

SENIOR DISASTER SUPPORT

Companionship and education help seniors prepare and stay safe through disasters.

Launched in 2024 in response to devastating hurricanes across Tampa Bay, we now help vulnerable seniors prepare for all types of disasters.



THE PROBLEM

Disasters hit harder when seniors are isolated.

Loneliness and isolation increase risk before, during, and after disasters, especially for older adults facing mobility and health challenges.



23% of older adults in Tampa Bay live alone.

After back-to-back hurricanes:

- Seniors were stranded in high-rises. No power or working elevators
- Older adults sat alone in flooded homes
- Elders with no support had no idea how to prepare or recover
- Many were afraid of being forced out of their home or losing their independence if they asked for help.

"I sat alone in the dark for hours on my kitchen table as the water rose around me."

WHO WE SERVE



High-risk flood zones



Mobile Home Communities



Low-income senior apartments

THE SOLUTION

Connection is the first step.

Senior Disaster Support brings neighbors together before disaster strikes.

Seniors build relationships and skills so they can support each other when it matters most.

In crisis, your neighbors are often the first responders.

HOW IT WORKS

Monthly gatherings

Build trust through conversation and connection.

Practical disaster training

Hurricanes, extreme heat, fire safety, CPR, medication safety, and fraud prevention.

Disaster preparedness supplies

Evacuation plans, important documents, emergency contacts, and disaster kits help seniors feel confident and prepared for a crisis.

Volunteer leadership for sustainability

Residents are trained as community leaders to sustain the program beyond 12-months



THE IMPACT

Seniors are prepared, connected, and not alone.

80% of participants report increased connection, preparedness, and confidence.

Senior Disaster Support:

- ✓ Reduces isolation year-round
- ✓ Builds trust among neighbors
- ✓ Decreases disaster-related anxiety
- ✓ Increases willingness to seek help

"Now I know who to call and what to do. I'm not alone anymore."

-Dwight

"I used to worry every storm season. Now I feel prepared."

-Sharon



SENIORS in SERVICE
GEARED UP TO SERVE

Presented By: Sarah Rosenbaum



Want to bring this model to your community? Let's Connect. >



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