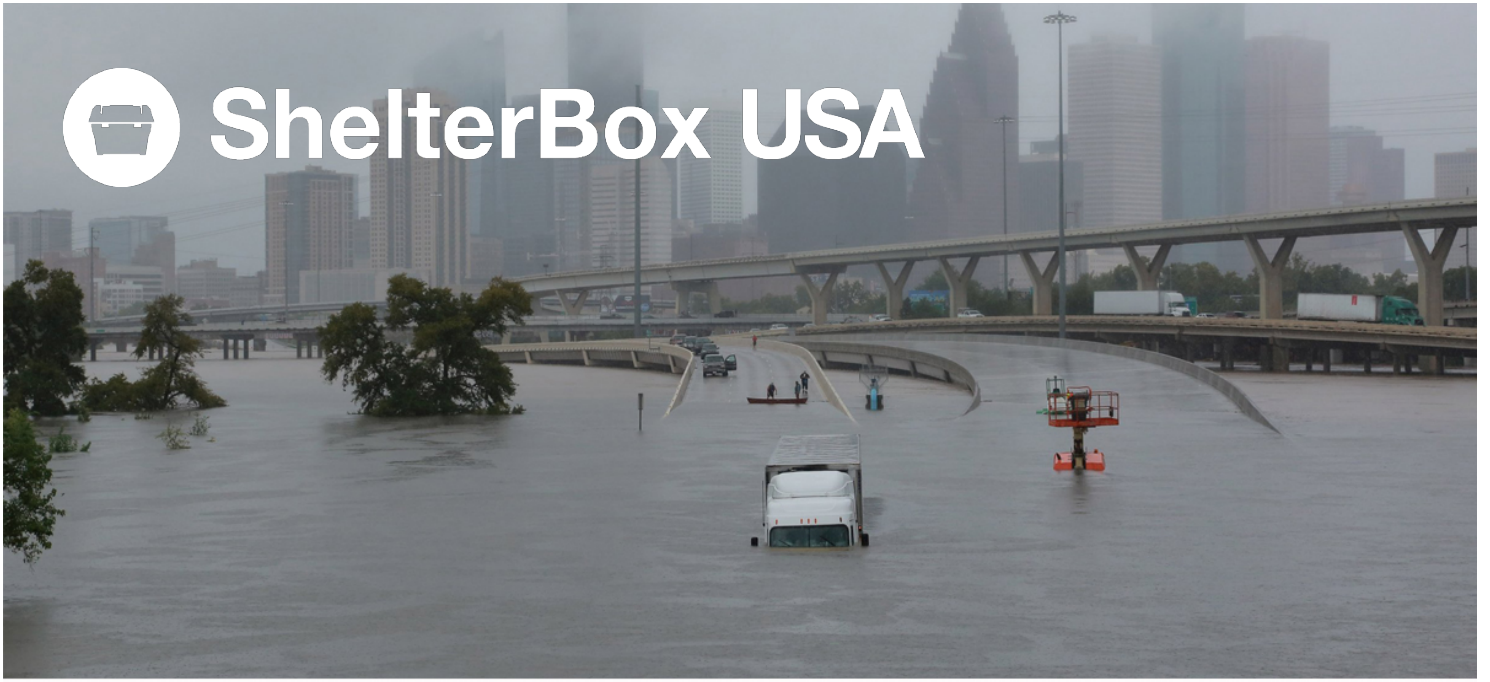




ShelterBox USA



HURRICANE HARVEY REPORT

ShelterBox USA's response in Greater Houston

BACKGROUND

Hurricane Harvey was a Cat 4 hurricane when it first landed in northeast of Corpus Christi, Texas on Aug. 25th, 2017.

Sustaining winds up to almost 130mph, ¹ Harvey made land fall three separate times dropping a staggering 27 trillion gallons of water ² in the Houston area. Heavy rains resulted in a storm surge in coastal areas and produced catastrophic flash and river flooding downstream. With it, nearly 200,000 homes were destroyed or damaged while area shelters swelled to 43,000 people. ³ An estimated 13 million people were affected by the storm. ⁴

Causing an estimated \$125 billion in damage, Hurricane Harvey is the second costliest storm in US history. ⁵

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, residents needed food, water, and shelter to care for their basic needs to survive. In the long-term, residents needed support in rebuilding their homes and their lives.

Thank you for supporting ShelterBox in our efforts to hand-deliver emergency shelter for children, women, and men devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Below you will find a report sharing how we used your gift to provide critical aid to Houston Area residents as they recover from the storm.

¹ <https://www.theweathernetwork.com/us/news/articles/nhc-releases-hurricane-harvey-report-top-facts-about-storm-texas-impact-houston-records-broken/94457> 05/03/2018

² <https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/hurricane-harvey-facts> 05/03/2018

³ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/hurricane-harvey-recovery-multi-year-project-texas-governor/story?id=49560131> 05/03/2018

⁴ <https://globalnews.ca/news/3708870/hurricane-harvey-south-asian-floods/> 05/03/2018

⁵ <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/UpdatedCostliest.pdf> 05/03/2018

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE: SHELTERBOX USA

In anticipation of the hurricane, ShelterBox deployed to Houston, Texas. ShelterBox positioned tents, school kits, blankets, groundsheets and solar lights near the hurricane-devastated region while communicating with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state agencies to determine urgent shelter and aid needs.

Immediately after Hurricane Harvey's devastation, a ShelterBox Response Team was activated on the ground to assess the need for emergency shelter in Houston and other impacted areas. While our goal was to deliver shelter and other essential non-food items to displaced people, at the same time, we wanted to support the extraordinary needs of the community in the most compassionate and helpful way possible.

As a result, ShelterBox determined one way to support Houston was to provide Shelter-in-a-Shelter, an innovative way to bring privacy and comfort to evacuees living inside of larger

shelters. These smaller-sized tents were used inside of buildings where large numbers of families were being housed, allowing for medical treatment, childcare, lactation stations, private space for spiritual care and counseling, to hold AA meetings, and a host of other critical options.



The George R. Brown Convention Center, the largest shelter in Houston housing evacuees, surged to more than 10,000 people in the aftermath of the storm. The first ShelterBox Shelter-in-a-Shelter tents were deployed at the center in coordination with the Houston Public Health Department.



At a shelter in Crosby, Texas, ShelterBox distributed tents for displaced families, half of whose homes washed away in the hurricane. Many of these vulnerable families had young children and were living in a shelter set up at the American Legion Club. One woman, who was seven months pregnant and had been sleeping in the hallway on the floor with her children had tears in her

eyes as she accepted a shelter tent as a place to temporarily call home.

It is difficult to lose your home and be traumatized by the massive devastation of a disaster. In these times, critical community services and support can be disrupted. ShelterBox provided the means to enable a sense of normalcy to return during a time of crisis in Houston.

A TEMPORARY HOME



Cindy and Gordon lost their home after water from the San Jacinto River rose and flooded the mobile home park in which they lived. "It's our new house," she said sitting inside her new tent. "We just got out with what we could, and we got out before a lot of other people did. We got out when the water started coming up. There are no words to describe it. I mean I can't believe these people coming to help us like this, it's so great. I feel like I'm in a big home (the tent). It's the best home we've had yet."

LONG TERM RESPONSE: SHELTERBOX PARTNER GREATER HOUSTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ShelterBox recognizes that in order for Houston to recover, we must go beyond tents and provide the community with the tools to heal and rebuild their community. With your support, ShelterBox granted the Greater Houston Community Foundation \$250,000 to provide financial support to local grassroots nonprofits to support the shelter and other recovery needs of families impacted by the hurricane.

Targeting the most vulnerable populations, your donation has ensured that assistance is still being provided to children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, individuals who are not FEMA-eligible, undocumented individuals, LGBTQ, and low-income individuals. Funding is being used to cover basic needs including home repair, rent, furniture, emergency financial assistance, and employment support.

Below you will find examples of the organizations that received support:

- **BakerRipley:** Neighborhood Restoration Centers are serving as a central point for resources and services, providing disaster case management to help individuals develop a recovery plan and receive financial assistance for transportation, furniture, and other basic needs.
- **Boat People SOS – Houston:** Boat People SOS is conducting outreach and providing case management to assist with FEMA documents, they are also supporting rebuilding homes and replacing furniture and appliances.
- **Chinese Community Center:** Harvey Relief Assistance Center is supporting flood victims in achieving their recovery goals by connecting them to emergency financial assistance, public benefits, healthcare, transportation, employment, furnishings, and legal advice.
- **Jewish Family Services:** This organization is providing basic needs and utilities as well as rapid rehousing grants.
- **Memorial Assistance Ministries:** Memorial Assistance Ministries is providing disaster case management, community outreach recovery planning, employment and financial education, access to home repair, health/mental health, legal, and immigration legal services, and financial assistance. Direct financial assistance is provided for families in the form of rent assistance,

security deposits, household goods, clothing, linens, and furniture. Employment support is provided including gasoline vouchers, metro money, and replacement equipment and tools for those working in trades or who are self-employed.

- **St. Bernard Project, Inc.:** This organization is purchasing tools and materials to rebuild 100 homes.
- **Wesley Community Center Inc.:** Wesley Community Center is providing emergency assistance (rent, utilities, food, transportation), assistance with temporary housing (deposits, rent), and replacement costs for items lost in the flood, and disaster case management. They are also offering employment and education services.

LOOKING AHEAD

At ShelterBox we know that shelter is not just a roof, canvas, or tarp over your head, it's the process of recovery, of returning to normal when disaster strikes. That is why we do not just provide items that give shelter, but the tools and supports that people need to rebuild their lives.

For thousands of vulnerable families whose homes were destroyed or badly damaged by Hurricane Harvey, you provided the shelter, tools and other necessities they need to begin self-recovery. ShelterBox was only able to reach these vulnerable children, women, and men with your support – those who otherwise would not have received the aid they desperately needed.

Thank you for your partnership that made this work possible.

