

Hurricane Harvey Update

October 24, 2017

In the Federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Harvey, twenty counties in Mission Presbytery are designated as eligible for individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In those twenty counties, FEMA has received over 120,000 applications for individual assistance. Preliminary damage assessments indicate over 16,700 homes were destroyed or suffered major damage, and almost 32,000 more affected in some way.

In the realm of disaster assistance, our reputation and our resources as Presbyterians lie primarily in the areas of long-term recovery and emotional and spiritual care.

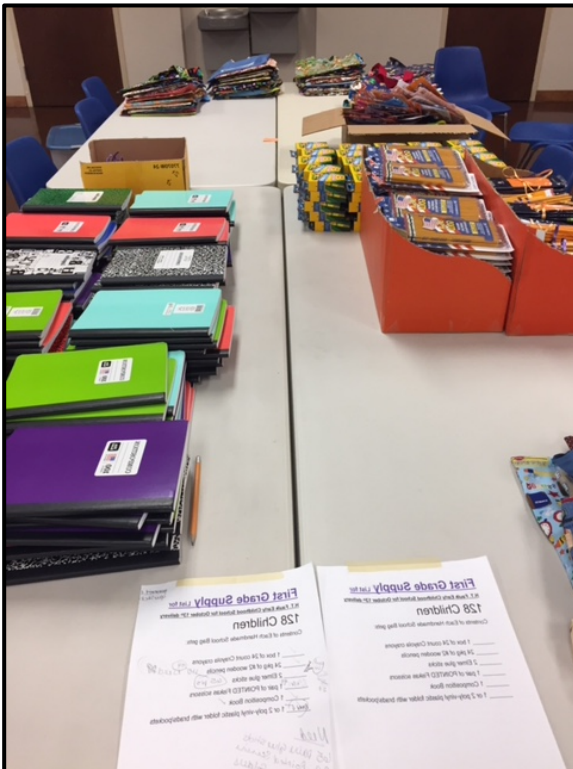
This month PDA specialists in emotional and spiritual care provided stress management workshops in several locations around Texas for FEMA, state and nonprofit workers who have been working tirelessly in response to Harvey's impact.

In the coming weeks, a team from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) will be helping churches in or near the affected area that may be able to host volunteers involved in rebuilding work. Any host sites established will be connected with the PDA Call Center and advertised among volunteer work opportunities on the PDA website, <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/volunteer/>

Meanwhile, many Mission Presbytery churches have found other ways to volunteer their services. Here are just a few examples:

Several churches assembled flood cleanup bucket kits and personal hygiene kits by the dozens—enough, in fact, that it took some time to get them distributed. Those not put into immediate use will be stored to replace the thousands of such kits needed in Harvey's wake.

Through a personal connection with the Aransas Pass schools, the folks at **St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, San Antonio**, learned of the need for essential school supplies for local students. They assembled 624 unique, handmade bags of supplies and delivered them to Aransas Pass along with a special bag for each teacher with a personal note and some “extra goodies.”



A group from **Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Austin**, working with an LDS church team, built and delivered bunk bed sets to be used by volunteers working on Hurricane Harvey recovery. Forty sets were delivered to First United Methodist Church in Aransas Pass, and five sets to El Divino Salvador Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi. Special thanks go to K&J Woodworks, Umland, Texas, for providing the use of their facilities!



If you have more stories of creative ways to help, please share them with us at officeasst@missionpby.org !