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Florida League of Cities Donates to REBUILD 850 Initiative

Florida League of Cities donates \$25,000 to Hurricane Michael recovery efforts

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The Florida League of Cities today announced it's making a \$25,000 donation to assist with the ongoing recovery efforts following the widespread destruction of Hurricane Michael. The donation is being made to REBUILD 850, an initiative launched last month with the goal of keeping the continuing needs of communities in Florida's Panhandle front and center following the record-breaking hurricane.

"It's been two months since Hurricane Michael made landfall, but many of our cities are still dealing with the destruction the storm left behind," said Florida League of Cities President and Bartow Mayor Leo E. Longworth. "These municipalities need help, and the Florida League of Cities is here to link arms with those communities and support them in every way we can."

"More than 50 cities and towns across the Panhandle were significantly and directly impacted by the destruction of Hurricane Michael," said Florida League of Cities Executive Director Mike Sittig. "These municipalities and the people who live in them will rebuild, but it's up to us as a state and nation to come together and surround them with support in the form of our time and our resources. We're proud to be a part of this exciting and necessary effort that prioritizes rebuilding our Panhandle communities."

The League's donation, along with other funds raised by the REBUILD 850 initiative and the Florida Disaster Fund, will be distributed to service organizations that serve individuals within their communities with disaster response and recovery. Losses from Hurricane Michael could top \$4.5 billion.

"Volunteer Florida is thankful for our partnership with Rebuild 850, resulting in the Florida League of Cities' generous donation to the Florida Disaster Fund," said Volunteer Florida CEO David Mica, Jr. "In 2019, we will continue to administer these funds in the panhandle, allowing us to remain actively involved in the area's long-term recovery efforts."

REBUILD 850 is co-chaired by former Florida House Speakers Allan Bense, Will Weatherford and former Congresswoman Gwen Graham, with the help of a diverse group of dedicated partner organizations from across the state, including the Florida League of Cities. The initiative encourages people to donate, volunteer, visit and invest to support the region's long-term recovery efforts. All funds donated to the initiative will be administered by the Florida Disaster Fund, the state's official private fund established to assist Florida's communities as they respond to and recover during times of emergency or disaster. For more information, visit rebuild850.org.

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities. Florida's cities are formed by their citizens and governed by their citizens. The League is founded on the belief that local self-government is the keystone of American democracy. For more information, visit floridaleagueofcities.com.