



HURRICANE HARVEY RECOVERY

 *Rio Texas*
CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DISASTER RESPONSE

An  UMCOR Partner

WWW.RIOTEXASRESPONSE.ORG



The mission of United Methodist Disaster Response in the Rio Texas Conference is to provide caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster that begins with response and ends with long term recovery.

Hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 hurricane made landfall between Port Aransas and Port O'Connor on August 25, 2017, severely impacting Port Aransas, Rockport, Holiday Beach and additional surrounding communities. As the Hurricane moved inland a few hours later, August 26, the hurricane was downgraded to a Category 3 storm. The region continued to be hammered with rain, resulting in flooding and reports of 16 inches in Victoria in 24 hours.

Rio Texas Disaster Response began immediately gathering supplies and flood buckets, and planning initial response efforts with Emergency Response Teams impacting the Coastal Bend and Crossroads Districts.

Rio Texas Disaster Response launched a Hurricane Harvey long term recovery program in October 2017 with plans that included case management, construction services, volunteer coordination and unmet needs financial assistance. An initial vision grew beyond all expectations, resulting in an approximate \$13.5M budget with two regional offices supported by multiple satellite offices, all based in United Methodist Churches. This historic program for Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response leveraged more than \$20,000,000 in direct assistance for 1100+ Rio Texas clients and completed services June 30, 2020.



GOAL: 10 case managers serving Harvey survivors in Coastal Bend and Crossroads Districts

RESULTS: 23 Case Managers funded by UMCOR and FEMA serving 1100+ clients in 17 counties.

GOAL: Provide unmet needs assistance

RESULTS: Approximately \$6 Million in donor and grant funded unmet needs assistance provided for survivor needs, case managed by 8 nonprofit agencies.

GOAL: Provide construction assistance and subversion

RESULTS: 400+ construction projects completed averaging \$18,000 per project.

GOAL: Engage volunteer labor in construction services

RESULTS: 3500+ volunteers serving 80,000+ hours valued at \$1.9M in donated services.

Over 65 years old

37%

Single head
of household

17%

Non-English speaking

5%

Homeowners

87%

*Successful closures -
all needs met

81%

Applied to FEMA

85%

FEMA approved, average
FEMA amount \$4,100

51%

Clients with
flood insurance

31

*Unsuccessful closures include loss of contact, no resources available, not disaster related damage, death of client, inability/unwillingness to complete required paperwork

Counties listed received assistance from Rio Texas case management, construction services, and/or financial assistance.

Numbers represent the quantity of cases that received case management services from Rio Texas.

ARANSAS

279

BEE

1

CALDWELL

14

CALHOUN

101

COLORADO

103

DEWITT

48

FAYETTE

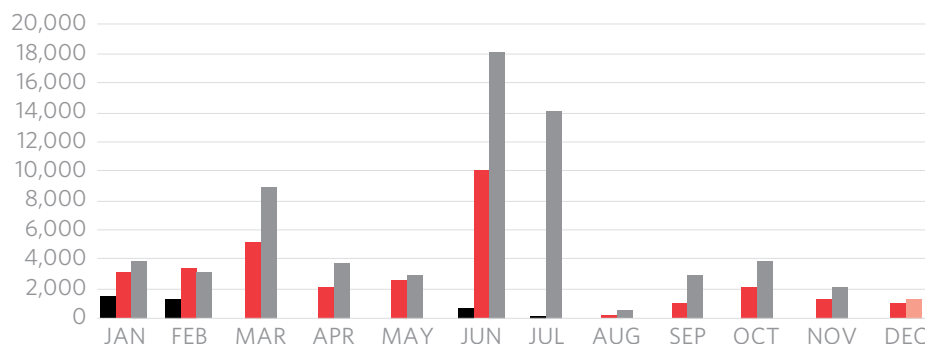
43

GOLIAD

32

VOLUNTEER HOURS

■ 2020 ■ 2019 ■ 2018 ■ 2017



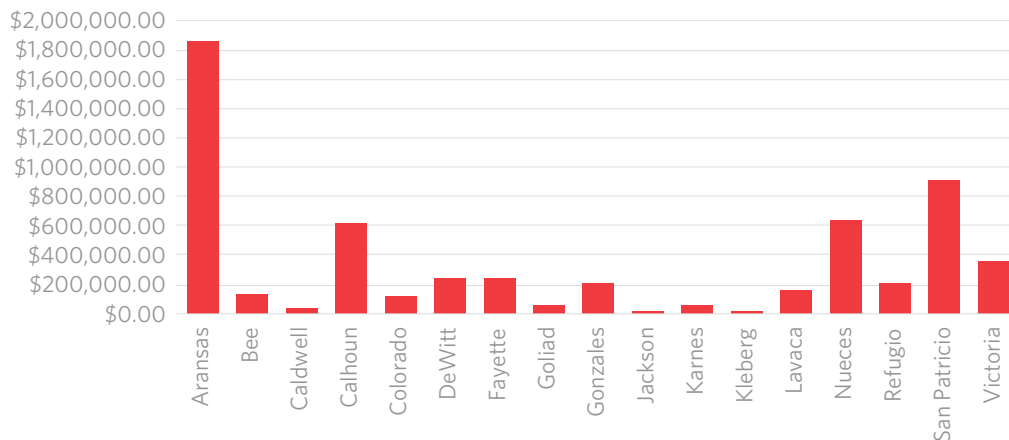
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Hurricane Harvey resulted in a Sea Change for disaster response ministry in the Rio Texas Conference. The damage was greater than had been seen in the memory of anybody now involved in response and the resulting response and recovery work was more extensive than we could have imagined possible. Harvey stretched the capacity of the Disaster Response Ministry from the very beginning, but many people stepped forward when they were needed. Some were people we knew and were counting on, but others were angels that seemed to appear when it would have been impossible to carry on without them. When it came time to move past an “all-volunteer” army, incredible staff people came on board with case management and project management experience so it was possible to bring a caring Christian presence to thousands of survivors. With all of this, the work could not have been successful without the contributions from United Methodist Churches, the work of Rio Texas Conference staff and the resources and expertise of UMCOR. As the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, it is not possible to express enough gratitude for a job well done.

Eugene Hileman, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

HARVEY SURVIVOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY COUNTY (8 Case Management Agencies)



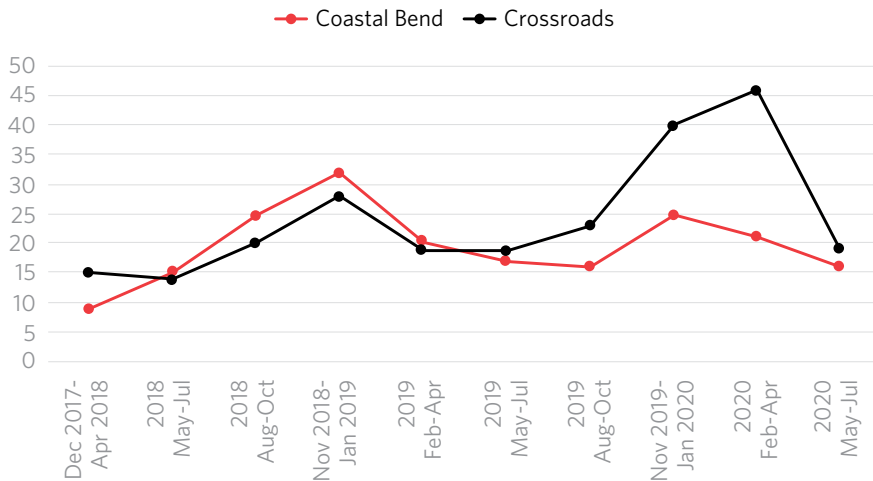


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The Hurricane Harvey recovery team worked tirelessly to help survivors recover. What started as a modest project of 10 case managers and two construction supervisors quickly grew to a staff of 40+ that covered 17 counties. Over the last three years we celebrated with families as one by one they returned home, and we mourned as a family when beloved team members passed away. Through it all this staff exhibited tremendous grace under pressure, they provided hope to thousands who had all but lost it and gave everything they had to help their communities recover. Rio Texas had a vision. They saw a need and they wanted to help. This program is the product of that vision and desire. I am so proud of the Hurricane Harvey recovery team and the work that was done.

Nikki Leaverton, Director of Case Management

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS COMPLETED BY UMCOR QUARTER



GONZALES

33

JACKSON

6

KARNES

28

KLEBERG

0

LAVACA

29

NUECES

52

REFUGIO

51

SAN PATRICIO

152

VICTORIA

169



“

The Rio Texas Conference planted a seed of hope in response to the significant damage from Hurricane Harvey. There were certainly struggles along the way in building a large staff and establishing policies and procedures in a short amount of time. That seed grew larger than anyone’s expectations and greatly impacted Harvey survivors living in the Coastal Bend and Crossroads districts. Stepping out in faith resulted in significant case management, construction, and financial assistance for vulnerable populations struggling after the hurricane. With faith, hope, and servant leaders, the mission of a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster was achieved. The lesson to be learned? - Always ask the question, ‘how can we be the hands and feet of Christ in the world?’ and then go in faith.

Vicki McCuiston, Disaster Recovery Asset Manager



MRS. GRACIE PENA

Disaster Case Management provides the opportunity to truly connect with people in the community on many levels.

Mrs. Gracie Pena, a feisty lifetime Rockport resident, had survived cancer twice and Hurricane Harvey. She was on her third cancer diagnosis. She and her husband had a FEMA RV on the property for temporary housing. Rio Texas took this case not long after beginning services in 2018 and many organizations that heard her story wanted to help. However, once our construction team was ready to move forward for repairs, people that had already committed to materials or appliances no longer had the means or had moved on to other survivors.



With the help of funding from the Rio Texas Conference, we were able to move forward more quickly and fill in the gaps of their recovery. Throughout construction, Mrs. Pena was in and out of the hospital, but she still pushed through. She continued to work on her FEMA appeal with Legal Aid. She continued to drive and pick up her grandson from school every day she could. Gracie was one of the most motivated Survivors her case manager ever witnessed, and did not let cancer hold her back.

Her family called to let us know that her battle ended February 12, 2020. Naomi, Gracie's daughter, said, "She fought until her last breath." The repairs had been complete for over a year, but they were so grateful to Rio Texas for the help provided and for following through. Gracie didn't think she'd ever see her house complete, and Rio Texas is a big part of why she was able to spend her last days at home.





This family included a single mother with a chronic illness and physical disability, who also cared for her adult son with a physical disability. During Hurricane Harvey, the roof lifted off the home and water flooded the home from the sides. Water entered all bedrooms from the ceiling and into the walls causing severe electrical issues and destroyed all flooring and most furniture. The majority of the home was unlivable and had to be closed off. The family received FEMA funds for house repair that were used to remove debris and convert the garage to a livable space. Due to ongoing deterioration, the rest of the home had to be demolished while the client and her son still lived in the garage.

Due to the level of damage, the Rio Texas case manager encouraged the family to apply for the Texas General Land Office Homeowners Assistance Program. The application process began in December 2018, and the family was approved for reconstruction in May 2019. Funding from the Diocese of Victoria and the Rio Texas Conference assisted the client with temporary housing and storage while the home was being built. After several delays the client's home was officially started in September of 2019.

To replace items lost due to the damage to her home, the client received assistance with a new lift chair to assist with her mobility, a full bedroom set, and window blinds to make the home safe and private - all funded by Rio Texas's grants. The Diocese of Victoria also gave a full House-in-the-Box to replace the rest of their damaged furniture.

The family was happy and thanked God for all of the assistance they received. They were able to have all of their siblings, nieces, and nephews over for Christmas. Pastor Melanie Monroe of Hallettsville First United Methodist Church who has been friends with the client since childhood led a blessing of the home with the client, DCM Keisha Smith, client's longtime friends, and fellow RTC DCMs in January 2020.



CROSSROADS

Family of three with two adults and one child

"You are an angel sent from heaven. I don't know what to say for everything you have done for my family."

Elderly adult in need of repairs to home

"I am so grateful for everything you have done for me. I now have a place to call my home again."

A client who received assistance expressed sincere appreciation and stated, "that when I wake up in the morning, it feels as if I am waking up in a dream. It takes a few seconds to realize that this is my new home and that my family is finally safe and in a healthy environment."

"Thank you, I'm getting excited, this old house has hope again!"



COASTAL BEND

(Temp Housing)

"Thank you so much for helping us, you are a true blessing to my family."



(Repairs to MHU)

"I can't believe y'all actually helped, so many people kept saying we are going to help and nothing ever happened. You all did everything you said you were going to do".



Elderly couple needing a roof replacement after Hurricane Harvey. "We are very pleased with the way Rio Texas Conference helped us from beginning to the end. Showing they cared, helping us to get Fema's help, but when it didn't work Rio Texas didn't stop in helping and caring about our needs and calling us. A lot of thanks to y'all's great caring people."





THE VOLUNTEERS



CONSTRUCTION



RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE STAFF AND CONFERENCE DISASTER RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS

Rev. Diana Phillips - Rio Texas Conference Director of Connectional Ministry

Abel Vega - Rio Texas Conference Director of Mission, Service, & Justice Ministries

Eugene Hileman - Conference Disaster Response Coordinator (volunteer)

Larry Etter - Conference Disaster Response Logistics Coordinator (volunteer)

Jim Street - Conference Disaster Response Capital District and ERT Coordinator (volunteer)

Ginnie Street - DIRRT Database Data Entry (volunteer)

Vicki McCuiston - Disaster Recovery Asset Manager

Nikki Leaverton - Director of Case Management

George Ballard - Accounting Analyst

Norma Marmack - Finance Manager

Melissa Montgomery - Monitoring and Evaluation

Glenda Sanchez - Monitoring and Evaluation

Ann Dooley - Program Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator

Sara Gwathmey - Program Assistant

Sophie Longoria - Case Manager Supervisor

Zelina Alvarado - Case Manager

Amy Polasek - Case Manager

Amanda Brown - Case Manager

Gloria Loreda - Case Manager

Lisa Singleton - Case Manager

Jacqueline Fernandez - Case Manager

Austin Denison - Case Manager

Renee Waldron - Case Manager

Mario Quezada - Case Manager

Brittney Choats - Case Manager

Mike Slater - Case Manager

Glenda Merrell - Case Manager

Brenda Alvarado - Case Manager

Rosie Polasek - Admin Assistant and Data Entry

Janie Torres - Data Entry

Michael Johnson - Construction Cost Analyst

Gary Herring - Coastal Bend Construction Supervisor 2017-2018

Jack Maverick - Coastal Bend and Crossroads Construction Supervisor 2018-2019

Eloy Rodriguez - Coastal Bend Construction Supervisor 2019-2020

Michael Bock - Construction Project Manager

Brandon Fischer - Construction Project Manager

Adam Maciel - Construction Project Manager

Kim Pickens - Case Management Supervisor

Jane Bernal - Case Manager

Kim Stafford - Case Manager

Randy Mahoney - Case Manager

Roslyn Murphy - Case Manager

Keisha Smith - Case Manager

Gabe Soliz - Case Manager

Maritza Martinez - Case Manager

Janice Urban - Case Manager

Dewayne Deadrick - Case Manager

Jamie Purcell - Case Manager

Elizabeth Salinas - Case Manager

Sarah Barksdale - Case Manager

Barbara Martin - Case Manager

Tina Croley - Case Manager

Maridel Hernandez - Case Manager

Evelyn Eure - Admin Assistant

Nicole Castro - Data Entry

Randy Koppenhaver - Construction Cost Analyst

Donald Duggan, Jr. - Crossroads Construction Supervisor 2019-2020

Jimmie Worley - Construction Project Manager

Marcus Carlson - Construction Project Manager

Samuel Dubose - Construction Project Manager

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF OUR STAFF WHO PASSED DURING OUR TIME OF SERVICE



Brenda Alvarado
Case Manager



Gabe Soliz
Case Manager



Janie Torres
Data Entry



Donald Duggan, Jr.
Construction Supervisor



“Collaboration with partnering organizations has been instrumental in the recovery process of Hurricane Harvey survivors. The financial assistance in particular has been a blessing to so many Coastal Bend survivors and Rio Texas Conference UMC clients..Not only have clients been directly impacted by the generosity of the funders, but the case management team has also witnessed how clients have had their hope and faith restored through these generous donations.

Sophie Longoria, Coastal Bend Disaster Case Management Supervisor

“These monies are helping people rebuild their lives, as well as their homes, giving them a chance to create a new normal.”

George Ballard, Rio Texas Conference Finance Manager

“The financial assistance provided by Rio Texas, UMCOR, Rebuild Texas, and the American Red Cross allowed the Rio Texas Conference to reach Harvey survivors who had given up hope that there was any help available to restore their lives back to a new normal.”

Kim Pickens, Crossroads Disaster Case Management Supervisor

Thank You

Partner Organizations and Funders

Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery Group

Victoria County Long Term
Recovery Group

Fayette County Disaster Recovery Team

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity

Aransas County Habitat for Humanity

Rebuild Texas

American Red Cross

Kronkosky Foundation

UMCOR

Bonneville Inc.

NOMADS

NCCC Americorps

National VOAD

Catholic Diocese of Victoria

St. Vincent de Paul

Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

Catholic Charities

New Day Port A

Combined Community Action

Meals on Wheels

Samaritan's Purse

Salvation Army

Fayette County Habitat for Humanity

Calhoun County Habitat for Humanity

United Way -Victoria

United Way- Calhoun County

Community Health Clinic Gonzales

Mennonite Disaster Service

ReachGlobal

C.A.R.E.

Carpenter's Helpers

UNITED METHODIST

Coastal Bend District Rio Texas
Conference UMC

Crossroads District Rio Texas
Conference UMC

First United Methodist Aransas Pass

First United Methodist Columbus

First United Methodist Corpus Christi

First United Methodist Cuero

First United Methodist Goliad

First United Methodist Karnes

First United Methodist Kenedy

First United Methodist Lockhart

First United Methodist Portland

First United Methodist Port Lavaca

First United Methodist Rockport

First United Methodist Seadrift

First United Methodist Shiner

First United Methodist Sinton

First United Methodist Victoria

First United Methodist Yoakum

St. James United Methodist Church
La Grange

United Methodist Church of the
Resurrection (Leawood, KS)

United Methodist Church Central
Texas Conference

United Methodist Church North
Texas Conference

ADDITIONAL FAITH PARTNERS

Ministerial Alliance - Colorado County

Ministerial Alliance- Fayette County

Mt. Carmel Catholic Church - Portland

Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi
Knights of Columbus

AGENCIES

Texas General Land Office

FEMA

Texas Department of
Emergency Management



American
Red Cross





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