



BECAUSE THERE SHOULD BE A CALM AFTER THE STORM

HURRICANE MARIA

When Hurricane Maria struck, she changed the future for millions of people. Some lost their loved ones. Some lost their homes. Some lost their jobs. Some lost their hope. With no other option, many evacuated to Central Florida start a new life.

FINDING SOLUTIONS: STABLE HOUSING

The Hurricane Maria Housing Assistance Program supports evacuees who have secured jobs and identified housing, but need help with the initial deposit costs of transitioning from hotel to more stable housing. Jose was a father of a 5-year-old son and husband to a wife pregnant with their second child when he arrived in Central Florida after the hurricane.

With his family remaining in Puerto Rico due to medical reasons, Jose arrived at the Orlando International Airport Welcome Center and was connected to United Way for temporary hotel housing while waiting for his FEMA application to process. In the meantime, he secured two part-time jobs and was able to rush back to the island for the birth of his daughter.

When he returned to Central Florida, he was approved for low-income housing. However, the security deposits for the apartment and utilities would take months for him to save up with much of his income going back to

support his family in Puerto Rico. United Way was able to assist with the deposit costs and now he is eagerly anticipating the arrival of his family to their new home!

INVESTING IN RESULTS

By investing in United Way, you are securing our ability to rise to the challenge when unexpected disasters occur. From sending desperately needed supplies to Puerto Rico to welcoming evacuees to Central Florida, we are helping those impacted by Hurricane Maria get the help they need to have a bright future and a better life.



Hurricane Maria

evacuees have been assisted by Heart of Florida United Way providing emergency housing assistance

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At United Way, we identified the largest barriers facing evacuees, from finding sustainable employment to securing stable housing, and we invested in sustainable solutions that will address their immediate and long-term needs.



5,000

solar-powered lights were sent to Puerto Rico and distributed to children in rural regions of the island



2,750

water filtration systems were sent to Puerto Rico that provided the equivalent of more than 240,625 gallons of clean water



1,000

solar-powered USB phone chargers were sent for families to maintain communication through prolonged power outages



32

families have secured stable housing through the Hurricane Maria Housing Assistance program



1,034

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UNITED WAY FIGHTS FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN CENTRAL FLORIDA.

