# Building the Way Forward: 2024 Impact Report

Thank you for believing in SBP's mission to shrink the time between disaster and recovery! In 2024, we responded to disasters, rebuilt homes, promoted resiliency measures, and advocated for policies that serve all survivors with fairness and efficiency.

This past year, the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton underscored the importance of our work. With your help, SBP responded quickly, providing critical support to affected families and laying the foundation to lead long-term recovery efforts for families most in need, while also continuing our ongoing recovery and resilience efforts across impacted or at-risk communities.

As we reflect on 2024, we're excited to share the transformative impact you've made possible.

## Rebuilding Homes after Disasters

SBP rebuilds homes for families in disaster-impacted communities, ensuring they can recover and return to safe, secure housing. Our efforts focus on low- to moderate-income households, including families with young children, elderly individuals, people with disabilities, veterans, and those who are uninsured or underinsured.

We accomplish this through a range of programs designed to meet families where they are in their recovery journey. SBP's Build program works directly with survivors to repair and rebuild homes. The Recovery Acceleration Fund (RAF) provides strategic funding to speed up rebuilding timelines. Immediate disaster response efforts, such as assistance for Helene and Milton survivors, address urgent needs like debris removal and mucking and gutting, while the Share program enables collaborative rebuilding with local partner organizations.

By addressing recovery holistically, SBP ensures that families rebuild not just their homes, but their lives, with greater resilience for the future.

**486**

**Disaster-impacted homes rebuilt, repaired, or assisted in 2024**

**201**

Homes rebuilt by Build and RAF programs

**172**

Homes supported with post-disaster recovery assistance

**113**

Homes rebuilt via Share partners

### Client Spotlight: Gregory Bradley - Belle Chasse, LA

When Hurricane Ida made landfall as a Category 4 storm in 2021, Gregory Bradley—a US Army veteran and Southeast Louisiana native—was heartbroken to find that his family home suffered extensive damage.

Gregory searched for help but met only dead-ends—until he found SBP. Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, SBP stepped in to provide the assistance Gregory needed to rebuild. This included installing a new, hurricane-resistant roof to help protect his family from future storms.

Last November, SBP gathered to celebrate a Welcome Home Party for Gregory (pictured above).

**Thank you for making transformational moments like this possible!**

# Hurricanes Helene and Milton

Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida on September 26 as a Category 4 storm, leaving a path of devastation across the southeastern United States, from the Gulf Coast to the Appalachian mountains of North Carolina. Hurricane Milton made landfall in Florida as a strong Category 3 hurricane just 13 days later, impacting areas that were still reeling from the aftermath of Helene.

**Thanks to an outpouring of support from friends like you, SBP has been able to respond in the following ways:**

- Disaster Corps teams were on the ground in Florida and North Carolina, assisting with debris removal, roof tarping, and mucking and gutting (pictured here).
- FEMA assistance via SBP's Disaster Assistance Program (DAP) was offered to help families across all impacted states navigate applications and appeals and receive the maximum possible awards.
- Government advising via SBP's Advise team shared comprehensive, long-term recovery plans with impacted communities, focusing on resilient rebuilding and disaster preparedness strategies, including hosting a Regional Recovery Acceleration Week in North Carolina (pictured here).

## Exciting Announcement:
## New Operating Site in Tampa, Florida, Launching February 2025!

Thanks to your immediate support, SBP is able to expand our footprint in Florida to drive long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts following Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We are excited to announce that we are launching a new rebuilding program and regional office in Tampa, Florida.

This new site will allow SBP to rebuild at least 50 resilient homes in its first year, ensuring that homeowners with limited resources can return to safe, stable housing. This site will begin accepting volunteers in the Spring. Your continued partnership as a donor or volunteer is vital to ensure that no family is left behind on the path to recovery.

# Innovations in Disaster Recovery

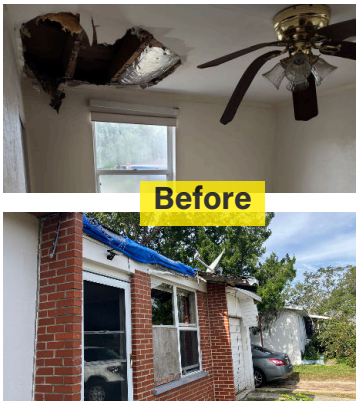
Disaster survivors often encounter systemic challenges in recovery. Thanks to your support, we've developed scalable solutions to create a more efficient and fair disaster recovery process. Throughout 2024, we have been able to implement them in strategic and transformational ways:

## Recovery Acceleration Fund

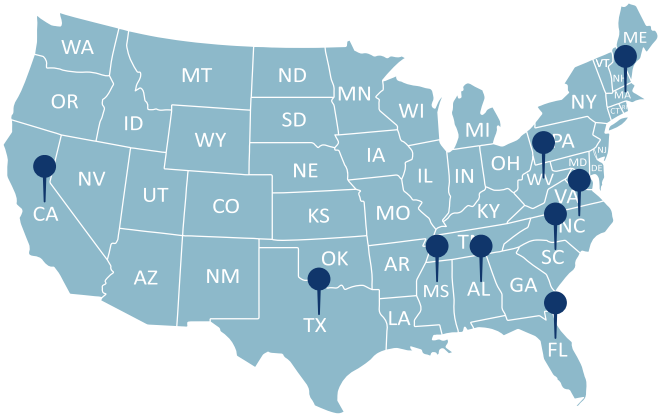
SBP's Recovery Acceleration Fund (RAF) is changing the disaster recovery system by using impact investment dollars to speed the rebuilding process. RAF helps low-income families rebuild their homes 24-36 months faster than before.

- In 2022, SBP launched RAF as a pilot program in Louisiana, serving 24 families impacted by Hurricane Ida.
- In 2024, SBP expanded RAF into the state of Florida, welcoming 19 families home.
- By the end of 2025, we anticipate serving an additional 33 families in Florida. We also hope to establish the program in at least one new community.

**Before/After RAF:**
**Constance McMillian of Daytona Beach, FL**



Ms. McMillian (right) gives a tour of her newly repaired home. She was able to rebuild after Hurricane Ian thanks to RAF.




**SBP Fellow Placements:**
Alabama | California | Florida
Massachusetts | Mississippi | North Carolina (2)
South Carolina | Texas (2) | West Virginia

## Recovery and Resilience Fellows

SBP hires, trains, and supports locally-based disaster Resilience and Recovery Fellows in at-risk communities.

The Fellows add capacity to local government agencies and lead initiatives to secure a minimum of $5M in federal and philanthropic funds for recovery, preparedness, mitigation, and resilience projects in areas that might otherwise be overlooked.

**We currently have 11 Fellows stationed across 9 states (notated on the map).**

**Fellow Spotlight: Kurt Williams of Charlotte County, FL**

Kurt Williams was stationed in Charlotte County on Florida's Gulf Coast well ahead of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. When Helene approached, Kurt quickly mobilized to assist the local response efforts, providing critical support to mitigate the impacts of the hurricane. He contributed over 120 hours of service to the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center, coordinating Helene and Milton response efforts and ensuring resources reached those in need.

Beyond immediate disaster response, Kurt saw an opportunity to advance long-term resilience initiatives while attention was focused on the area. He secured approval from the State of Florida to submit a full Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) proposal for installing stormwater gauges in Charlotte Harbor, enhancing the region's preparedness for future storms.

# Disaster Assistance Program

SBP's Disaster Assistance Program (DAP) helps disaster survivors to secure the maximum amount of FEMA funding for which they are eligible. Our team provides one-on-one support to help survivors receive vital funds to meet their immediate and long-term recovery needs.

**In 2024, over 500 families received more funds from FEMA after their initial, insufficient awards, increasing their collective FEMA awards by $1.4M.**

Every $1 invested in DAP translates to $3 in survivor pockets, maximizing donor impact and ensuring fair, efficient, and timely access to disaster recovery funds.

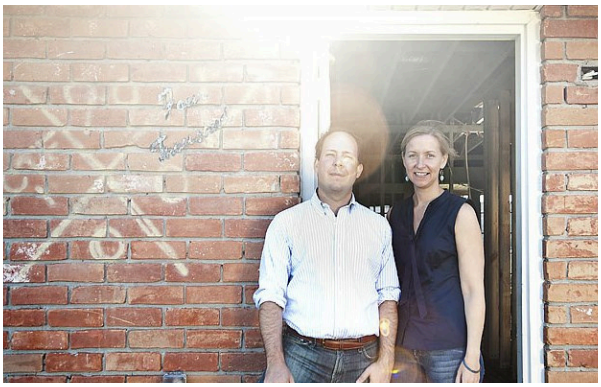
**Since launching in 2020, DAP has been transformative for disaster survivors:**

**2015**
**Appeals filed**

**~92%**
**Increase in awards**

**$5.1M+**
**in additional awards**

## Leadership Transitions



After 18 years of leadership, SBP co-founders Zack Rosenburg and Liz McCartney stepped into Founder Emeritus roles in May 2024, leaving behind a remarkable legacy—over 6,000 rebuilt homes and a transformed disaster recovery system.

"We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the families we've served, the friends we've made, and the impact we've created together," they shared. "None of this would have been possible without you—our donors, volunteers, AmeriCorps members, and supporters."

As we enter this new chapter, we are excited to welcome Carol Ahn Markowitz as SBP's CEO in February 2025. "I deeply admire SBP's track record of helping at-risk communities recover after disasters," said Markowitz. "I am honored to build on this foundation and create new opportunities for families to rebuild, recover, and return home."

We are also grateful to Tim Brady for his steady leadership as Interim CEO and look forward to his continued service as Chair of the Board.

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**Thank you for your continued support of SBP and the families we serve.**

Your generosity has enabled us to rebuild homes, restore hope, and empower communities to recover faster and more effectively. Together, we are creating lasting change in the lives of those affected by disaster.

**If you would like to learn more about your impact or explore ways to further support our mission, please contact Shannon Harknett, Senior Director of Individual Giving, at SHarknett@sbpusa.org or (908) 432-9060.**