



BRACE

YOURSELF

Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies



First Annual BRACE Hurricane Hoedown



Mark your calendars now to attend the 1st Annual BRACE Hurricane Hoedown – Friday, February 26th at 6 p.m. at the new Sanders Beach Community Center in Downtown Pensacola.



The Hurricane Hoedown is a fundraiser - a networking opportunity that includes dinner, music, dancing, a silent auction, and a themed photo opportunity – where all proceeds benefit the BRACE preparedness efforts throughout Escambia County. This is a fun way for our current and prospective partners to kick up their heels and support our vision of being the most disaster-resilient community in America.

Dust off your boots, grab your 10 gallon hat, and BRACE yourself for a roof-raisin' good time at the Hurricane Hoedown!

The new Sanders Beach Community Center is built on the site where the previous community center was decimated by Hurricane Ivan. "The new facility is one that our community can take pride in and was constructed largely with reinforced concrete to help ensure its survival when exposed to future hurricane winds and storm surge," said Greg Strader, Executive Director of BRACE.

Tickets are \$30 for dinner, live music, dancing and a silent auction. Purchase tickets securely online at www.bereadyalliance.org or call 850.444.7135. Event sponsorships are also available.

Resolve to Be Ready in 2010



As the New Year arrives, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Ready Campaign is once again reminding people to Resolve to be Ready in 2010. While nearly 50 percent of Americans make New Year's Eve resolutions, very few manage to keep them. The Ready Campaign would like to

make an emergency preparedness resolution easy to keep by providing the tools and resources needed to take the three important steps: get a kit, make a plan and be informed about the different types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses. Resources can be found at www.ready.gov/america.

Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week is scheduled for January 24-30, 2010.

AmeriCorps VISTA Program



Many BRACE partners have had the opportunity to work with Stephanie Planchich since May 2009. Stephanie, a native of Seattle, Washington, graduated from Evergreen State College with a liberal arts degree focused on law and community development. Stephanie jumped in with both feet to the tremendous amount of work BRACE conducts in our community, and she has done all of this through the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. John F. Kennedy originated the idea for VISTA and more than 170,000 VISTAs have served since 1965, playing a key role in establishing many of the best-known anti-poverty programs, including Head Start, Upward Bound, and the credit union system.

VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years.

VISTA members commit to serve full-time for one year at a non-profit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups, and much more. We are thrilled with the dedication and hard work Stephanie has provided since she joined us in June. Stephanie hopes to use the knowledge and experience she gained with BRACE to continue supporting community education efforts and working to create sustainable change in neighborhoods.

You can learn more about the AmeriCorps VISTA Program at www.americorps.gov.

Calendar of Events

January 23 – CERT Corporate Class for Pall Life Sciences employees

January 24-30 – Florida Severe Weather Awareness Week

February 26 – 1st Annual BRACE Hurricane Hoedown – 6 p.m. at the Sanders Beach Community Center in Downtown Pensacola.

March 16 – Keep On Keepin' On workshop led by Volunteer Florida. Time/location TBA.

Recurring BRACE Meetings:

BRACE Homebound Committee Meeting –

First Wednesday of each month • 10 a.m.;
United Way Building

BRACE Executive Committee/Board of

Directors Meeting – Fourth Wednesday of each month • 7:30 a.m.; United Way building or Baskerville Donovan building

BRACE Preparedness/Mitigation Committee

Meeting – First Thursday of each month 8 a.m.; United Way building

BRACE Programs and Services Leadership

Meeting – Second Thursday of each month 7:30 a.m.; United Way building

BRACE Partnership Committee Meeting –

Second Thursday of each month • 11 a.m.
United Way building

BRACE Marketing Committee Meeting –

Third Thursday of each month • 4:30 p.m.
United Way building

BRACE CERT Sub-Committee Meeting –

Fourth Friday of each Month • 12 p.m.;
Location varies

Call Maralee at 444-7135 for information and updates.

Contact Us

BRACE welcomes your calls and emails. We can be reached at (850) 444-7135, or by email at BRACE@BeReadyAlliance.org.

Visit us at www.BeReadyAlliance.org for more tips and facts to help prepare you and your family in case of an emergency.

Volunteers are seldom paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!!!

Keep On Keepin' On!



Volunteer Florida, the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, has designed a workshop to help communities prepare for and recover from disasters. Keep On Keepin' On (KOKO) will be offered in Escambia County on Tuesday, March 16 at Olive Baptist Church, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

KOKO provides an opportunity to learn about the emergency management cycle, receive a toolkit to help plan or expand Continuity of Operations Plans, participate in a powerful hurricane exercise and a post-disaster damage assessment, identify the impacts of a disaster and anticipate immediate and emerging needs, develop disaster-relief projects that can meet community needs, and build partnerships that survive far beyond the workshop. Endorsed by county emergency management professionals, the KOKO workshop teaches organizations of all kinds to survive disasters and prepares them for leadership in the local nongovernmental disaster response.

Mark your calendars to participate in Keep On Keepin' On, Tuesday, March 16! Details on registration will be coming soon. Call BRACE at 850-444-7135 for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

BRACE has a number of opportunities for volunteers in the upcoming months.

- Hurricane Hoedown Planning Committee
- Hurricane Hoedown Set-up/Tear Down Volunteers (February 26)
- Event Planning Committee for summer community event and annual meeting
- Adult and Teen CERT class participants
- CERT instructors (must have completed 2-4 hours CERT training per month)
- Fire Corps Committee Members
- Committee Members interested in helping on one or more of the BRACE committees (Partnership, Marketing, Preparedness, or Homebound)

For more information on any of these Opportunities, email brace@bereadyalliance.org or call the BRACE office at 850-444-7135.

Citizen Corps Council and CERT Programs Awarded Grant Funding

Escambia County, the City of Pensacola, and the Town of Century were recently awarded a total of \$50,000 in grant funding for 2010 from the Florida Division of Emergency Management Citizen Corps Office. Funding was awarded to cities and counties throughout the state for the start-up or maintenance of Citizen Corps Council and CERT programs. The goals of the programs are to increase community awareness and participation in emergency preparedness utilizing a neighbor helping neighbor philosophy.

BRACE serves as the Escambia County Citizen Corps Coordinator, assuming all responsibility for Escambia County's programs including CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, USA on Watch (Neighborhood Watch), and Volunteers in Police Service.

Free CERT classes are available for anyone interested in gaining hands-on training to assist in disasters. Read more about CERT and Citizen Corps on the BRACE website in the "What We Do" section. Visit www.bereadyalliance.org.