



A Refuge In the Storm

By **MARINA MATHEWS**/Director of Marketing, Brandon Place

“Hurricane Irma was the most powerful Atlantic hurricane in recorded history. It was a Category 5 when it made landfall on Barbuda on September 6, 2017. Its winds were 185 miles per hour for 37 hours. That’s longer than any storm ever recorded. Those winds extended 50 miles from the center. Tropical storm force winds extended 185 miles from the center. Its coastal storm surges were 20 feet above normal tide levels.” (Source: “Hot Water Ahead for Hurricane Irma,” NASA, Sept. 7, 2017.)

Moosehaven was a refuge during Hurricane Irma. Our residents remained safely on-campus throughout the storm, with hot meals provided in spite of loss of power. In addition security and wellness checks were conducted every hour and gave them peace of mind that all would be well. How did we manage all that in the midst of one of the most destructive forces of nature? We do what we do best: work together and get the job done.

Moosehaven maintains a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which is shared with Orange Park, FL and our area police and fire rescue units. This plan has procedures for how to react during many different scenarios such as fire, flood, hurricanes and others. Keeping our residents and staff safe is the primary goal of each plan. We review the plan each year and in an actual emergency, are prepared to carry out the plan while providing continued service to our residents.

Quite simply, our residents are safer on the Moosehaven campus than they would be living or being relocated to someplace else. We thank you, the Fraternity, for the continued support of this amazing community we call Moosehaven. The security and peace-of-mind Moosehaven offers its residents and their families is priceless. Every day here is truly, “Another Day in Paradise.”

For more information about Moosehaven, please visit our website www.moosehaven.org and be sure to like us on FaceBook! ■

WOTM Commit To Moosehaven Fishing Pier Repair

By **BARB McPHERSON**/Grand Chancellor

While Hurricane Irma is long gone from the state of Florida, the recovery from her destruction is far from over. During her short reign over our beloved Moosehaven, she damaged a number of areas of the campus and the Women of the Moose have committed to the funding necessary for the repairs.

The most severely damaged area is the fishing pier, which is completely destroyed. The storm surge on the St. Johns River was devastating and at one point crested the seawall, though the water did not reach into the Moosehaven campus.

Despite everything, our residents were safe, comfortable and well cared for thanks to our amazing staff.

The fishing pier was originally funded by the Women of the Moose in 1962. In keeping with our values and love of that pier, the Women of the Moose will be providing necessary relief via the Hurricane Repair Fund by way of the Green Cap/Ways and Means Committee.

Funds should be remitted with the Green Cap/Ways and Means form 114 which has been revised and posted online at www.mooseintl.org.

Please be sure to download the updated form prior to your Green Cap/Ways and Means chapter activity night. The Chairman’s pamphlet

has also been revised, posted online and is attached for your convenience. Please provide a copy to the Junior Graduate Regent.

The Hurricane Repair Fund will help restore the fishing pier to its glory, will assist in repairing damage to the deck at the Michigan Building, will help replace shingles on wind-damaged roofs and will reduce the financial burden of the clean-up effort of downed trees, limbs and moss.

While insurance will help with some of the restoration, contributions from the Women of the Moose will help offset high deductibles and restore our campus for the enjoyment of our residents for years to come. We have a long tradition in preserving, repairing and rebuilding the Moosehaven fishing pier and I am confident your efforts will not disappoint. Our love for our beloved campuses is stronger than any hurricane and I know we can count on you, co-workers, to get the job done.

While this fund is intended to be a committee project, any additional chapter or individual donations may be remitted to Moose Charities earmarked “WOTM Hurricane Repair Fund.”

Thank you in advance for your contributions in ensuring that Moosehaven is once again “Another Day in Paradise.” ■

Keep “Sharing and Caring” During Difficult Times

By **JAN FREGULIA**/Executive Director, Moose Charities

At this time, due to the catastrophes that have befallen our country and our neighboring countries, we need to understand how very precious life is and the importance of caring and sharing.

Our Fraternity – our “family” – has come together to help those individuals who have suffered the loss of loved ones, their homes and to those who have been so tragically touched by hurricanes, earthquakes, and deadly shootings. Our Fraternity believes in the “one for all, and all for one” spirit.

Our mission is, and will always be, to maintain the operations of the Mooseheart Child City & School and Moosehaven, our Fraternity’s retirement community. And we ask that you keep this mission central in your thoughts at all times.

God bless Mooseheart, Moosehaven and our Fraternity!

Our mission is also to help our fellow man and this is said best in the following poem titled “A Helping Hand” by Ray Hansell:

Make a difference
Each day you live
Open your heart
Learn to give

Life for many
Is so unkind
Giving people
Are hard to find

So open your heart
Give what you can
We’re all responsible
For our fellow man

It’s so easy to look
The other way
But the tables could turn
On any given day

So help if you can
For one day you may be
The one who’s down and out
The one no one will see. ■

Howling – and Being Thankful

By **BOB NEFF**/Director, Higher Degrees

Well that headline might have you wondering what is coming? It simply goes with the themes of the season and some needs of our Fraternity. Let me try to make that sound a bit more logical to you.

The end of October is when we celebrate Halloween. Many of our younger, or young at heart citizens howl around in ghoulish and often more friendly-natured costumes.

This is also the time of year when many of us will gather with friends and family to celebrate a time of Thanksgiving for our many blessings. Thanksgiving is observed on Oct. 9 in Canada and Nov. 23 in the U.S.

While maybe not howling, our Fraternity has a list of expired members that, for one reason or another, have not renewed their membership. Those of us who truly care about this Fraternity are asked to reach out in a friendly way and contact those with expired memberships to remind them of the many good things our Fraternity does and the benefits of membership to them personally.

By encouraging these members to stay the course with us in our giving and caring endeavors, we will no doubt reach some of them in a positive way.

We can give thanks for those members who take that “nudge” from a membership retention phone call and renew their dues. Each unit in the Fraternity faces obstacles that must be overcome, but we also have much

to be thankful for in this organization.

We are thankful for the members who freely give their support through volunteer services, who make gifts to Moose Charities, who serve on committees and definitely those who take on the responsibilities of being officers – at every level of the organization.

Without all those folks, we would not have the opportunity to be so thankful for the heartfelt feelings we get in the care we give to the students at Mooseheart and to the seniors who now benefit from the wonderful care at Moosehaven.

Some of our members and fraternal units recently experienced some howling of the recent, catastrophic storms. We are thankful that even with all the damage and destruction there was – that it was not worse. Rebuilding is underway for many affected by the storms of this season. Many heroes have stepped up on the front lines as first responders. We should reach out to thank them and offer our program and assistance as we can to all those we can.

I am thankful to serve the members of this Fraternity. We thank each of you for all you do on the front lines in each fraternal unit and at each level of the Fraternity. It is your faithful service that determines our level of success. Therefore, we send out a “howl” of a message of thanksgiving for all you do! ■

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