

Greetings,

Thanks for inquiring about other ways to get involved. The attached documents merely provide a subset of options for groups or individuals who wish to travel independently to recent disaster areas and they can serve as connection points. Please note that to-date we have not vetted any relief options for Hurricane Irma except the Red Cross as access to many of the devastated areas in Florida have been limited. What is included is information on how to connect with agencies serving the greater Houston area, namely through the Houston Food Bank and World Vision. Until we learn more about volunteer opportunities in Florida, we suggest trying Red Cross.

By now, you all are aware that the need for “feet on the street” is great and so are the needs for:

- (1) for supplies to help with demolition and cleanup,
- (2) the need for shelter provisions,
- (3) food-water-clothing distribution, & medical help.
- (4) prayer and comfort care

These needs will be present for some time to come.

Thanks for your willingness to help.

God Bless.



HFB wants you to know they're in it for the long haul.



An unprecedented number of people in the greater Houston area are affected by the flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey. The storm unleashed monumental destruction across southeast Texas. For individuals who already struggle to provide for their family's basic needs, the flooding is even more catastrophic.

How does the Houston Food Bank help people affected by Harvey?

The Houston Food Bank has a history of providing disaster relief, but we've never seen devastation on this scale. We will provide food and supplies in the short term and for many months to come to residents in southeast Texas who will struggle to rebuild their lives. The Food Bank will work closely with our network of partner agencies to ensure food is getting to those who need it most. We also find ways to connect offers of help with those who are providing help.

If you want to help those hit by Harvey as a volunteer:

- > **Please register first** to ensure you have a productive experience
- > Volunteer shifts apply, open daily (including Sunday and Labor Day)
 - Morning: Monday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to noon
 - Afternoon: Monday-Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.
 - Evening: Monday-Friday, 6 to 9 p.m.

> To Donate Food and Supplies

Drop off curbside at 535 Portwall
Now through Saturday, September 9
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday/Sunday

> Most Needed Items

- > Canned ready-to-eat items with pull tops: vegetables, fruit
- > Protein in pouches or pull-top cans: tuna, beef stew, chili, canned chicken
- > Peanut butter
- > Snacks: granola bars, breakfast bars, etc.
- > Toiletries
- > Paper goods
- > Diapers
- > Cleaning supplies: mops, mop buckets, brooms, bleach wipes, bleach, garbage bags, bug spray

NOTE: All volunteers are responsible for their own transportation, lodging and meals when serving with the Houston Food Bank (HFB).

For detail on how you may volunteer with HFB,
Go to the following website:

<http://www.houstonfoodbank.org>

and click on:

(1) Harvey Disaster Relief or

(2) Harvey Volunteers or

(3) Contact HFB at their

Portwall Headquarters....Home of their:

Warehouse
Conference Center
Emergency Food Pantry
SNAP Application Assistance

ADDRESS:

535 Portwall Street
Houston, Texas 77029
Phone: 713-223-3700

The Houston Food Bank is registered as a **501(c)(3)** non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law, tax identification number 74-2181456.

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Address: 535
Houston, TX 77029 |
Email:



**American
Red Cross**

Portwall St.,
Phone: 713.223.3700

info@houstonfoodbank.org

Special Message Regarding Hurricane Harvey Volunteer Opportunities

“Thank you for your interest in volunteering for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. We are thrilled with the outpouring of support we’ve received from volunteers like yourself, and **are no longer taking** new applications to support **Harvey relief.**”

“However, we encourage you to explore other virtual and onsite volunteer opportunities with Red Cross such as **Hurricane Irma relief.**”

RED CROSS provides disaster relief training in most cases. All **RED CROSS** volunteers must, first, apply online. As far as we know, Volunteers may have to travel to the disaster relief sites at their own expense.

Volunteer assignments can last anywhere between 5-14 days depending on the assignment you choose.

Some assignments are physically more demanding than others. Take care in choosing what is appropriate for you. What are some of the volunteer assignments:

- Helping our shelters serve the community
- Load and unload trucks
- Serve food
- Provide comfort
- Welcome, onboard and engaging volunteers
- Help set up facilities

They also need volunteers who have supervisory experience and are available for 14 day assignments.

Requirements

Must be at least 16 years of age

(with parental consent)

Expected to work shifts from 6-12 hours a day

Must authorize background check after completing application

To serve as a **Red Cross** volunteer with respect to Hurricane IRMA relief, here's what you need to do:

- (1) Go to www.redcross.org
- (2) Click on Volunteer, then Volunteer Opportunity, then click on Disaster Volunteers.
- (3) In the box labeled "Make a Difference in Your Community", click on "Search Openings".
- (4) Look for the box labeled "Hurricane Irma Volunteers Needed...." and click on the **APPLY NOW** button.
- (5) The black and white web page banner will read: "Volunteer Application for Hurricane Irma Response". Click on the blue link that says, "please use this form". It is for volunteers who are not local to the affected areas.

A **Red Cross** representative will follow up with you.

I want to help others

How can you help Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts if you and a small group travel to Houston?

- Where can you donate blood for Hurricane Harvey?
- Where can you donate money to help with Hurricane Harvey relief?
- Where can you volunteer to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey?
- Where can you donate pet supplies or help foster a pet in need?

Where can you donate blood for Hurricane Harvey?

Donating blood during natural disasters is incredibly important as those injured or experiencing medical complications rises. The **South Texas Blood and Tissue Center** has been able to send a first wave of 350 units of blood so far to areas affected by the storm. You can find more information about where to donate blood on:

- [Donatingforlife.org](https://www.donatingforlife.org)
- [Carter Blood Care](#)
- [America's Blood Center](#)
- [Armed Services Blood Program](#)

Where can you donate money to help with Hurricane Harvey recovery?

Some organizations accepting donations to help with Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts include:

- 1 Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund set up by Mayor Sylvester Turner
- 2 JJ Watt Houston Flood Relief Fund
- 3 Global Giving's Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund
- 4 Hurricane Harvey LGBTQ Disaster Relief Fund
- 5 United Way Relief Fund (Flood Donation)
- 6 Center for Disaster Philanthropy
- 7 The Salvation Army
- 8 Homeless Houston
- 9 Baker Ripley Neighborhood Centers
- 10 Houston Habitat for Humanity

Where can you volunteer to help those affected by Hurricane Harvey?

To volunteer or donate, consider working with local food banks in areas most hard hit by the hurricane including:

- [Houston Food Bank](#)
- [Food Bank of Corpus Christi](#)
- [Galveston County Food Bank](#)
- [Victoria Food Bank](#)
- [Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley](#)
- [Brazos Valley Food Banks](#)
- [Central Texas Food Bank](#)
- [San Antonio Food Bank](#)

You can also check [National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#) for volunteering opportunities and visit this link for a list of all active volunteer organizations helping with Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. You could also volunteer at the [Children's Hospital](#) or use [this finder](#) to match you with more organizations in Texas seeking volunteers.

Where can you donate pet supplies or help foster a pet in need?

These organizations are currently in need of donations, foster homes, volunteer help, and supplies. For more information you can visit or call:

- [San Antonio Humane Society](#): 210-226-7461
- [Houston SPCA](#): Animal Rescue Disaster Hotline at 713-861-3010
- [SPCA of Texas](#): 214-742-7722
- [Austin Pets Alive](#): 512-961-6519
- [The Humane Society of Southeast Texas](#): 409-833-0504
- [Gulf Coast Humane Society](#): 361-225-0845

We hope the resources shared above can help you in your efforts to help ones recover quickly from the devastating affects of Hurricane Harvey or put you in touch with organizations and others who need your help. And, if you've seen something we've missed, please let us know and we'll add it as time permits.

Remember to PRAY (without ceasing)

Almighty Father, we ask for Your mercy on those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Protect our people. May your Holy Spirit guide emergency responders as they seek to help those in need.....We pray in the matchless name of Jesus and by the power of His blood!

Apprehensive about making donations? Quick Guideline:

How to verify a HURRICANE RELIEF CHARITY



Find lists of vetted charities on:

- give.org
- charitynavigator.org
- charitywatch.org
- guidestar.org

Search the charity name online.
Do people say it's a scam?



charity name and "scam"



Be alert to names that closely resemble those of better-known, reputable organizations.



Research charities that spring up overnight.



Be skeptical of callers thanking you for a pledge you don't remember making.



Designate the relief effort you wish to support.



Report scams to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)