

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Citrus County Community Rallies Together for Hurricane Idalia Relief Efforts**

Citrus County, FL – August 31, 2023 – In the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia, The United Way of Citrus County and its partnering agencies, The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, The City of Crystal River, The Homosassa Civic Association, and friends and neighbors in Ozello, are announcing the immediate opening of local recovery relief funds to aid residents and businesses severely affected by the storm.

"Our coastal areas experienced extreme flooding and other complications from the storm and the subsequent storm surge," said Josh Wooten, President/CEO of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce. "The recovery process will be long, and many of our neighbors are in dire need. As a community, we must come together to provide immediate assistance."

To ensure effective distribution of resources, the coalition of organizations have created a streamlined donation process.

### ***For Human/Residential Needs:***

Monetary donations can be made to The United Way of Citrus County through their secure online platform at <https://www.citrusunitedway.org>, via Facebook donate at <https://www.facebook.com/citrusunitedway>, or by mailing a check to 1582 N Meadowcrest Blvd, Crystal River, Florida 34429.

### ***Requested Item Donations:***

- Water
- Paper towels
- Cleaning supplies
- Rakes
- Rubber gloves
- Work gloves
- Trash bags
- Bleach

Items can be dropped off at the United Way office at 1582 N Meadowcrest Blvd, Crystal River, Florida, 34429 or at the Chamber office in Crystal River at 915 N. Suncoast Blvd, Crystal River, FL, 34429.

For questions or more information regarding human/residential needs contact Madelyn Russell at [madelyn.russell@citrusunitedway.org](mailto:madelyn.russell@citrusunitedway.org).

Additionally, items for Ozello are being collected by local friends and neighbors. Supply and food donations can be dropped off at the Ozello Island Outpost located at 14231 W Ozello Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429.

***For Business Needs:***

Donations to be allocated for local business needs can be processed through The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce. Monetary donations can be made through the Chamber's PayPal account at [www.paypal.com/paypalme/CitrusChamber](http://www.paypal.com/paypalme/CitrusChamber) or send a check to the Chamber office at 915 N. Suncoast Blvd, Crystal River, FL, 34429.

For questions or more information regarding business needs contact Stacey Worthington at [s.worthington@outlook.com](mailto:s.worthington@outlook.com).

***Volunteer Opportunities***

Citrus County Community Services is actively seeking volunteers to assist with cleanup efforts in the impacted coastal areas, homes, and businesses. Interested individuals can sign up online at [tinyurl.com/Idalia-Recovery-Volunteer-Form](http://tinyurl.com/Idalia-Recovery-Volunteer-Form).

For questions or more information regarding volunteer opportunities contact Laurie Diestler at [ncvc@citrusbocc.com](mailto:ncvc@citrusbocc.com).

The United Way and its partnering agencies, The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, The City of Crystal River, The Homosassa Civic Association, and friends and neighbors in Ozello are committed to serving our residents and business owners in need. These are our friends, neighbors, and the businesses that serve and support our community. We know the heart of our community beats with you, and we are confident that together we WILL get through this.