

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Local Volunteer Helps Secure Grant for Disaster Preparedness

Thanks to the outstanding volunteer work of John Heidel, the United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation. Morgan Stanley honors employees who report 24 volunteer hours or more to their community. In addition, there are also annual Top Ten Volunteer awards. This year John Heidel was selected as one of those recipients. In return, one \$7,500 and nine \$5,000 charitable grants were given to the nonprofit organization of choice for those employees with the highest number of reported volunteer hours.

John Heidel has been a long time supporter of the United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties and serves as a volunteer board member and allocations volunteer. The countless hours that John has put in helps the United Way to support more than 85 programs in 45 agencies throughout the community and to provide direct services through programs such as 2-1-1/First Call for Help and the Volunteer Center. "We truly appreciate all of the help that John has given us over the years and are very pleased to accept this grant to help further our United in Disasters initiative" said Ray Salazar, President of the United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, and adding, "The funds from this grant will help our entire community to be prepared for and respond to a disaster."

This grant has been earmarked to cover some of the initial startup costs of the new United in Disasters program. The United in Disasters initiative is a way to help our community prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

This could not have come at a better time considering hurricane season starts June 1st. The grant money will help to fund the supplies and materials need for Volunteer Reception Centers (VRC). In the case of a disaster a VRC is set up as a central location for volunteers to sign up to help, check in, and receive assignments.

The United Way of Volusia-Flagler improves lives and builds a stronger community by bringing together hearts, minds and resources from across the region and by developing effective partnerships with businesses, government and nonprofit organizations.. For more information, please visit the web-site www.unitedway-vfc.org