

Speaker 1 ([00:00](#)):

Okay.

Speaker 2 ([00:09](#)):

Uh, hello everyone. Welcome. Uh, thank you for being here. Um, we're happy today to announce a partnership between Tervis and Volunteer Florida that will benefit those affected by Hurricane Ian. Uh, the hurricane relief efforts are critically important to everyone throughout the state of Florida, but particularly within our Tervis community. Uh, we have a lot of people who work and live, uh, just south of Venice, and some of those people were devastated and others had destruction, uh, all from the storm. Uh, and as we've been working to make sure that we can, uh, provide relief to all those people, uh, we're very fortunate that we've had the First Lady, uh, on our side and, uh, having such a champion for our state, uh, for our community, and for our employees. Um, so I'm very proud, uh, to introduce, uh, the First Lady.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([01:01](#)):

First, I wanna say hi to all the employees here at Tevis. Uh, God bless you, the governor and I are with you. We know that you've gone through a great deal, but I can tell you just how special it is to walk into this building after all that you have been through, and to see you guys working so hard, and then to be making these Tumblers and then to be giving them to the people of Florida to raise money for the Disaster Fund. It just goes to show your resilience and your strength, and we cannot thank you enough for all of your hard work. So we are excited to be here with Rogan, uh, and excited to announce another addition to the Disaster Fund, and that is the Tumblers we're gonna be selling, I should say Rogan and his team are gonna be selling the Tumblers and the water bottles with a hundred percent of the proceeds going directly to the disaster fund.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([01:53](#)):

I think this is just at the heart of what we're doing. You know, obviously we have had a massive state response to this hurricane. I think you have seen the governor out and about doing a tremendous job leading with conviction and getting everything organized. Just the other day, we saw power crews as far as the eye can see going into Cape Coral to make sure that every asset and every resource available was there to help get power on. For folks, I think we're down to 1% now of the state that does not have power thinking about it, you know, week after 99% up and running. Um, but we're gonna make sure that the job is done. But, uh, with this fund, this is so critically important because there are going to be avenues for people to be able to get relief in the form of insurance or flood insurance or FEMA with disaster recovery assistance. Uh, but there are also gonna be folks that might not find themselves in a position where they can get help, meaning they never thought in a million years that their flood, that their home would be flooded. And so that's where these private sector funds are gonna be so important because we wanna ensure that they have some support to be able to get back on their feet. Since this launched, I think at the beginning, just right after the storm, we were right on it as quick as possible. We have raised nearly \$40 million into the fund

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([03:12](#)):

So far we've done about a million dollars out of the door. We've looked at a lot of the private sector partners are nonprofit partners, our faith based community, and we're supplementing them as the state is supplementing them. Um, but what we're really looking for for these funds is to be able to do things on the long scale recovery process. Again, that person who's home flooded that needs resources, we

need to ensure that they have an avenue to be able to get help. So while we have \$40 million, we hope that we're gonna have 80 in another couple of weeks because we wanna be there to support folks. And as the cameras start to go away and things start to fade from view, just know that we are committed to helping you for the long run. We will be with you every step of the way to ensure that you get back on your feet.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([03:58](#)):

Know that, and know that you're gonna see me going all around the state. I'm gonna be shaking a lot of people's pockets to try to help the Disaster Recovery Fund to ensure that we get as much money in there as possible. And I also wanna say, just earlier today, I was out at the Baptist Church of Venice, and I saw just a wonderful array of support from people all over this country, from Missouri, from Illinois, from Georgia, from Michigan, all of them surging down. I was actually in the command center, and they were getting tickets from people wanting to come in from Pennsylvania saying, How can we help? How can we help? And we saw them loading food onto Salvation Army trucks, and they were getting ready to deliver them to the folks, you know, in and around this area. There was also showers available, and there was places to do laundry.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([04:47](#)):

And I just have to say, I am so impressed by the goodwill and the spirit of the people across this nation, and particularly Floridians. I could not be more proud to be a Floridian, to watch your resilience and your strength to persevere through something that has been so difficult for so many people. And just know that as somebody who has gone through some life challenges and have had to pick myself up and have the governor pick me up a few times, take it a day at a time. Just take it one day at a time. Know that this too shall pass. And know that in faith, and trust in the Lord, and through the community, through your hard work and resilience, you will get back on your feet and you will be bigger and better than you ever thought that you were. And so, on behalf of the governor and myself, I just wanna say thank you to all the employees here. Thank you for what you've done. Thank you, of course, to Tervis thank you to the thousands of people across the country who have donated to the fund. More than 51,000 people have donated, and the checks are still coming in. So we just, we, uh, we're so proud to be here and so proud to be a Floridian. We've got your back. God bless you guys.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([06:05](#)):

And with that, I'm gonna invite somebody in here, very special, the, uh, Secretary of Volunteer Florida to talk about mobilizing these funds and then also how people at home can help in volunteer.

Josie Tomayo ([06:17](#)):

First of all, Good morning everyone. Thank you for having me today, here today. I'm Josie Tamayo. I'm the CEO of Volunteer Florida. I wanna thank you for having us, specifically everyone here and everyone across Florida, uh, that we are praying for you. And what an amazing, amazing, um, group of leaders that are here, but specifically Governor DeSantis and First Lady DeSantis, who have been on the road constantly, constantly assisting us in assisting Florida against throughout. So I wanna thank you on behalf of everyone in Florida, and specifically on behalf of Volunteer Florida. And since Ian hit, we've had amazing volunteers, and they have selflessly joined our response in order to respond and recovery efforts throughout Florida. Volunteers have been on the ground sharing food tools, other items to assist needy Floridians. I wanna thank of course, obviously, the first Lady for her efforts, and specifically the governor and all our leaders.

Josie Tomayo (07:13):

She's passionately advocated, and as you said, she said most of everything I was going to say today, but we are well in excess of \$40 million. And this is a record number of, of funds that are gonna be collected, that are gonna assist, um, individuals with response and recovery. But she is correct. The recovery will take longer. So Volunteer Florida has already distributed over a million dollars from the Florida Disaster Fund to our partner organizations in the first round. And we are looking now, we are assessing, uh, obviously carefully how we're gonna get additional funds out for and from the, from the, uh, disaster fund. So we are also looking, um, and pleased to volunteer. We, uh, on our volunteerflorida.org, we have opportunities. We post them every day. Organizations call us every day a volunteer to assist. It only takes a moment, and I'll say it will change a person's life. We have various partners throughout the state, uh, that want and need volunteers to assist them in this recovery effort. So please, um, go there. And I wanna continue to thank everyone for continuing to fund the Florida Disaster Fund. It is amazing, an amazing thing here. And I thank you all for all the work that you're doing on behalf of all Floridians. And it's an honor to be here and, uh, represent Volunteer Florida. Thank you.

First Lady Casey DeSantis (08:38):

Thank you, Secretary. And also, uh, we have the Secretary of the Department of Economic Opportunity, Dane Eagle.

Sec. Eagle (08:48):

I want to thank the First Lady and, uh, Governor DeSantis and their entire administration for the work that they are doing. Um, I, I get to serve in their, their administration, which is of course, a tremendous honor. But first and foremost, I'm a southwest Floridian. And, uh, like all of you have had, uh, you've gone through the storm, Uh, my family went through it and, uh, been here, boots on the ground, thanks to their leadership. Haven't seen anything like it. Uh, we went through Charlie, we've been through Irma. Uh, but the response here for Hurricane Ian has been unprecedented. One of the quickest and fastest mobilizations. Uh, and it's thanks to her leadership and all that she's been doing alongside of the governor. Um, so, you know, while we've been boots on the ground touring, Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel and, uh, um, Pine Island and the bridge getting done, the lineman getting worked on Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Nokomis, North Port, Sarasota, uh, Punta Gorda, I mean, you name it, Inland Counties.

Sec. Eagle (09:36):

They've been there, they've been there since the, it was clean or since it was safe to go. And, um, I could just tell from the people that are on the ground that are, uh, trying to band back together and get their lives back in order, um, at least from my point of view, we are so appreciative of the work that you continue to do and will not stop doing, stop doing. I know that, um, uh, over time, cameras will move on to the next thing, but this community will still be bending together to rebuild. And the first lady and the governor will not forget you. Uh, so from our point of view at DEO, helping the community get back together with economic recovery, we're gonna be standing alongside them to make sure that that is, uh, happening. And we're working with the private sector day in, day out to make sure that you have your needs and we continue to direct anybody that wants to help to the funds so that they're donating, but also businesses who have a unique capability to help do that as well.

Sec. Eagle (10:21):

And that's exactly what Rogan and Tevis have done here today. So also as a Floridian Southwest Floridian, I know that Tevis is synonymous with Florida. I mean, I'm kind of geeking out here today

growing up on tervis cups, and my wife will tell you, we don't have enough room in our cupboards for all of 'em. We're gonna have more after this. So, uh, uh, look forward to bringing some home and, uh, giving out some Christmas gifts as well. So, Rogan, thanks for what you're doing, Josie, thanks for what you're doing. Um, this team that the Governor's assembled, uh, all the way down from, uh, Tallahassee, the boots on the ground to National Guard, we're gonna be standing shoulder to shoulder with you to help you rebuild, and we will not forget about you. Thank you First Lady.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([10:59](#)):

Uh, and I'll just thank you, Dane. That's awesome. Um, I'll just say, you know, uh, with the distributions of the funds, we've received about 40 million. We've done a million out the door. We wanted to help supplement folks from the beginning. You know, as we look at this going forward, we're looking at some of those groups, uh, who are the mom and pop shops and supporting them. The other day I was in Fort Myers Beach, uh, and there was an Italian restaurant, and they had been out of the goodness of their own heart serving meals to first responders ever since the storm hit. And I said, Well, are you getting the funds for that? They're like, Hey, listen, we're taking care of it. We're doing good. They just wanted to make sure that law enforcement who had come in from Miami and from Broward County, had a warm meal, and we helped cook it for 'em and got it out the door.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([11:41](#)):

And they had done that, uh, at least two, if not three times a day, to make sure that those people were supported. So we're looking at that. We're trying to find folks that really are just doing God's work. They're doing good things and just need a little bit of support. Uh, in addition to some of the bigger ones, you know, if there is a local nonprofit that has a partnership with the local communities, with the local government, as of right now, the way FEMA operates, they're getting reimbursed at a hundred percent. But some of those folks, like the Italian restaurant, they're just taking it on their own. So we wanna make sure that we're there to support them going forward in the long run. Um, so with that, again, I just wanna say thank you to all the employees who are here. I know you guys have been through a lot.

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([12:20](#)):

Um, like I said before, Governor and I are here for you. We're gonna support you, and it means the world to come here after all you've been through, to have you guys produce something with all of the funds going to help other folks. I think it just shows your true nature and it shows your resiliency. So God bless you. And with that, we'll take a couple of questions. Donate to the Floridadisasterfund.org, by the way. The other one is Text Disaster to 20222. Those are the best ways that you can, you can support it to go to volunteerflorida.org.

Reporter ([12:51](#)):

You have answered this already, but just seeing some of the people here, some of them have lost roofs, some of them have had flood damage to know that they are here. Just how does that continue to show that Florida is strong?

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([13:00](#)):

I can't even begin to tell you what it means to see all you guys here. I mean, honestly, like just traveling around the state, man, you guys are resilient. I mean, we are, we are going around. The governor and I we're delivering, you know, meals to folks. We're shaking hands. So many people are saying to me and

the governor, No, no, I don't want the meal. Don't give it to me. Give it to somebody else who needs it. Even though those are people that lost their homes, they lost their roofs. They're like, No, you know what, Somebody else needs it far more than me. And we're like, No, you know, listen, we're here for you to support you and give that to you. But that just shows the courage, strength, and the true nature of the people in this area, the character and the resilience. And it means the world, the world to walk into this building to see all of the employees here supporting all of the other Floridians across the country who are suffering. I mean, I am only just honored and privileged to be First Lady, to be able to see it firsthand and to help folks. But this is what it's all about.

Speaker 7 ([13:57](#)):

Uh, so this is fun. Is this a good resource for people who maybe are located in, you know, Fort Myers or North Port, places like that, where they can't access their jobs because of what's going on at home?

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([14:07](#)):

Well, there's, there's disaster assistance, unemployment assistance that I think that Dane can talk a little bit about. What we're trying to do with this, I think, is to help for folks that had insurance, maybe insurance doesn't cover a hundred percent, or if there was flooding, then they didn't have flood insurance. The folks that lost their roofs, we wanna have this fund available for them to come up and to use those resources to help put the pieces back together. So that's why we're really trying to search. If you look at it, we've done a million out the door, We wanna do more, but man, we're looking long term for this because I know as a lot of people, with the shock of everything that's happening, they're gonna start getting in contact with FEMA. They're gonna see how much they get in relief, They're gonna see how much their policies are giving them. But beyond that, we wanna have this avenue for them to say, Oh, I can go to the Florida Disaster Fund and I can get fund there. So it's all a big group effort, but I think Dan can talk a little bit about the, uh, disaster unemployment assistance.

Sec. Eagle ([14:58](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Certainly on the economic recovery, it's looking at people's jobs and businesses and how do we help. So the governor, uh, stood up the disaster Unemployment assistance. You can, uh, learn about that at floridajobs.org. That's temporary course, but we're cutting red tapes so they don't have to, uh, do the waiting week works for registration. There are jobs out there, we encourage people to keep looking, but in the meantime, we, thanks to the governor, have stood that up so that people that don't have a job to go back to can at least have something to help them get by. But beside that, we're working closely with CareerSource to help them find jobs. There are now vendors on the grounds that are being, you know, flown in from across the country, uh, that help with that. They know that knowledge, but they need the labor force. And so people that are displaced, let's connect you with a good job. And there are jobs available even before the, the storm hits. So we have that available. But to the first lady's point, there are assistance available, whether it's disaster, unemployment, or FEMA. But as those things start to fill in over time, then we realize where the gaps are. And that's what the first lady's mind is in, is where can we fill in those gaps? And that's what this fund can do.

Reporter ([15:55](#)):

Inaudible

First Lady Casey DeSantis ([15:58](#)):

As much, I mean, honestly, like, you know, you ask anybody in the panhandle, the governor and I were out there quite a bit and still have been for three to a half years after, you know, it hit 2018 helping with Hurricane Michael. So we see firsthand some of the needs that are gonna come up. And so that's why you're gonna see me across the state going around to different businesses and corporations and individuals. We're getting checks from all over the country. They're mailing 'em right into Josie's department, and we're logging 'em as we speak and putting 'em right in the bank account. But honestly, I wanna try to double this in the next week, because again, and we understand this as life goes on for a lot of people across the country, it doesn't go on for us. We're gonna stay here with those folks, but we need to make sure that we keep this fund in the forefront of people's minds because the day will come when people say, I need help. I've tapped every resource that I have. What are my other options that are available to available to me? And we wanna make sure that the disaster fund is there for them. So, all right, Well, God bless you guys.