

Dear Manatee County citizen,

In the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, we are moving quickly to provide you with as many resources as possible to help you through the impacts of this devastating storm.

For now, the best action you can take is to follow local government instructions. It's essential to give officials and responders the space and time they need to assess and assist your community safely.

**If you have access to the internet, one of the best resources at your disposal is**

**[mymanatee.org/storm](https://mymanatee.org/storm)** Unlike this document, [mymanatee.org/storm](https://mymanatee.org/storm) will be updated with the latest information through the post-storm assessment and recovery phases.

**If you do not have the internet, your local Manatee County Library can offer you access free of charge.**

You can also dial 311 from your phone for answers to most questions you may have.

## **If You Need Help: (food, water, temporary housing)**

### **Manatee County Distribution Centers (MREs, Tarps, Water)**

#### **GT Bray Park**

5502 33rd Avenue Drive West

Hours of Operation: 8 AM- 8 PM

#### **Bennett Park**

400 Cypress Creek Blvd

Hours of Operation: 8 AM- 8 PM

#### **Blackstone Park**

2112 14th Ave West

Hours of Operation: 8 AM - 8 PM

#### **Wakeland**

1812 27th Street East

Hours of Operation: 8 AM- 8 PM

#### **COB Parking Garage**

3rd Ave West and 10th Street West

Hours of Operation: 8 AM- 8 PM

**Meals on Wheels:** will be distributing food, water, and cleaning supplies gathered starting Monday 9/30 at 4 pm in Rubonia, which will continue through the week as needed. Cleaning supplies will be distributed on Anna Maria Island for surrounding areas on Wednesday 10/2.

**Red Cross:** shelter is now open at First Baptist in Bradenton (1306 Manatee Ave W) to provide temporary housing for those displaced by Hurricane Helene

We will continue to monitor the situation and determine the best ways to support those affected in our community. In the meantime, we want to provide a few key contacts that may be helpful.

- **Manatee County Disaster Relief Efforts:** [Manatee County \(mymanatee.org/storm\)](http://mymanatee.org/storm)
- **Dial 311 for answers and to connect with resources**
- **Hope Florida (get/give help):** [hopeflorida.com](http://hopeflorida.com) or 1-833-438-4673
- **Crisis Clean Up Hotline (All Parties):** 1-844-965-1386
- **Samaritan's Purse Hotline (Individuals):** 1-833-747-1234
- **FL Baptist Disaster Relief Hotline (Individuals):** 904-253-0502
- **Private Sector Hotline (Businesses):** 850-815-4925 | [ESF18@em.myflorida.com](mailto:ESF18@em.myflorida.com)

#### **STAY INFORMED:**

- [Manatee County Government: mymanatee.org/storm](http://mymanatee.org/storm)
- [Anna Maria Island Hurricane Helene Relief:](#)
- [Manatee Community Foundation](#)
- **Dial 311 for any storm recovery related questions**

Manatee County government will be coordinating volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks. Please stay tuned for updates on how you can assist further.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion during this time. Together, we can make a significant impact on the recovery efforts for those affected by Hurricane Helene.

Please share this vital information on social media and tag organizers so we can continue to spread the word.

#### **STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR PARTNERS:**

- Bradenton Beach Merchants
  - <https://www.facebook.com/bradentonbeachami>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/sundowngetdownbradentonbeach>
- Florida Power and Light
  - <https://www.facebook.com/fplconnect/>
  - <http://www.instagram.com/@insidefpl>
- Knight Foundation
  - <https://www.facebook.com/knightfdn>
  - <http://www.instagram.com/knightfdn>

- Manatee Community Foundation
  - <https://www.facebook.com/manateecf/>
  - <http://www.instagram.com/manateecommunityfoundation>
- Mosaic
  - <https://www.facebook.com/mosaiccompany/>
  - <http://www.instagram.com/mosaic>
- Oysters Rock Hospitality / Anna Maria Oyster Bar
  - <https://www.facebook.com/OystersRock/>
  - <https://www.facebook.co/annamariaoysterbar>
  - <https://www.instagram.com/annamariaoysterbar>
- Women's Resource Center
  - <https://www.facebook.com/mywrc.org/>
  - <https://www.instagram.com/my.wrc>

## Community Needs Surveys:

We need your help in assessing community needs. Please consider taking part in these surveys to help us identify gaps in recovery resources and better serve you and your neighbors:

**Manatee County Unmet Needs Survey:** [tinyurl.com/2s5rnr8](https://tinyurl.com/2s5rnr8)

This survey collects information on impacted individuals' locations, housing damage, financial needs, and safety concerns.

**Florida Disaster Business Damage Assessment Survey:** [tinyurl.com/5337hxt4](https://tinyurl.com/5337hxt4)

This survey helps businesses report the extent of storm damage and operational disruptions, assisting local and state authorities in recovery efforts.

## Immediate Needs: (If you are able to give)

Your support is crucial, and we have outlined the most urgent needs and ways you can get involved. As recovery efforts begin, we will keep you updated on other ways to contribute.

The most urgent needs are **cleaning supplies** and **food** for both residents and essential workers. Here's how you can help.

**Items needed:** Non-perishable unused, unopen food items and bottled water, bleach, mold remover, shovels, wheelbarrows, trash bags, plastic storage bins, toilet paper, paper towels, gloves, etc. **Please do not bring other items as space is limited.**

### **Current Donation Drop-off Locations:**

#### **1. Meals on Wheels Plus (Manatee Food Bank)**

811 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East, Bradenton (just off US 301)

**AND**

10920 State Road 70, Lakewood Ranch

- Donation Hours: 8:30am and 4:00pm

**Contact:** [www.MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org](http://www.MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org)

#### **2. O'Bricks (Downtown Bradenton) - 427 12th St W, Bradenton, FL 34205**

- Today: until midnight
- Monday to Thursday: 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM
- Friday and Saturday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Contact:** 941-896-8860 for specific inquiries.

#### **3. Well Cycle Studio (Northwest Bradenton) - 7109 15th Ave NW, Bradenton, FL 34209**

- Donation Hours: *Beginning Monday 9/30*
  - Monday to Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Contact:** 941-737-2923 for specific inquiries.

#### **4. Mean Deans Local Kitchen - 6059 26th St W, Bradenton, FL 34207**

- Donation Hours: *Beginning Monday 9/30*
  - Sunday to Thursday: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
  - Friday and Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

**Contact:** 941-251-5435 for specific inquiries.

### **Monetary Donations:**

To ensure your contribution directly supports recovery efforts, we encourage donations Manatee Community Foundation. Click below:

[Manatee Community Foundation's Disaster Relief Fund](#) provides grants and support to local organizations directly aiding hurricane victims. Call 941.747.7765 with questions.

\*\*\*Please be cautious of unverified fundraising efforts and donate only through trusted channels. Out-of-area scams have been identified – please beware.\*\*\*