

# RESTORING HOPE

UNITED WAY OF THE MIDLANDS



United Way  
of the Midlands

uway.org

## THE NEED

In 2015 there were 43 FEMA named disasters nationwide. South Carolina represented nearly HALF (48%) of all FEMA individual assistance applications.

More than 27,000 people in Richland and Lexington counties registered with FEMA reporting a loss. Based on a sample of 20 flood damaged homes, the average FEMA approval for home repairs was \$2,440. The average contractor estimate for those same repairs was \$39,319.

Now, over two years later people's needs are less obvious, but no less serious. Through United Way of the Midlands' RESTORING HOPE initiative, we are asking our community to re-energize their spirit of generosity and giving to create enough volunteerism, donations and hospitality to continue to raise funds to restore homes of the families still waiting to return to a safe and livable home.

► Visit [RESTORINGHOPESC.ORG](http://RESTORINGHOPESC.ORG) to get involved.



**\$2.2M  
INVESTED**



**218 HOMES  
RESTORED**



**169,000 HOURS  
OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

# UNITED WAY LEADERSHIP

## MIDLANDS FLOOD RECOVERY GROUP



**MIDLANDSFLOOD**  
RECOVERY GROUP

**United Way continues to lead the charge for long term flood recovery in the Midlands**, organizing the Midlands Flood Recovery Group (MFRG) to coordinate the recovery in Richland and Lexington counties.

The flood recovery group consists of 46 community organizations from faith-based, non-profit, government, business and other organizations working to assist individuals and families as they recover from the disaster. The MFRG addresses ongoing needs including disaster case management, home repairs and rebuilds, crisis counseling, volunteer management, and securing and allocating funds to meet the unmet needs of disaster victims.

## THE PEMPLETON FAMILY A STORY OF HOPE

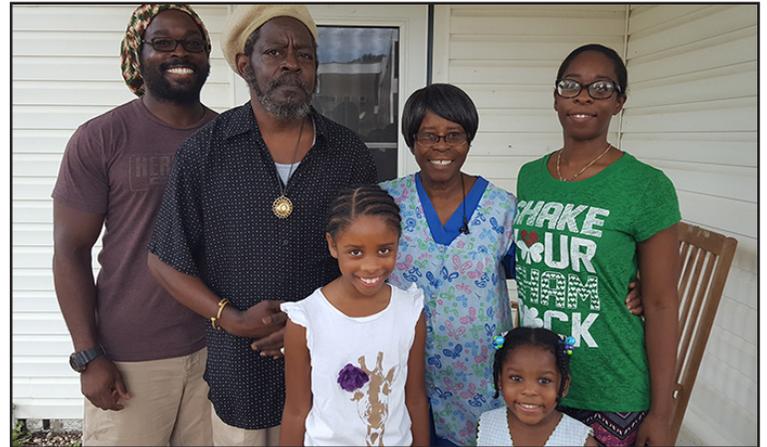
Mr. Pempleton is a retired research librarian who worked at Benedict College for 27 years. Mrs. Pempleton is a former nurse and currently works part-time as a home helper. For nearly 25 years, the Pempletons have shared their home together.

The night of the storm, the Pempletons did not feel threatened, but as the rain continued, the severity of the situation became apparent. “The streets looked like rivers,” they recalled.

By the end of the storm, their basement was submerged by the flood waters, causing severe mold and destabilizing their foundation.

The financial burden of trying to upkeep and rebuild their home proved impossible for the family to shoulder alone. While they filed for and received emergency funds from FEMA, it was not enough money to do the necessary repairs.

So, despite the dangers posed to their health, the couple and their grandchildren were unable to leave their mold-ridden home. While living in these conditions, Mrs. Pempleton’s granddaughter got sick, an illness which the family believes is directly caused by their living conditions at the time.



To Mr. Pempleton, his home was a place to set roots. “Growing up,” he said, “I always wanted to own a house.” To Mrs. Pempleton, her home means the beginning of her life in Columbia. When they looked for houses, she said, “I fell in love with the house. I’m still in love with it.”

The family has now returned to their beloved home with the collaborative help of the community and organizations like United Way of the Midlands, SBP and the partners dedicated to providing flood repair services.