



For the Crisfield-Somerset County Times/Submitted  
GCAC President Charlotte Scott and SCLTRC Chair Joe Pinto stand together in front of a home built by SCLTRC holding a copy of the signed Memorandum of Understanding that pledges cooperation between the two non-profit corporations. Both boards, which share some members in common, approved it unanimously.

## Long Term Recovery, GCAC to work together on housing issues

Two non-profits sign memorandum to share expertise, resources

Crisfield-Somerset County Times

CRISFIELD — The Greater Crisfield Action Coalition Inc., which includes home ownership as one its areas of focus, and the Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee, which built new, restored and elevated existing houses out of the floodplain following superstorm Sandy, signed a memorandum of understanding pledging to work together on projects of common interest for the betterment of the local community.

The agreement between the two Maryland non-profits will maintain open communication at least annually

to review objectives and collaborate on projects of interest. The MOU was approved unanimously by both boards and signed by their respective chief executive officers — Charlotte Scott for GCAC and Joseph Pinto for the Long Term Recovery Committee.

As Pastor Phil Huber of Lutheran Disaster Response put it before the vote was taken Sept. 19, through this agreement it takes away any competition between the two groups. The boards in fact share some directors in common, including Ms. Scott, who is president of GCAC, but the agreement specifically states that joint participation is not considered a conflict of interest “so long as the common membership is disclosed.”

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# MOU Signed

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According to the MOU, Long Term Recovery will continue to “exercise the leadership role on projects involving housing” while GCAC will focus on “overall community and economic development program.” Ms. Scott said GCAC can help write and apply for grants and the two organizations can share resources.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Long Term Recovery Committee because of the track record they have in helping this community following Hurricane Sandy, and we look forward to working together to build or rehabilitate more affordable homes in Crisfield,” Ms. Scott said.

“And, I trust that this is but the first of many cooperative agreements that GCAC enters into with local organizations and government agencies who share our passion for transforming the Crisfield area into a vibrant and thriving community where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.”

Mr. Pinto, chair of SCLTRC, echoed the benefits of cooperation. “As our group’s Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts wind down, it is good to know that we have a partner with whom we can continue to create disaster-resilient affordable housing for the community,” he said.

The directors of both organizations intend to maximize their effectiveness on behalf of the citizens of the community by maintaining formal and informal open commu-

nications, avoiding competition for project funding, collaborating on projects with each group taking the leadership role in their particular areas of expertise, and seeking beneficial opportunities to share resources.

Board members affirmed that there is benefit to having common directors in a close-knit community. GCAC’s additional goals outlined in its Five Year Action Plan released in February 2016 include branding and marketing, business building, workforce development, and youth and recreation programs. They were developed in consultation with Long Term Recovery staff and board input.

For more information on SCLTRC visit [www.SomersetRecovery.org](http://www.SomersetRecovery.org). For more information on GCAC, go to [www.GreaterCrisfieldMD.org](http://www.GreaterCrisfieldMD.org).