People like us are finding one another, telling our stories and developing a plan to get what we deserve, based on the life-saving work we do all across Florida.

You play a very special role in the lives of the people of Florida. You help people recover after a disaster threatens their lives—helping them protect or rebuild their homes, helping them rebuild their communities, helping them find peace and strength.

During and after a storm, people depend on us—the Resilience Workforce—to rebuild their homes and schools, to make their cities work, and to reunify their families.

We know that we are just as important as fireman and nurses and others who make the difference between people losing everything and feeling they have no future, and people recovering what’s most valuable to them and being able to move forward.

The people of Florida are slowly learning to thank us, and to see that they should give back to us just like we give so much to them. Together, we are starting to tell our stories, educate the public and get the communities we work in to support our own needs for housing, food, fair pay, protections while working and family security. To give us respect.

It is the same story all over the country. People like us come to the aid of the people and neighborhoods and cities that need us, whenever natural disasters strike—tornados, wild fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes. All the big disasters
that come with increasing climate change. We have the determination to remove all of the damage and debris. We have the skills to rebuild homes and buildings. We understand how to care for people in the middle of loss and grief, whether as a healthcare worker or just a friendly face.

Right now, our roles are not understood, and we do not get the respect we deserve. We are not paid enough, and many times we do not get paid what was promised, or even get paid at all. We work in bad conditions and get hurt. We are blamed for being in communities as immigrants when we have actually been asked to come and help, and are doing what is needed that no one else can do.

Resilience Force is a new group of people like us who are coming together to change all that. Together, we have a voice that can tell our story, tell communities and people in government what we need, and make employers treat us with respect.

Our goal is to protect ourselves, and never have to hide. We can get stolen wages back. We can get safety equipment. We can get a place to stay and the food and health care we need to stay healthy. We can be recognized by the people we’re helping and in the media.

We have already fought and won in court, and fought and won changes in the laws. We can get a lot more if more of us come together.

To learn about who we are and what we are doing, visit our website at www.resilienceforce.org or contact Jeff Pinzino at jpinzino@resilienceforce.org

We will stand together and fight together, to make our work respected and make ourselves safe.