

Amazon (00:00):

60,000 employees in Florida. I welcome you to Mia, one, which is Amazon's first robotics facility here in South Florida. And we're very honored to have the First Lady of Florida, Casey DeSantis join us today. And I thank the governor and the first lady, uh, for your leadership on disaster relief across the state. And also thank Congressmen Carlos Gimenez for joining us today and for your leadership on behalf of Florida. So our thoughts at Amazon are definitely with those affected, uh, by hurricane in, and I'm proud to share some of the steps that Amazon has taken to help our customers and our employees. Uh, first of course, we've prepared our employees, uh, for their safety. And then after the disaster, we quickly jumped into relief mode. We were pleased to donate \$1 million to the Florida Disaster Relief Fund, your partnership with Volunteer Florida, and thank you Josie, for your great stewardship. And we also quickly mobilize our teams and our logistics infrastructure, and we've now been able to donate over 1.8 million items and tarps and hygiene kits and, and food and water to those, uh, in need. Our Amazon web services team was able to use their technology to help get internet access for first responders and those affected as well. So we consider at Amazon, we consider Florida home to us, and our work to support Floridians affected by Hurricane in has just begun. So on behalf of all Amazon employees, I'm very honored to introduce someone who has shown incredible leadership and action across our state. The First Lady of Florida, Casey DeSantis.

FLCD (01:41):

Thank you. Uh, first of all, a big thank you to Amazon for what you all have done. Within 24 hours of launching the fund, you guys donated a million dollars, and I have to say something very special about that million dollars because we talked to Amex and MasterCard and Visa and we said, Hey, will you waive your fees? And they said, Sure. So when you think about that million dollar donation that you guys made, if they would've taken a 2% cut off of that, that would've been \$20,000 and that would've gone to rebuilding somebody's home. So we appreciate your quick action, and I know we have another announcement about how you're gonna be helping folks in Southwest Florida. We'll get to that in just a second. Uh, but we have been able to raise in the Florida Disaster Fund more than \$45 million.

FLCD (02:27):

So I, I can't thank the folks here and all of the people across the state of Florida and really across the country who came out big time to support those people who were impacted by hurricane. I think we have 61,310 individual contributors. But I will say this, we're only getting started because having been down there and talking to a lot of folks, a lot of folks need a lot of help repairing and getting back on their feet. You know, there were some folks that lived in areas that had flooding their mortgage didn't necessarily require that they have flood insurance. So this fund that we've been able to raise \$45 million into maybe one of the options that helps them rebuild and recover. So we are just getting started. Uh, I wanna implore and ask everyone out there to keep donating. So the website is [Floridadisasterfunds.org](http://Floridadisasterfunds.org).

FLCD (03:19):

You can also text disaster to 20222. Uh, and that will go directly again with no administrative fees directly impact the people on the ground. Uh, just yesterday the governor was down in southwest Florida, I think it was in Cape Coral. He did a \$2 million distribution to our first responders to help them rebuild. And that is on top of a million dollar distribution that we did before that we are looking to get the money out the door as quick as possible with as little red tape as possible, but also ensuring that we're maximizing our dollars because we know that FEMA's gonna come in and they're gonna be reimbursing folks. The state has certain programs, so we wanna make sure that we're supplementing

those efforts so the dollar goes as far as possible. Uh, another announcement that I'm just so happy to be here with Amazon to have today is when I was visiting one of the DRCs, which is Disaster Recovery Centers.

FLCD ([04:10](#)):

And those are the areas that have all of the insurance resources. They have FEMA representation, they have the Department of Economic Opportunity Trailers. They have everything in one stop shop for people to go through to find out how they can recover. When I was at that DRC at Sarasota, I noticed something. There were a lot of families there and there were a lot of kids. And I could tell you anything, being a mama of a five year old, a four year old and a two year old, they don't like to sit for very long. And so they were getting into various things and I said, Wouldn't it be wonderful if we can raise some money, but more importantly, get toys directly to the DRCs and to the families who are impacted by Ian, What a difference that would make. So thank you to Amazon. They are donating an entire semi truck full of toys going directly to the kids.

FLCD ([05:05](#)):

And I know that's just gonna be just the start. So anyone out there who wants to learn more information about how you can donate these toys to the children, there are two locations in the affected area in Charlotte County. It's the Murdock Baptist Church, and in Lee County have the next level church. But if you wanna get more information beyond that, you can go to [Floridastormrelief.com](http://Floridastormrelief.com) and you can learn how you can donate directly. But I think that just means as a mama, that means a lot when you know a family is dealing with so much. But to know that your kids are happy and they're playing, they're happiness means so much. And so the generosity of the people across the state and what Amazon did, thank you very much for doing that. Uh, I will say, um, one of the things we need to, and I know, uh, the secretary's gonna get to it in just a second, are volunteers. We need more boots on the, the ground, helping folks clean out their homes, helping deliver food. So you can go to [Floridastormrelief.com](http://Floridastormrelief.com) for that, or you can go to [volunteerflorida.org](http://volunteerflorida.org) and learn more information. So with that, the congressman has done a wonderful job of supporting the governor and making sure that they're doing everything that they can on the federal side to get the money into Florida is expeditiously as possible to help with the folks in needs of congressmen.

Congressmen Giminez ([06:23](#)):

Thank you so much. And it's, uh, it's really such a pleasure to be here with the, uh, First Lady Casey DeSantis, um, and all the efforts that she has, um, uh, made to, uh, you know, to help the fund and help Floridians in need. So I want You'all to give her a big round of applause.

Congressmen Giminez ([06:43](#)):

I know that 30 years ago, my wife and I, Lordis and I, we flew over, um, what was, uh, homestead after the, the, the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. At the time I was a fire chief of the City of Miami. And about, uh, two weeks ago, we flew over, uh, the, we flew over, uh, the aftermath of hurricane, uh, Ian over on the West Coast. And I can tell you that, that we both, you know, remarked to each other that the only thing that looked similar was what we saw in Hurricane Andrew. And you know, what happened after Hurricane Andrew is at the entire nation, the entire state of Florida, they all came to our help. They all came to our aid. And so we never forgot that. And so I'm very happy that today we're, you know, this announcement of the \$1 million that's coming here, a place in Miami.

Congressmen Giminez ([07:32](#)):

Cause we know the effects of, of a hurricanes especially devastating hurricanes like, uh, Hurricane Andrew. And now what happened with Ian, and I can tell you that this is gonna take a long time, gonna take time, effort, and money. And, uh, and money is, uh, is the key to the recovery. And also our support. Our support for all those people that have either lost their, lost their homes, lost their businesses, their jobs, uh, or have had their businesses severely damage their home, severely damage. And so again, I want to thank you all for your contribution. Amazon, thank you for your million dollar donation. Thank you for 1.8 million articles that are in need for the people of Florida. Thank you so much. So I want you all to give yourself a big hand.

Congressmen Giminez ([08:24](#)):

I wanna thank the governor for his leadership. And, uh, as a former mayor of Miami Dade, knowing what it takes to respond to disasters, I know that it takes the leadership from the top. And, uh, and the governor DeSantis, I can tell you again as a former first responder, everything that he's done, he's done it the right way. Looking out for, for the safety and the protection and the recovery of the people of Florida, along with his beautiful wife Casey. Uh, thank you so much again for all you're doing for the people of Florida and your, your leadership. Uh, and if you want to donate, you can actually, all you have to do is text to 20222, uh, and, uh, and put disaster, right? Let me see if that works. Okay -

Congressmen Giminez ([10:04](#)):

You'll have to teach me how to do that. Okay. So it's not that easy apparently for somebody who's, uh, uh, technology, technologically not that good. Okay? So thank you. You're gonna, you gonna teach me, I will be making a donation of a hundred dollars, uh, today for your cause. So thank you very much. Thank you for donation. Thank you first lady for being here. And again, thank you. God bless you all.

CEO Tamayo ([10:34](#)):

Well, oh, good afternoon everyone. And really it is a privilege. My name is Josie Tamaya and I have the great privilege of being the CEO of Volunteer Florida and I am very honored to be here to address you all in number one. Thank you for your efforts. Thank you to Amazon and thank you for everything that you do. Uh, it is very important to know the devastation that this storm has reaped on Florida. And we are very, very blessed to have Governor DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis assisting all Floridians everywhere with relief and recovery efforts. I consider that we are privileged and the number one state to do this. And it is just amazing. As the First Lady has said since the beginning of the opening of the Disaster Fund relief, it about three weeks ago, we have raised over \$45 million. We've had over 61,000 individuals, uh, provide donations.

CEO Tamayo ([11:31](#)):

And we have over 70 corporate sponsors that have called to give donations. And it's not only the corporate sponsors here, but it's the people who call every day and ask me, How can I give you some money? And I'm telling you, they call my office, they text me and we are on the phone. So it's, it, it is very important that people care from all over the United States to provide helpful Floridians. And so we are very blessed to not only live in this state and also our state partners that we work with, our state agency heads, everyone you all have. And we're blessed to have a wonderful team. We've already awarded now, uh, over \$3 million as the First Lady has said. And as you can imagine, given the gravity of the storm, there is going to be a lot of recovery efforts underway. And we work with many nonprofits on the field, on the ground, the Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army.

CEO Tamayo ([12:24](#)):

And they are on the ground every single day servicing these families who have been devastated by these, by this, uh, by this storm. We have in a very important mission that we also do at Volunteer Florida, is that we are the service leading organization for volunteers. And so I'd ask you, I'll give you the website [www.VolunteerFlorida](http://www.VolunteerFlorida), and go, there's a little button that says volunteer and it is our Volunteer connect website. And we work with over 500 charities throughout the state and we have 2,400 volunteer opportunities to help people who really wanna do that. I was visiting a visitor center or a volunteer center last week and it was amazing to see the people coming out saying, What can I do? Can I do something from my home? Can I do something? What can I do? And it is amazing, the outpouring of support.

CEO Tamayo ([13:24](#)):

So understand that when you volunteer, not only do you do something for yourself, but you are giving of your time to help others. And that moment is very, very, very important. So I want to, I want to reiterate that also, of course, as the First Lady has said, there's gonna be a lot of needs moving forward. So we wanna make sure that we are keeping our donations and as the CEO of Volunteer Florida, we're ensuring that those funds are expended appropriately and in accordance with what we have to do. As you can imagine, every day I get up in the morning and I go \$45 million. Isn't this awesome? Unbelievable. So, but we're not done yet. So when you think about that, there's gonna be a lot of need, a lot of local need that these individuals, and we have tons of partners non-for-profits throughout the state that are really the boots on the ground helping these families in addition to the state.

CEO Tamayo ([14:18](#)):

So if you would like to donate, and I'll help Congressman Gimenez with that in a minute, cuz I'm not a techy person either. It's, it's, you know, I'm just saying that for the sake that it's called Text Disaster to 20222 and to the Florida Disaster Fund, [www.Floridadisasterfund.org](http://www.Floridadisasterfund.org). And if you go on our website and you click my name, it'll give you my email and it'll give you my phone number. And if you have a question, trust me, I will call you back. I have been on the phone constantly tirelessly, and I can tell you the love and support that is out there for all our families affected by the storm is truly amazing. And I'm just honored and privileged to be part of this absolutely fabulous team that's helping our Floridians. And I'll turn it over back to the First Lady.

FLCD ([15:06](#)):

It's true, she literally is on her phone all the time. Like we were walking out here and she had a phone call and I'm like, Josie, we gotta get outta here and talk about what we're doing. But she's on the phone trying to get as much money into the fund as possible, which is awesome. We need you to do that. Uh, I did just say in closing, you know, thank you to Amazon, thank you to the corporations across the state, thank you to the individuals across the state, particularly this community. What you have done to help so many people who are going through one of the toughest times of their lives means the world. The fact that we've been able to raise this money, the fact that you're here today to, to show your support, I can tell you it means the world when I've been down there talking to people who lost their homes, they are so appreciative that they're fellow Floridians are there to support them and to get them back on their feet.

FLCD ([15:48](#)):

And that is because of you. And so I just wanna say, God bless you, uh, talk to folks who have the opportunity to donate. And even if it's \$5, it goes a long way. And thank you for the toys. If you wanna donate more toys, know that we're getting close to the holiday season too, so I'm sure if we have any surplus, the kids can use them under the tree and whatnot. And so you can go to [Floridastormrelief.org](http://Floridastormrelief.org) for more information. So God bless you and thank you. I'm happy to take any questions if you have about the fund and if not, we'll find you on the backside. All right. God bless you guys. Thank you.