

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**B R A C E**

Be Ready Alliance  
Coordinating for Emergencies

## MEET THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Gregory Strader is the founding Executive of Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies. Prior to founding BRACE, Greg served as the Escambia Long Term Recovery Coordinator following Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis. In 2012, he was named a “Champion of Change” at a White House ceremony for the accomplishments of BRACE during 2010 and 2011.

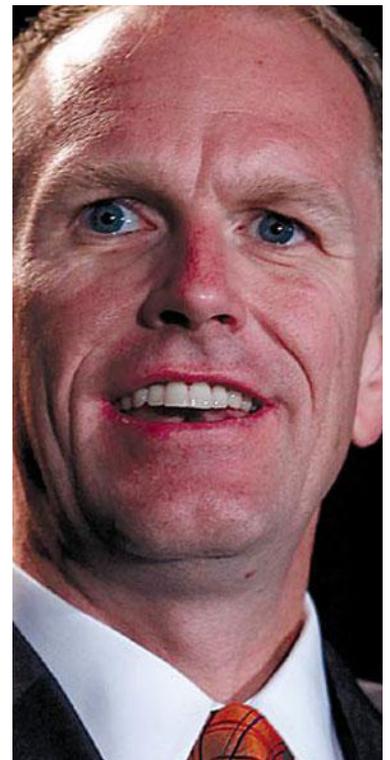
Greg’s passion and efforts as Chief Executive Officer contributed to the Partners of BRACE being recognized by FEMA more frequently than any other locally based alliance through the Individual and Community Preparedness Awards program.

Since BRACE’s inception, Greg has headed BRACE’s efforts as Lead for Emergency Support Function 15 (Volunteers and Donations) for Escambia County Florida. In this capacity, BRACE has many projects to help the community recover from numerous disasters, and most recently the tornadoes in 2016. When asked about his experience as CEO, Greg shared, “It has been the honor and privilege of my life to serve our community through BRACE”.

## MEET THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bryan Koon is the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Director Koon served as the President of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) from 2014 to 2016. In that role he was a liaison between state emergency managers, FEMA and elected officials at all levels. During the past year, he has been informing stakeholders of the expected impacts if Congress adopts the proposed FEMA deductible rule. The 2016 threshold to receive a FEMA declaration for Public Assistance was \$26.5 Million. If the proposed rule is enacted, the deductible for Florida would be \$141 Million, before federal assistance from FEMA, less any credits available to the state.

Director Koon has been an advocate for BRACE, frequently citing the organization as a best practice. He has encouraged communities throughout Florida to establish and maintain alliances of community organizations active in disaster to prepare for the anticipated reduction in federal funding of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.





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## RECOVERING FROM THE TORNADOES



In February of 2016, two EF3 tornadoes touched down in Escambia County. 88 homes were destroyed, 81 suffered severe damage, and an estimated 1,000 people were affected by the event. Jumping directly into action, BRACE and other community partners worked diligently to aid the community in its recovery.

BRACE worked to bring in World Renew, a non-profit organization that works internationally to help communities recover from disaster. Project managers Doug and Pat Guikema brought in nearly 130 volunteers to assess the situation.

With the assistance of World Renew, Habitat for Humanity, Escambia County, and the State Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP), 14 homes have been rebuilt for deserving families.

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### THANK YOU TO THE ESCAMBIA LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP & PARTNERS:

Alabama West Florida United Methodist Church  
Catholic Charities  
Escambia County Board of County Commissioner  
& Neighborhood Enterprise Division  
Escambia County Housing Finance Authority  
Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation  
Florida Recovery Team  
Pensacola Habitat for Humanity  
Abundant Life Assembly of God  
Volunteer Florida

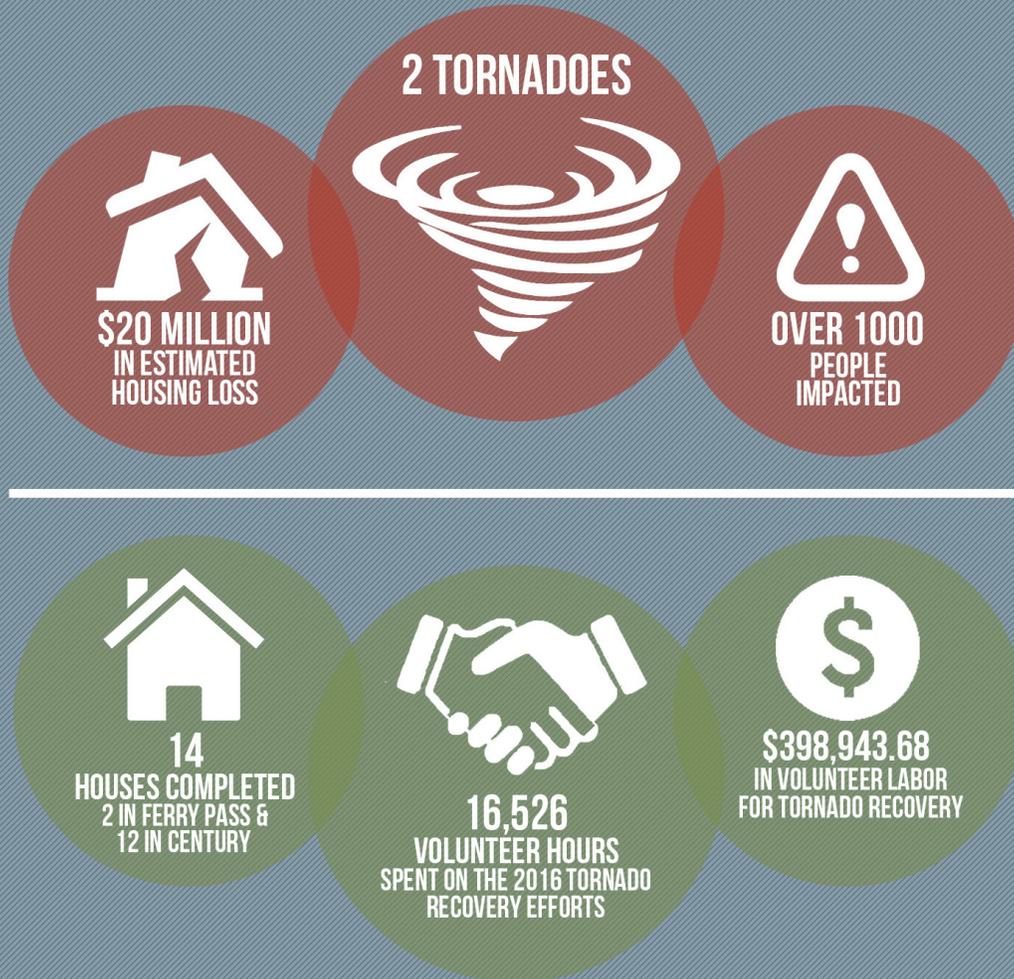
Legal Services of North Florida  
Northwest Florida Community Housing  
Development Corporation  
Town of Century  
United Methodist Committee On Relief  
(UMCOR)  
United Way of Escambia County and Disaster  
Fund Donors  
World Renew  
Pace Assembly of God



Tornado damage at the Moorings Apartment Complex in Ferry Pass in 2016.

# 16 TORNADOES

## 2016 TORNADO RECOVERY EFFORTS



### WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

#### HERE ARE SOME CRITICAL COMMUNITY NEEDS WHERE WE COULD USE YOUR HELP:

- 1) BRACE is currently seeking assistance in managing public shelters during emergencies.
- 2) BRACE is searching for assistance with sheltering and feeding of people with access and functional needs, including supporting persons with disabilities during disasters.
- 3) BRACE is looking for business partners which are interested in becoming CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) certified. Individuals who are CERT certified are invaluable assets during emergency response and recovery.

# UPDATES FROM THE VISTAS

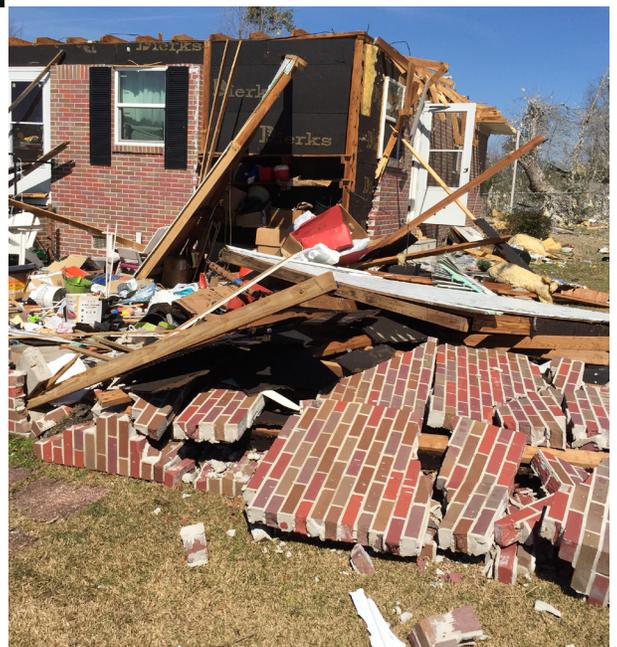
Mary Lynn Williams, our Public Support Coordinator VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America), has worked to serve home bound populations in Escambia County. This year, she partnered with Escambia County Emergency Management to establish the C-MIST (Communications, Medical/Maintenance, Independence, Supervision, and Transportation) committee. Through this committee, she engaged 175 stakeholder organizations and urged them to consider the needs of our county's vulnerable residents.

Additionally, Mary Lynn has helped to recruit Terri Schisler, President of Gulf States Interpreting for the Deaf as a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Leadership Team. Her expertise and generosity will benefit northwest Florida for many years to come as we prepare our most vulnerable populations.



Shannon Angelo, our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Coordinator, has been completing work this year creating a five year plan for CERT. Her mission is to continue to make CERT trainings an essential function in BRACE's disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in Escambia County. Shannon currently has a team of thirty individuals working to make our community more prepared. She is also working to create CERT training in the workplace as an opportunity for professional development with local businesses.

Seth Nelson, our Citizen Corps Coordinator, has been working to create our community safer by recruiting and training volunteers. Seth has been working to provide all Citizen Corps volunteers with a baseline disaster training to ensure agency-wide engagement. This spring, he recruited volunteers to assist local Escambia County hospitals with their county-wide mass casualty and hazardous material exercise. This activity is just one of many in our community helping us become stronger against disasters. Seth's engagement and service has led to the local Citizens Corp chapter to become a Storm Ready ambassador with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).





## CONGRATULATIONS TO BRACE'S PARTNER OF THE YEAR:

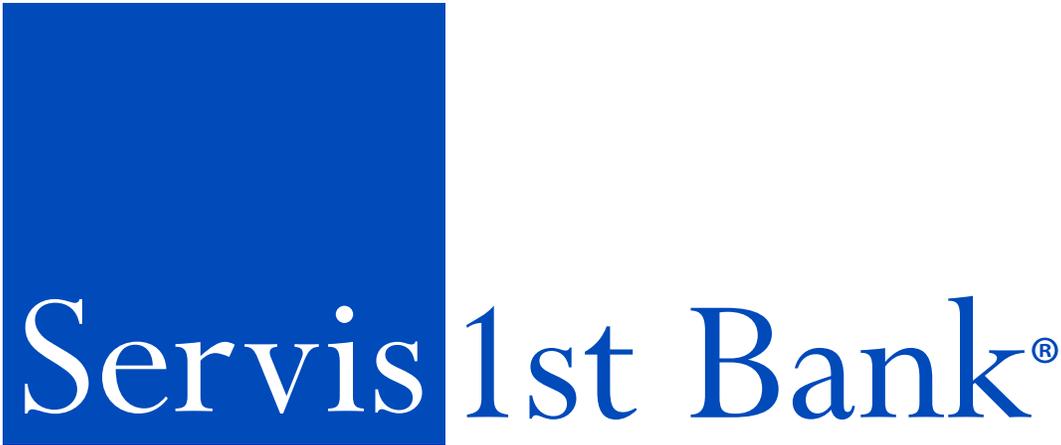


World Renew has been chosen as the BRACE partner of the year due to their continuous dedication to Northwest Florida

and Escambia County.

After the two tornadoes in 2016, BRACE knew that the community would need help in the recovery effort. BRACE brought in World Renew Project Managers Doug and Pat Guikema, who generously spent hundreds of hours alongside volunteers in Escambia County working to make our community a safe and resilient place to live.

For all their hard work, we honor World Renew for over 16,000 volunteer hours dedicated to Escambia County with a team of more than 130 volunteers. In total, the labor provided by volunteers totals nearly \$400,000. Please join us in honoring this special partnership.



OUR NAME IS OUR MISSION.



BRACE would like to give a special thanks to the Woman's Club of Pensacola for providing BRACE with the decorations for our Annual Meeting.



## BRACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## CONNECT WITH US!

[www.facebook.com/BRACEbeready/](http://www.facebook.com/BRACEbeready/)

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Want to get updates every month? Visit our website to opt-in to our monthly newsletters!

Current financial statements and audits may be found on our website at [bereadyalliance.org](http://bereadyalliance.org)



1301 W. Government Street  
Pensacola, FL 32502  
(850)444-7135  
[brace@bereadyalliance.org](mailto:brace@bereadyalliance.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Police Awareness: National Night Out  
August 1, 2017  
Legion Field  
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Western Panhandle Advanced  
Citizen Corps Academy  
August 11 - 13, 2017  
University of West Florida

Escambia Cares Event  
September 16, 2017  
Brownsville Community Center  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

5210 Let's Go! Family Event  
September 30, 2017  
Community Maritime Park  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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