



St. Lucie I.N.T.A.C.T.

An Inspired Network to Achieve Community Together

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I.N.T.A.C.T. BIDS FAREWELL TO SECOND GROUP OF AMERICORPS NCCC VOLUNTEERS

Fort Pierce – On June 18, St. Lucie INTACT bid farewell to their second group of AmeriCorps volunteers. AmeriCorps* NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) volunteers come from states across the nation and commit 10 months of their lives to community service. The Wolf 1 Team worked with INTACT, St. Lucie's Long Term Recovery Organization to help low income homeowners harden their homes against future hurricanes by installing hurricane shutters. The volunteers, lead by Shawna Vreeke from Wisconsin worked hard to enhance their construction skills and learn about the importance of hurricane mitigation. "Our experience in St. Lucie County has been the best in my two years with AmeriCorps. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to help your program be successful!" stated Shawna Vreeke. With this training and their passion for helping others, the group was able to help over 75 homeowners! Not only did the AmeriCorps NCCC team assist with mitigating these homes but they trained INTACT's local volunteers on shutter installation as well!

Duffy's in St. Lucie West hosted a farewell dinner for the group to let them know how much their contributions meant to the community. Al Rivett, Chair of the INTACT Executive Board and Director for St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity, "we could not reach our goals without the contributions of these young people." Carly Hampton (Illinois), Samuel Morrison (Colorado), Jordan Orvold (Wisconsin), Laura Dennis (Arizona), Josh Halley (North Carolina), Kristen Reimers (California), Melissa Bratter (New Hampshire), and Alex Hall (California) joined AmeriCorps with the goal of serving others and being able to travel. "From here we go to New Jersey to be camp counselors for a summer program. The NJ program will have a lot to live up to. INTACT set the bar high!" reported Melissa.

INTACT's mitigation program is supported through the Volunteer Florida Foundation, the Florida Disaster Relief Fund, and the State of Florida and will assist 150 homeowners this year in mitigating their homes. INTACT is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization. Donations made to the organization are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and are always needed to continue programs. For more information and to see the AmeriCorps group at work visit the INTACT website at www.stlucieco.gov/community/intact.htm or call 772-462-1777 for more information.

AmeriCorps* NCCC team of volunteers received training in windstorm damage mitigation and hurricane shutter installation as part of a collaborative formed with the IFAS/St. Lucie's Cooperative Extension's Windstorm Training Center "Hurricane House" and PGM Shutters, Inc. The Windstorm Center, otherwise known as "the Hurricane House," serves as the Treasure Coast's regional educational and demonstration facility for homeowners and builders to learn about wind-loss mitigation and methods of enhancing the wind resistance of existing and new housing. Classes are offered at no charge to residents.

