Two years after the October 2015 flooding people's needs are less obvious, but no less serious. In fact, currently there are more than 300 families in the Midlands that need help repairing their homes.

In the year since the flooding, United Way and its Midlands Flood Recovery Group partners have repaired 215 homes. In the next year, our goal is to accelerate the recovery process.

That’s where the United Way of the Midlands’ Restoring Hope project comes in. As we further our efforts to help those in need, we secured over $2 million in funds. We are continuing to raise funds to further the relief effort. The additional volunteers are still required to restore 250+ homes and make them safe and livable.

Following the disaster, more than 27,000 people in Richland and Lexington counties registered with FEMA reporting a loss. The average FEMA award was $2,206.

To date, United Way has distributed $1,426,435 in funds to flood recovery partners for rebuilds, repairs, temporary housing, emergency financial assistance and capacity building including trainings and construction management.

Since October United Way has led the Midlands Flood Recovery Group – a group of 60 community organizations from faith-based, non-profit, government and business working to assist individuals and families as they recover from disaster.

Community volunteer hours documented since October: more than 146,000.

Donate | Contributions to United Way through the Restoring Hope project will be used to return flood victims safety to their homes. Donate at ReStoringHopeSC.org. United Way will not take any administrative fees from resources raised through the Restoring Hope project.

Sponsor | By leveraging volunteer labor and donated goods, United Way and its partners can repair a homes for 25% less than a market rate repair. In a sample of 20 flood-damaged homes, the average contractor estimate is $39,900.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Mold remediation: $1,500
More than half of the homes waiting for repairs require treatment for mold. Trained volunteers can remediate a home for mold for 10% the cost of commercial treatment. Consumable supplies like hazmat suits and respirators as well as chemicals are needed for each home.

HVAC and duct work: $7,000
About 10% of the homes need new HVAC and duct work.

Roof Repair: $7,000
More than half the homes waiting for repairs need new or repaired roofs. Since October, these damaged roofs have continued to let in the rain, further damaging the home and exacerbating mold. Consider sponsoring a new roof and jumpstart a home repair.

Full home repair: $25,000 - $50,000
Toward accelerating the rebuilding of homes, we are inviting large organizations to consider sponsoring a home repair.

Construction Manager: $75,000
Rebuild sites require professionals to manage the repair work including cost estimates, materials management, contracting for licensed trade work and of course, managing volunteers. High functioning repair groups can
manage up to eight sites with one construction manager. One construction manager could oversee the rebuild of 30 homes in the next year.

Volunteer | We need volunteers in many capacities including home repairs, administrative support and data management, skilled volunteers to assist with repair estimates and credentialed counselors to support flood victims and to help those working in the recovery. You can even volunteer by helping to spread the word about Restoring Hope on social media. You can also visit Volunteer.uway.org

Host Out of State Repair Groups | One way many communities accelerate disaster recovery is by inviting out-of-state volunteer repair groups to assist. Many of these groups are faith-based groups with both highly skilled and unskilled volunteers who spend weeks to months in disaster affected communities repairing homes. Many bring materials and resources for the repairs and almost all of them need assistance with temporary housing during their stay here. The groups can range from 15-60 individuals and to take advantage of their generosity, we need housing with showers and cooking facilities. Consider offering your church or recreational facilities or help us develop a long term solution in a single site.