



March 29, 2001



*Celebrating the 2001
International Year of the Volunteer*

Governor's Hurricane Conference
Awards Committee
Post Office Box 279
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34688-0279

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Dear Committee Members,

The Florida Commission on Community Service (FCCS) has been involved in Emergency Management since 1996 in varying capacities. Since 1997, the FCCS has been the lead agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 15, Volunteers and Donations. In addition, FCCS administers 22 state AmeriCorps programs throughout Florida. These programs have over 1000 AmeriCorps members serving in 40 various sites throughout the State. The FCCS was the first in the nation to require that AmeriCorps members be trained in Emergency Management to assist communities during disasters.

The role of the Commission is to promote community service and volunteerism statewide, provide policy guidance for AmeriCorps and other service programs, and to collaborate with as many organizations as possible to develop and implement service initiatives. In all of the work that the Commission does to accomplish this mission, we encounter many exemplary programs. One program that consistently stands out because of its selfless involvement in emergency management is the Christian Contractors Association (CCA). Through this program thousands of Floridians have benefited by CCA dedication and commitment to disaster survivors to rebuild homes and communities.

Scott Jager of Brooksville, Florida established CCA in 1989. The Florida-based association was formed to provide free professional services to the needy, low or uninsured, widowed, elderly, disabled, and organizations of volunteer groups. Since then, CCA has been 100% member and donation supported. Over the last 12 years, CCA has responded to numerous disasters in cooperation with federal, state, and local emergency management officials while supporting the activities of voluntary agencies. After a disaster volunteer assistance arrives. CCA has the staff, knowledge and experience to organize volunteer contractors with local and statewide volunteers to meet the immediate and on-going demands.

Following are highlights of CCA's activities during the last 12 years:

- In 1989 when Hurricane Hugo devastated the coast of South Carolina, CCA organized building trades students and other volunteers in the emergency relief effort. CCA, transported by the South Carolina

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