

Mary Sturdevant

From: Mary Sturdevant <sturdevant.mary@swbell.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2017 5:08 PM
To: Mary Sturdevant
Subject: September - Support for Storm Recovery at Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministries



We want to be sure you continue to know what is happening at TEAM! Please feel free to share any sections of this newsletter with your congregation in your church newsletter and/or bulletin if you so choose. Please also help us by forwarding this email to others in your church who would be interested and let me know if this should go to others on an ongoing basis.

Harvey Mayhem and Miracles

Much mayhem has been the order of the day over the last couple of weeks! But I have also seen the powerful hand of God at work in our little community...and in so many others. I want to share with you one of the stories I have experienced, out of many, in the vignette below.

Matthew's home began flooding, badly and quickly. While the flood raged, his wife went into labor and had to be rushed to the hospital. During delivery, she experienced a pulmonary embolism and coded. After being resuscitated and stabilized, she had an emergency C-section. After she was out of the woods and delivered a healthy baby girl, Matthew and his son went back to check on the house. By that time it was *completely* submerged, with only a few inches of the peak showing. His family lost everything, including papers, pictures, and furniture. And to make matters worse, they were renters and FEMA could not cover any of their loss. Then Matthew, a disabled vet with two rods in his back, who still manages to work, and is the Assistant Manager of Walgreens in Tomball, received a call telling him that he was being transferred in two weeks to guess where? That's right...Florida. Additionally, his family owns a house in, guess where? Again Florida. Matthew said that even though he has seen combat in Afghanistan, he would rather have been on the front lines for that terrible day than to have experienced that frightening night.

But, with faith, God always places a silver lining around even the darkest cloud. And Matthew, as a believer, has indeed found incredible blessings in the midst of his mayhem. People at Tomball ISD knew Matthew, reached out with loving arms to him, and have provided so much loving support. They also referred him to TEAM, who provided him with clothes for the family, food, lots of baby things, prescriptions for the medication he lost in the flood, a listening ear, and...encouragement. And Gary Greene Realty, who wanted to adopt a flood affected family, has stepped up and is helping him with new clothes and school supplies for his older son in high school, and everything else he needs, including a bed. And they will continue to be there for him until his situation stabilizes or until he leaves for Florida. They are even ready to adopt another family. And we will have one for them!

Here's a picture of some of the baby clothes provided by TEAM and a couple of the volunteers [packing up the donations after they went "shopping" at TEAM for Matthew's family:](#)



Please pray for Matthew and his family. For his current situation. For protection for his home in Florida. For the timing of his transfer. And continue to pray for *all* those who have suffered devastation from this flood. I believe that your prayers for him, and for all those affected, will be time well spent.

Grace and Peace,
Becky Loving, Executive Director

Harvey was horrendous, but Tomball proves again that it is the hometown with a heart – and the wider community supported Tomball and Houston as well:

Here is a small sampling of the many, many other stories of the hard work and resource sharing of TEAM's volunteers and community partners – and concerned folks from West Texas, Dallas, Colorado, and more! We know there are many, many other stories of support and help across our community – words are not adequate to express our gratitude!

Mark and Barbara, and their youngest children, David, Cole, and Katie, are longtime friends and supporters of TEAM. The Wehmeyer children were touched by the images of families evacuating from Harvey's flood waters,

and they wanted to help. And help they did! Together the family made 125 freeze-dried meals, which do not require refrigeration. Each meal they donated will feed a family of four, and the Wehmeyers thought to include a bible verse and an allergy alert with each prepackaged meal. They chose to feed 500 people to honor Barbara's parents' (Robert and Linda Muschany) 50th wedding Anniversary. They couldn't leave their community during this time of need to attend their party (their anniversary and party were September 2). This sweet family is such an incredible blessing to TEAM, and to the Tomball community. Thank you Mark, Barbara, David, Cole and Katie!

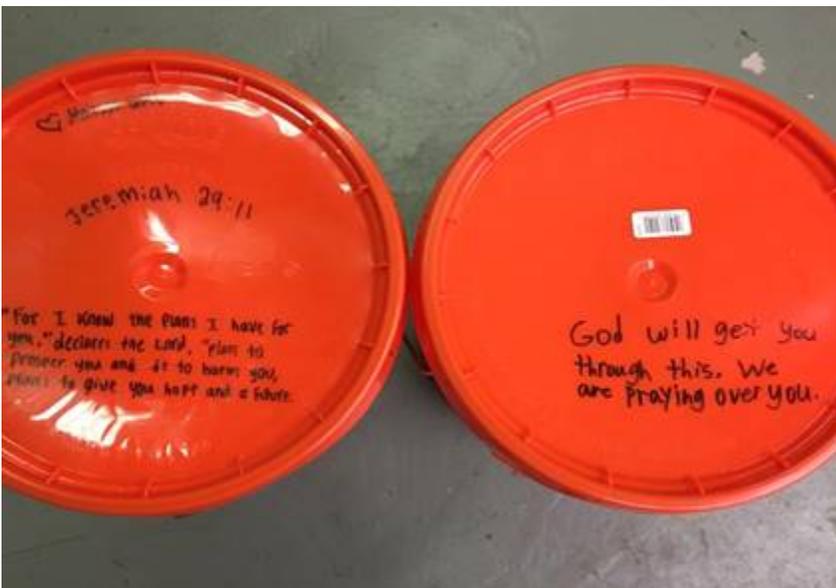


Clothes, food, bottled water, and bedding poured into Tomball and TEAM was a part of a coordinated effort to organize and deploy all the items. Several drop-off/staging areas were set up (among them: Real Life Ministries, Tomball Bible Church, First Presbyterian, Tomball United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd) and wonderful volunteers arrived to sort, organize, and box up items for delivery to shelters or to TEAM for clients. These donations came from within the Tomball community but also four huge loads (two semis and two large trailers) from Seminole, TX and two U-hauls from Colorado! Here's work in progress in multiple sites:





We received 50 of these essential clean-up kits from Melissa United Methodist Church, located just north of Dallas, in Melissa, TX. Each bucket contains trash bags, gloves, sponges, dust masks, laundry detergent, insect repellent, clotheslines, and other cleaning supplies. Flood buckets are given to those who need supplies for cleaning flood damaged areas. And just look at the lids -- they were assembled with love.



Donated water went to local flood victims and then by the truckload to Beaumont and Kingwood as Harvey marched on there. Trailers of canned goods were sent on to south Texas. Through a Godly connection with Redeemer Church, diapers, baby food, formula, and bedding were delivered to single moms and their small children in a flooded apartment building in Houston's 5th Ward.

We shared the love - and shoes - with Intercept Ministries, a nonprofit organization in Magnolia, TX. And just like TEAM, they are helping people who have been impacted by Harvey - those who've lost their homes, cars, belongings, income or jobs. We had extra shoes, and so we shared them. It's neighbors helping neighbors care for those in their community. Here's Terri, one of their volunteers:



Please follow these links to see more pictures and stories:

TEAM has received multiple generous financial contributions during this time, approximately \$28,000.00 to date. Resale With a Purpose recently donated \$15,000.00 to TEAM, a portion of which has been reserved for storm victims, Tomball's Lion's Club is providing a special donation, and many individuals have sent contributions. The money has been and will be a huge help for clients in meeting the increased needs generated by Harvey: many clients weren't able to work for several days and aren't paid if they aren't working. And many are dealing with increased expenses from flood damage to their homes and/or cars . TEAM is very grateful for this huge financial help!

TEAM has a special paid position available: TBN Community Liaison

The TBN (Tomball Benevolence Network) Community Liaison will have a key role in making the Network a success within our community. This person will reach out to area churches, non-profits, schools, and businesses to engage and recruit them as members of TBN. As new TBN members, they will be asked to share with the Network any resources or services their business or group has to offer. These will be services that TEAM, and other area non-profits, aren't currently able to provide, such as home and auto repairs, rides, and

budget counseling. As *community partners*, however, we will be able to provide much more comprehensive services to clients. This position will be part-time (around 20 hours a week) and the person will be paid. Do you know someone who is out-going, cordial and well-spoken, well organized and eager to serve our community? TEAM needs to fill this position now in order to be able to roll-out this new service in the fall. If so, please contact Becky Loving at becky.loving@teamtomball.com or 832-221-6572.

These Special Volunteers are also still needed:

TEAM is looking for individuals to fill these special volunteer leadership positions:

Fundraiser(s)

The individual(s) will plan and assist in the implementation of fundraising initiatives both large and small that can include one-time and annual events; will be able to develop good working relationships with other volunteers, staff, and board members; will be creative, dependable, adaptable, organized, and have the ability to think outside the box. Experience with social media preferred. Time requirement will vary depending upon project(s).

Volunteer Development Coordinator

A Volunteer Development Coordinator is needed to visit churches and recruit resources, to support the department leads in coordinating with the volunteers. Through the use of media, social media, visits to churches and other organization, or other creative means, this person will promote volunteer opportunities available at TEAM; and will develop a working knowledge of all the volunteer opportunities available. The ideal candidate will have a working knowledge of social media, have initiative, be available to respond to volunteer inquiries on a regular basis via phone, email, and on-site tours, and have good communication skills. The position will require approximately 15 hours per week.

Grant Writer

A volunteer Grant Writer is needed to research grant opportunities and draft grant applications with direction from the Executive Director. The hours for the position will vary from week to week, but would average to approximately 15 hours per week.

Please contact Becky Loving at becky.loving@teamtomball.com or 832-221-6572.

Shop at Amazon and help TEAM!

Please pass the word on: Support TEAM by shopping Amazon's charity link, at no cost to you! *Amazon Smile* will give a portion of your purchases (some exclusions apply) back to TEAM, and it doesn't cost you a penny! Remember to always start your Amazon shopping through this special link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0195526>. Thanks!

Please contact Becky Loving at 832-221-6572 if you are interested or know of someone who could fill any of these positions, thanks!

Many churches deliver to TEAM non-perishable food collected from their congregation. TEAM has been blessed with many, many donations of non-perishable food items, but it is all quickly going out to storm victims in Tomball and elsewhere. Please consider have a food drive if you don't currently. Here is information for your Newsletter/Bulletin/church communication timed with your next food collection:

TEAM In-Gathering

[insert date], is our next TEAM in-gathering. Please remember to bring some non-perishable food items for our collection in support of TEAM's (Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministry) food pantry. Especially needed at this time are jelly, healthy snack items for kids, and toilet paper.

Thank you for your generous support to those families in our community currently suffering food loss from the floods, food scarcity and other hardship. Your help makes a difference!

A big THANK YOU to every one of you! We appreciate your being one of TEAM's backers and for all you do to support TEAM in our community!

Please let us know at TEAM if you have questions about our ministry services or if you have needs we could support. You can contact TEAM at 281-255-6967 or visit our website at <http://www.teamtomball.com>.

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