks and flood the city in a devastating and unexpected way. The city of 900,000 had not seen such severe flooding since 1835 when the population was about 1000. Jacksonville continued to deal with flooding even after the storm was gone due to the water flowing down from the northern part of the river and the periodic tides rushing in.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA LTRO

The Northeast Florida Long Term Recovery Organization is a collaborative network of governmental, business, faith-based and nonprofit organizations working together to help individuals and families in Duval and Nassau counties who need assistance recovering from Hurricane Irma.

Ability Housing
American Red Cross of Northeast Florida
Baptist Health
Barnabas Center
Catholic Charities Bureau - Jacksonville
Catholic Charities Bureau - DOSA
Clay SafetyNet Alliance
City of Jacksonville

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida
ElderSource
Endeavors
Family Foundations of Northeast Florida, Inc.
FEMA
Feeding Northeast Florida
Florida Conference United Methodist Church
Florida Department of Children & Families
Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network
Grace and Truth CDC
Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc.
Hunger Fight
Jax Metro/Self-Help Credit Union
Jessie Ball duPont Fund
Jewish Family & Community Services, Inc.
LISC Jacksonville
Metro North Community Development Corporation
Modular Life Solutions
Nassau County
Nassau Public Private Partnership
Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida
Northeast Florida Builders Association Builders Care Inc.
Northwest Jacksonville CDC
Presbyterian Social Ministries
Rotary District 6970
St. Paul AME Church Disaster Relief Ministry
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jacksonville East Stake
The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
The Elevated Studio, Inc.
The Independent Resource
Living Center
The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida
Three Rivers Legal Services
Transforming Communities Community Development Corporation
United Way of Northeast Florida
Volunteer Florida
Wealth Watchers Inc.

DAMAGE TO JACKSONVILLE
$85M

YRS SINCE IRMA
2

SUSTAINED WIND
130 MPH

POPULATION OF DUVAL COUNTY
950,181

FLORIDIANS WHO EVACUATED
6.5M

IRMA FATALITIES IN FL.
84
Survivors of a disaster are often faced with challenges that their life experience has not prepared them for. They may be sleeping on a friend’s couch while still going to work and caring for children, family members, pets. They may be faced with an unlivable home or one that no longer exists. They may have lost all their belongings, treasured memories and even family or friends. They may be scared about what the future holds for them and their safety during future storms. Recovery is difficult and much depends on individuals circumstances.

Throughout our leadership role in the disaster recovery, homeowners that we have met and assisted at some point asked us, “What now? How do I make my family safe? How can you help us make our home safe from future storms?” At times, it is a difficult question to respond to. With some, it is as simple as elevating a boiler or electrical panel out of a basement and harm’s way. For others, who may still be working through the emotional trauma from the storm, it might be knowing that the home that their family was raised in may need to be replaced. This is the reality for thousands of homeowners in the region who still have not begun their recovery process.

After most disasters, there is a large disparity between those individuals who have financial means, and those that do not. Those that do, start and end their recovery quickly, typically within 18 months, post-event. These individuals tend to gain over $85,000 in wealth. The wealthy can quickly retain the services of an attorney, architect and contractor to expedite their recovery. This speed of recovery expands the socio-economic gap for affected populations. Conversely, those families that do not have the economic means to retain professional services, take 3-5 times as long, and lose approximately $20,000 in wealth. This gap is becoming wider and wider with each and every disaster. Especially when there is a repetitive loss in the county where the disaster occurs.

The Duval County (population +950,000) and the surrounding counties’ demographics indicate that there is a disproportionate number of individuals living in marginalized and vulnerable neighborhoods. 16% of the population lives in poverty In Duval County alone, there were 65,627 applicants (<30% and <50% LMI) for individual assistance through FEMA. 9,255 received assistance, leaving an unmet need of 56,372 residents.

15.1% below the poverty line
22.6% under 18
14% over 65
40% people of color
10% people with access or functional need
The Elevated Studio promotes social equity by expanding access to socially-responsible design that helps communities achieve economic and physical resilience and sustainability. We believe that every member of a community should have access to and benefit from socially-responsible design. We believe that social, economic, and physical resilience and sustainability are intertwined and within reach to all.

GOALS

• Provide innovative and inclusive community and survivor-centric client management and cost-effective, resilient design and reconstruction for homeowners and community members;

• Educate property owners (regardless of building/property scale) and local design and construction professionals on the importance of building back better;

• Provide a forum for inclusive community engagement centered on preparedness and mitigation of future climate events.

OBJECTIVES

• Providing a passionate team of design professionals and disaster case managers to support disaster-impacted property owners regardless of social, economic or political boundaries. Special attention is given to those individuals who may fall into one of the many vulnerable population categories;

• Ensuring that high-quality sustainability and resilience standards and practices are implemented throughout the rebuilding process;

• Engaging with disaster case management programs and providing the necessary training to those entities on the importance of marrying a Disaster Case Management Professional with design/construction services, thereby shortening the recovery timeline for the property owner;

• Employing a community engagement process for educating program clients (property owners) about the vulnerabilities and needs of their home or business; this may include disaster risk mitigation, the reconstruction process, and/or how to maintain their new homes or buildings;

• Advising local builders in the use of safer, more resilient building techniques and materials; and

• Engaging local professionals in program-related activities, to create job opportunities and support the local economy.
WE SEE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE!