

## Mary Sturdevant

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**From:** Mary Sturdevant <sturdevant.mary@swbell.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 8:17 AM  
**Subject:** October - What's Happening at Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministries?

### Mary Sturdevant

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**From:** Mary Sturdevant [mailto:[sturdevant.mary@swbell.net](mailto:sturdevant.mary@swbell.net)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 8:15 AM  
**Subject:** October - What's Happening 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 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.

### *A Harvey Response Miracle*

There truly are no words, at least not in a short narrative, to describe the outpouring of care and concern that I have seen expressed in acts of kindness within our community in response to Hurricane Harvey. It has been nothing less than *faith in action*, from individuals, businesses, churches, the City, the Lion's Club, The Tomball Chamber, Tomball ISD, and many other organizations who have reached out *through TEAM* to help those in need. The following story is just one example of so, so many.

Deyanira and her husband have six children, ranging in age from 2 years to two high school honor roll students. I first heard of their family's desperate situation from Billie Ann Dio, a teacher at Tomball High School. She knows them personally and was anxious for TEAM to meet the family, as well as Deyanira's mother. Both had lost their homes and all their belongings in the flood. And even though her sister gave them all a place to stay, eleven people (four adults and seven children) living in a double wide trailer was becoming more than cramped and stressful. I arranged to meet Deyanira at Tomball Bible Church. Our TEAM team and some of the church volunteers were sorting clothes and other flood relief supplies when her mother, her sister, and a few of the children arrived.

The first thing I noticed was that Deyanira was wearing a sweatshirt. It occurred to me that it seemed like unusual attire on such a hot, muggy day. I thought she might be sick, so I asked her if she was cold. That's when I learned that the only thing the family came away with the night they flooded were the clothes on their backs. So TEAM was going to be the first stop on their journey to recovery, and I am so glad we were there for them. Deyanira's family had lost their vehicles, so we loaded her sister's car that day with food, diapers, air

mattresses, linens, and clothes. As much as they could pack in. There were many hugs and well wishes, but they would still need so much more in the coming days and weeks.

Then a beautiful thing happened. That very day, Michelle Verwold with Gary Greene Realtors in Tomball called and told me that the company wanted to adopt a family and provide not just material items, but encouragement and support as well. With the tension mounting for the three blended families, so many people to feed and take care of, and Deyanira's sister supporting them all, I knew Dayenira's family was the perfect match. Michelle and her realty group connected with Deyanira and arranged a time to meet. And what an amazing experience and blessing that was! Michelle said when they showed up with a car full of needed items, there were many grateful hugs, tears, thank yous...and sweetness, as their nine year old held out a gift card that had been given to her and said, "I want my mom to have this." When the group departed, Michelle said, "You should have seen me crying. I was a mess! But they were happy tears!" Their experience had been so moving and rewarding that the Gary Greene group even decided to adopt a second family. They went back for more because they learned firsthand, "To get a blessing, be a blessing."

Deyanira's family was only one of over 120, so far, that TEAM has had the privilege of partnering with through this recovery period. And the Gary Greene group are only a handful of so many good people in our community who answered the call to help in any and every way they could, their generosity reaching far beyond Tomball. By the end of the third week, TEAM had deployed ten large box trucks full of supplies from our community to Crosby, Kingwood (2 loads), Shepherd (2 loads), Orange (2 loads), Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Dickinson. Each load required hours and hours of sorting, loading, and driving and it was all done by volunteers. The drivers, as well, donated their time and the trucks, fork lifts, and pallet jacks were all provided free of charge. It was a *massive* effort of coordination, carried out by scores of volunteers of all ages sending supplies, support, and blessings in abundance to our neighbors in need. Tomball volunteers with hearts as big as Texas. Real people who practice what they preach and exemplify these words:

"Christ has no body on earth but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which to look at Christ's compassion to the world, yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now."

- St. Teresa of Avila

God's blessings to and through you,  
Becky Loving, Executive Director TEAM

### ***More proof that Tomball IS the hometown with a heart:***

**The Tomball Lions Club:** The Tomball Lions Club presented the first check of \$3,500 of the \$5,000 allocated by the club to help TEAM provide Hurricane Harvey Relief Aid to the Tomball Community. With the funds provided by the Tomball Lions Club, TEAM was able to provide help to more than thirty (30) families. The Tomball Lions Club has recently provided the additional \$1,500 allocation to TEAM. Here you can see the Tomball Lion Treasurer Al Gerhardt presenting that first Disaster Relief check to TEAM. Pictured below L-R Tomball Lion Dale McCarty, TEAM Executive Director Becky Loving, Tomball Lion Treasurer Al Gerhardt, Tomball Mayor Gretchen Fagan, and Tomball Lion Director Karen Halbach. Lion Al Gerhardt provided TEAM with the photo.



**Telgte, Tomball's sister city:** Almost 20 years ago the city of Tomball formally established a sister city relationship with the town of Telgte, Germany. This special relationship leads to cultural, social, and student exchanges between the towns. After witnessing Harvey's devastation on the Houston area, the people of Telgte collected funds to send to their sister city. Last Friday the Tomball Sister City Organization distributed the donations to TEAM and TOMAGWA. We send a hearty thank you to our sister city Telgte for your kindness and generosity! And thank you Tomball Sister Cities Organization for presenting us with the donation:



**Southland Insulators:** Southland Insulators donated \$14,000 to TEAM and the same amount to Samaritan's Purse to support work we and they are doing to assist those impacted by Harvey. TEAM is beyond grateful for this gift enabling TEAM to provide more help to those whose homes, cars, and or jobs were hurt by the storm.

**The new Pohanka Honda of Tomball Dealership:** Tomball will soon have a new Honda dealership! And as a part of being a new neighbor and in recognition of the damage Harvey brought on so many, this dealership has chosen TEAM as the recipient of their gracious donation of \$22,000! \$12,000 has been designated for flood relief. And they have volunteered to be the "Heart of Gold" sponsor for TEAM's first fundraiser, in April, 2018, with the remaining \$10,000. Welcome to Tomball, Pohanka Honda!

**Real Life Ministries, Texas:** Real Life Ministries, Texas provided TEAM with \$4,500 for flood relief for clients early in the recovery process. And then they learned that TEAM itself experienced some damage to its roof during Harvey and donated an additional \$2,500 towards roof and gutter repair. We were lucky that our damage was not too bad and are very grateful for this huge help in getting it repaired and for the generous help to our clients!

**Other generous donors:** TEAM has also been blessed by the thoughtful and generous donations for flood relief from these companies and organizations: BZ Honey, Hudson Folkerts Memorial Foundation, Delmarva Spray Foam LLC, and Cook Land Development LLC, and from many, many individual donors.

**The Junior Guild:** A big shout out to the Junior Guild! They chose TEAM as their spotlight charity of the month. And recently Amber (right) from the Junior Guild stopped in to present a basket of donated gift cards, cash and toiletries to our Food Pantry Manager, Colleen. Thank you to the girls of Junior Guild for all you do for our clients!



**St. Anne's Saint Vincent de Paul:** Many thanks go to St. Anne's St. Vincent de Paul for loaning us their box truck several times in the past month. What a wonderful partnership has been built between us, especially since Harvey. And it will continue!

**National Charity League:** Special thanks to Amber Lagarde and her daughters with the Cypress Belles Chapter of NCL for providing hours of support in sorting. And the Cypress Creek NCL chapter donated \$1,800 to TEAM during the hurricane relief efforts.

**Paul Hurst at First Presbyterian Church:** Special thanks go to Paul Hurst with First Presbyterian Church in Tomball. We had a semi-truck and a trailer coming from Seminole, Texas to deliver needed supplies for the community. We couldn't secure a forklift, forklift driver, and pallet jack to assist in unloading this large quantity of supplies. One call to Paul, and he secured a forklift and pallet jack, and volunteered to be the forklift driver. Paul called in some favors, paid for the forklift rental, pallet jack, and became the forklift driver to assist us. That's truly amazing!!

**ALL the TEAM volunteers:** And last, but NOT least, much thanks and great appreciation to all the TEAM volunteers for all the hard work during the recovery period. They showed up every day working diligently to get the store back to normal, to work with all the clients coming into the ministry area, and preparing the food donations that needed to be provided to clients.

***Please keep TEAM in mind for your end-of-year donations!***

Here we are in the second half of October, so the end of the year isn't far away. Please prayerfully consider TEAM in your end-of-year giving. The holidays are especially stressful and difficult for TEAM's clients and your donations will help TEAM make a positive difference for them. You can mail a check to TEAM or go to TEAM's website to make a donation online: <http://www.teamtomball.com/>

***Follow us on social media:***    And when you see posts from TEAM, please like and share!

***These Special Volunteers are still needed:***

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

### **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.

### **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).

### **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.lovings@teamtomball.com](mailto:becky.lovings@teamtomball.com) or 832-221-6572 if you are interested or know of someone who could fill any of these positions, thanks!

***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!

***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 and others in need 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 **canned vegetables, including green beans and corn, but other canned vegetables as well**

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>.

If you wish to be removed from future distributions of this email, please reply to me with that request.

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