



St. Lucie I.N.T.A.C.T.
An Inspired Network to Achieve Community Together

March 5, 2007
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE HELPS LOW INCOME HOMEOWNERS RECOVER FROM DISASTER

Fort Pierce – March 5, 2007 – Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) recently provided \$36,600 to St. Lucie Inspired Network to Achieve Community Together (INTACT), the area's long term recovery organization. LDR is known for its goal to be available to people immediately post a catastrophic event and for the long term disaster recovery process. They have provided funds and volunteers throughout the state and are aware that unmet needs still exist from the 2004, 2005 storms.

Ron Engle from Trinity Lutheran Church of Fort Pierce recently presented INTACT with a check to assist with repairing low income homes that remain damaged post hurricane. LDR is a collaborative ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. "Recovery from disaster takes years, not days or weeks. Despite the stories of terror and tragedy often heard on the news, our LDR coordinators and volunteers bring great help to those who have suffered great loss. In turn, they meet disaster survivors filled with hope and perseverance," states the LDR website

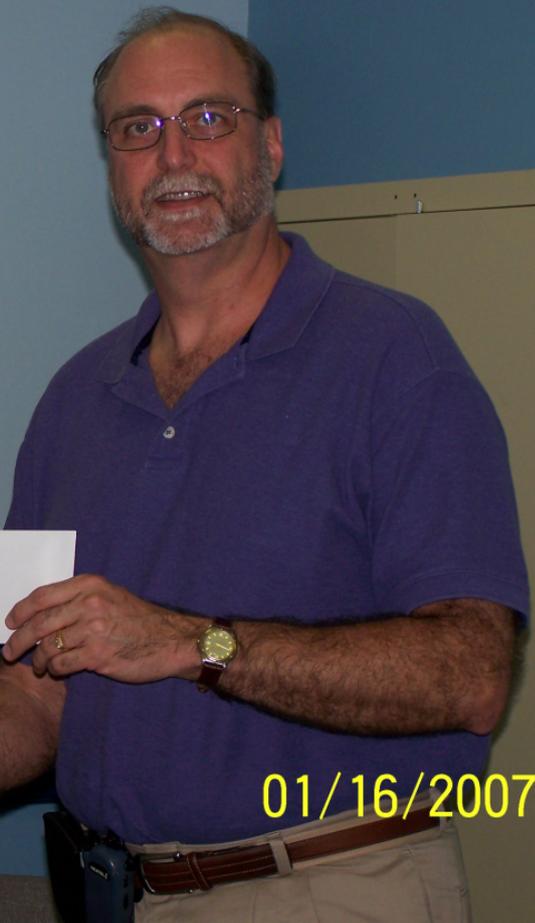
Stefanie Myers, INTACT'S Long Term Recovery Coordinator, noted how critical the Lutheran funding is to help INTACT complete the necessary home repairs from the previous storms so that their new disaster mitigation program can kick in. INTACT, a non-profit, was recently awarded funding from the Volunteer Florida Foundation, which administers the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund. This funding through the My Safe Florida Home Program will be used to harden low income homes against wind storm and water damage, but cannot be used for repairs.

Mitigation is defined as home modifications that make a home more resistant to wind damage. This may include installation of hurricane shutters, repair/replacement of doors/windows, and upgrades to roofing to minimize damage from wind and rain.

St. Lucie INTACT (Inspired Network to Achieve Community Together) is the Long Term Recovery Organization whose mission is to strengthen disaster coordination in St. Lucie County, Florida by sharing information, simplifying resident access to services, and jointly resolving cases with disaster-caused recovery needs. INTACT provides collaborative leadership in the discernment of long-term needs for recovery and rehabilitation and advocates for individuals and families vulnerable to disaster events. For more information on how to volunteer or donations please call 462-1777.



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01/16/2007