

Our Request:

The U. S. Marine Safety Institute, Inc. (USMSI) seeks funding to assist us in XXXX re-establishing our organization through a unique profit structure that will provide long-term funding for our programs and activities. We will establish a viable and sustainable business model beginning with a dealership of StabiCraft Boats (www.stabcraft.com), which will provide us with the means to be completely self-funded and self-sustaining within 3 years. Manatee County will be the initial site of a program with the potential to expand to other parts of the state and nation. Our plan is to establish this sub-station and grow our organization as a model non-profit franchise for search, rescue and recovery while offering environmental education and jobs training to thousands of low-income youth, young adults, and veterans nationally. Entering into a partnership with Stabcraft would allow us to be a multiple retailer, but more importantly, a training and rigging center for these vessels here in the United States. The USMSI would be the beneficiary of direct retail sales to fire/rescue, law enforcement, military and commercial fishing and diving as well as the recreational market. We were extremely successful with this organizational structure from 1999-2010 when we had a similar relationship with Aluminum Chambered Boats (ACB's) out of Bellingham, WA.

Steps to Success:

1. Most urgently, our recently collapsed dock must be replaced. It requires two permanent lifts and three floating (dock-blocks) boat lifts, which will also serve as an in-water display for this (profit structure #2) design system. (Please go to www.dock-blocks.com for very thorough information). **Total Cost: \$115,322**
2. In order to run our youth & veteran Module Training Courses (MTC's), we must complete the 1,100 sq. ft. multi-purpose room at the back of the sub-station. The concrete is poured and the 400-amp electrical panel is in. We have framing wood and sheeting but no trusses, doors, windows, roofing materials and accessories to complete the addition. **Total Cost: \$154,310 (materials and labor)**
3. An enclosed transport trailer is needed to replace the old 1999 26' car-hauler destroyed by Hurricane Eta. This air-conditioned trailer stored our emergency aid in a cooled, dry environment. (photos attached of the mold and damage caused). **Total Cost: \$32,808.00**
4. Replenish our emergency aid, medical, food and disaster related supplies. We completely disbursed everything we had on hand during this pandemic leaving us with no disaster response supplies. We want to establish an emergency cash fund to help those who need urgent assistance. **Goal: \$300,000.**
5. Purchase a StabiCraft vessel for search, rescue and recovery. This profit structure (#3) would be used for reef deployment, animal and rescue operations and incorporate our youth and veterans programs. **Total Cost: \$168,935.00**

Our initial mission in 2002 was emergency and disaster response as we are specialists in Search, Rescue, Research and Recovery. However, because of the many critical needs we recognized in the various communities we serve, we began providing a wide variety of educational programs in what we call Module Training Courses (MTC's) with the underlying goal to attract, inspire and educate at-risk and underserved youth. Through our vast list of educators and captains, we are equipped to provide these MTC's which allow education and training in a vast array of fields to give many educational options such as, to name a few:

- * Marine related programs including animal rescue
- * Deploying, cleaning, and repairing artificial reefs
- * Vessel basic operators training courses for all vessel types including rescue techniques.
- * First Responder courses in Personal Water Craft (PWC) Ocean Rescue, vessel tow, etc.
- * CPR/SAED, First-Aid, EMT and Field Medic training.
- * K-9 SAR training from obedience through FEMA trained instructor courses.

By providing these introductory MTC's, students have the ability to choose a desired program allowing them to focus on their desired course training, which may lead to a potential career opportunity. Past class sizes have ranged from as few as four on a vessel to up to 10 students per instructor in medical courses. Over the years, we have successfully trained youth (ages 16-28), veterans and first responders.

This multi-layered project directly benefits Manatee County residents, emergency personnel, underserved youths ages 16-28 and veterans. The program offers high-quality instructors, professional skills classes, career development coaching, wrap-around services, and work-based apprenticeships and internships. The USMSI's Skilled Trades Programs provide training in vessel building and maintenance, engine repair, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, welding, vessel pre-op, post-op and rescue operator's skills training in search, rescue and recovery.

Manatee County will benefit by the free services we provide. Emergency response is a service we provide through a partnership with licensed male and female captains and vessel owners who have taken our rescue ops training and have their vessels on their lifts at home and are willing to assist in these emergencies as a service to our local communities. We try to team up female and male captains with female and male students. Further, in the past, there has never been a charge for any of these programs. This has always been deemed a necessity and has always been a community team effort as a way to give back and keep people safe on the water. This is another reason it is important to find mentors and government grants to address these needs.

Finally, we at the USMSI strongly believe in building a strong service ethic. We have many opportunities for those who desire service hours or just want to lend a hand as a volunteer in protecting the environment. Through the years, nearly 7000 students from 104 different high schools and universities have collectively volunteered over 210,000 hours on such projects as beach and river clean up, restoration of trails, home rebuilding and peer mentoring.

Because of a tremendous losses beginning in 2010 due to ACB's going defunct, the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster and contract loss and this COVID pandemic, the USMSI finds itself in need of financial support to get back on track in pursuing its mission.

Organizational History:

Our organization was formed with the intent of being first and foremost emergency and disaster response as we are specialists in search, rescue, research and recovery. However, in the aftermath of 9/11/01, we clarified our organization's mission, recognizing the critical needs in the communities we served. We realized the knowledge and skills sets we possessed needed to be paid forward. We formed a non-profit organization in 2002, and began providing a wide variety of educational programs called Module Training Courses (MTCs). These programs met our underlying goal of attracting, inspiring, and educating under-served youth while

aiding and teaming up with our highly skilled veterans to mentor the youths and professionally train first responders.

Over the last 20 years, thousands of our volunteer students from 104 different high schools and universities have collectively volunteered over 210,000 hours on such projects as beach and river clean ups, setting artificial reefs, restoration of trails, tree planting and reforestation, home rebuilding and peer mentoring. For more specific information about our programs, go to www.usmsi.org and click on any of the logos or photos as each should take you to a description of the various programs. *Please understand it is a work in progress.*

In 2016, founder and co-chair of the organization, donated his home on the Manatee River to USMSI, which is now our headquarters and the location of our proposed sub-station model. This location has direct emergency and disaster response access to the Gulf of Mexico. Scott Steele has over 35 years of experience in Search, Rescue, Recovery and Special Operations Training, and authored a program called Personnel Watercraft Rescue for First Responders.

Karin Netzel, co-chair and director of education, is a profoundly detail oriented professional teacher from Battle Creek High School, Michigan where she earned tenure teaching history, math, English and social studies. Besides her teaching career, we came to find out through colleagues, friends and family that over her 20+ teaching history, Karin has, as a volunteer, tutored 100's of underserved youth all while building an extensive high school swim program from the ground up, developing and nurturing relationships with children of all ages and their families. Karen also has decades of experience in computer science and writing. Karen excels at working with people, engaging and making connections with students, teachers, parents, trainees and customers alike, promoting continual relationships with anyone she comes in contact with. She is very capable of using technology to locate information whenever needed and is extraordinary with students and athletes. Karen recently took a website development course and is creating our usmsi.org website (in progress) as her first foray into website design.