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## **Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay Receives \$150,000 Grant for DeSoto County Hurricane Recovery**







***Funds Will Support 15 New Projects, Enhance Disaster Preparedness,  
and Long-Term Hurricane Ian Recovery Efforts***

**SARASOTA, FL** – The peak of hurricane season is here, and Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay is continuing its disaster readiness and long-term recovery efforts in DeSoto County, thanks to a generous \$150,000 provided by the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. This vital funding will strengthen RTTB's ongoing commitment to helping the residents of DeSoto County recover and prepare for future storms.

"This generous grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County allows us to continue our critical work in DeSoto County, where the need is still significant," said **Jose Garcia, CEO of Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay**. "Since Hurricane Ian, our team has been deeply involved in the recovery process, and we remain committed to rebuilding and preparing for future disasters."

The \$150,000 grant will fund at least seven projects in DeSoto County to help low-income households impacted by Hurricane Ian. These funds will support essential services, including home repairs, disaster mitigation, and community outreach, ensuring that residents receive the critical assistance they need. It's the first half of a two-year grant totaling \$300,000.

Since 2022, Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay (RTTB) has been working on the ground in DeSoto County, focusing on long-term recovery and resilience efforts. Here are some key highlights of RTTB's work:

-  Began serving DeSoto County after Hurricane Ian, helping affected households.
-  Established an office in Arcadia to address long-term community needs.
-  Completed over 68 recovery projects in DeSoto County.
-  Organized giveaways of critical hurricane preparedness and relief supplies in Arcadia.
-  Employs three full-time staff members who live in DeSoto County.
-  Deeply integrated into the community's recovery and resilience efforts.

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### **About Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay**

RTTB's mission is "repairing homes, revitalizing communities, rebuilding lives." We achieve this by providing members of our shared communities with imperative home repairs, housing, education, and other forms of assistance free of cost, bringing their homes to not just a habitable state but one that is safe and healthy and that they and their families can thrive in.

RTTB addresses critical issues such as leaking roofs, problematic ducts aggravating asthma symptoms in children, and installing safety features like grab bars for elderly residents. We also construct new homes, providing homeownership opportunities to those who may have never deemed it possible. Following Hurricane Ian, RTTB was designated the lead affiliate for statewide response and recovery efforts, extending our service area to heavily impacted communities in Southwest and Central Florida, where we assist the most vulnerable in repairing and rebuilding.

Find more information at [www.rttb.org](http://www.rttb.org). Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

### **About The Community Foundation of Sarasota County**

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is a public charity founded in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council as a resource for caring individuals and the causes they support, enabling them to make a charitable impact on the community. With assets of \$488 million in more than 1,580 charitable funds, the Community Foundation

awarded grants and scholarships totaling \$40 million dollars last year in the areas of education, the arts, health and human services, civic engagement, animal welfare and the environment. Since its founding, the Community Foundation has been able to grant more than \$435.8 million to area nonprofit organizations to our community thanks to the generosity of charitable individuals, families, and businesses. For more information, visit [www.CFSarasota.org](http://www.CFSarasota.org) or call (941) 955-3000.