Ways to Support Hurricane Relief

Members of the Ferris community have reached out seeking opportunities to give to and assist with local Hurricane Harvey and Irma relief efforts where possible. As a resource, we have begun to compile a list of Registered Student Organizations’ (RSOs) efforts as well as external organizations’ hurricane relief efforts (including those below). If you would like to submit an addition to this list, please email the Volunteer Center at CLACS@ferris.edu or contact the Dean of Student Life Office by phone at 231-591-2612.

Resources for Ferris Community Members Impacted

The Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Jeanine Ward-Roof, has reached out to Ferris State students who have a permanent address in Texas, Florida and other affected areas on file with the University to offer support and resources. The faculty and staff, including our Dean of Student Life and the Student Life Team, are reaching out to those who we learn have been affected. We may not be aware of all who are directly impacted. If you or someone you know at Ferris is in need, please contact the Dean of Student Life Office by phone at 231-591-2612 or by email at joypufhal@ferris.edu.

Our Counselors in the Personal Counseling Center are available and a confidential source of support. Many students find it helpful to talk through their anxiety during times of stress and uncertainty. To schedule an appointment, please call 231-591-5968. Employees seeking support can reach our Employee Assistance Program, Encompass, at 1-800-788-8630.

RSO Sponsored Relief Efforts

We are deeply grateful for the students and their advisors in our Community who have stepped up to lead efforts and encourage us to give of ourselves to advocate for and to assist our fellow human beings in need.

- The American Welding Society (AWS) has collected $2,260 in donations for hurricane relief (including $1,000 from their e-board and $630 in a donation match). In addition they are discussing a mission trip over Spring Break to assist in one of the impacted areas.

- The Music Industry Management Association has already raised $160 for hurricane relief to be sent to www.rebuildtexas.com, a group that will not take any administrative fees from support. Keep an eye out for tabling in the IRC and the UC to continue collecting for the cause.

- American Marketing Association (AMA) is hosting a CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 8th, beginning on campus and continuing through the Big Rapids Community. Seventy-five percent of the money raised will be donated to disaster relief in the US and globally and 25% to local organizations.

- Kappa Delta Pi and the Association of Future Educators are planning to place an inflatable boat on campus to be filled with donated school supplies to send to Texas and potentially Florida through the Principals Helping Principals effort.

- As blood drives have had to be canceled in Texas and Florida, there is a call nationally to fill the need for blood. We are fortunate to have had a blood-drive planned and sponsored by Kappa Psi, the Healthcare Management Association, and Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Honor Society where you can donate on campus Thursday, September 21st from 9am – 4:30pm, in FLITE 408 and 446.

- The Ferris State University Student Government Association (FSUSGA) is hosting a SPAWghetti for Survivors event in the University Center from 5-8 PM on October 4th to benefit hurricane animal aid.
Local Relief Efforts

- St. Peter’s Lutheran School in Big Rapids is collecting donations of personal care including shampoo, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, new packages of socks and underwear for children and adults, diapers, baby wipes, pet supplies, cleaning supplies and disinfectant products. A collection trailer will be on-site to be filled on Friday, September 15th. Donations can be brought to the school office, Germanfest, or St. Peter’s Lutheran Church at 408 W. Bellevue St., Big Rapids.

- The Big Rapids Rotary is collecting undergarments such as dry socks, t-shirts, and underwear for relief volunteers. Any cash donations received will go to the Salvation Army Relief Fund, http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/?_ga=2.232733151.1330252681.1505309378-1243683206.1505309378

Other Ways to Assist

Many believe that financial donations are one of the most effective ways to give to those affected by the hurricane. While clothing, supplies, or other physical items are helpful, they often require more time to sort through, distribute, transport, etc. There are many local and national organizations on the ground helping those affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Please use your own independent judgment and discretion before donating your time or money to any one particular organization.

- Direct Relief provides emergency medical resources to community-based institutions and organizations, and is the only nonprofit licensed to distribute prescription medications in all 50 U.S. states. https://www.directrelief.org/
- Foundation Beyond Belief is raising funds for All Hands Volunteers, a group assisting with disaster recovery. https://foundationbeyondbelief.org/
- Global Giving provides relief to survivors in the form of emergency supplies like food, water, and medicine in addition to longer-term recovery assistance to help residents recover and rebuild. https://www.globalgiving.org
- United Way’s hurricane relief priorities are safety, shelter, and basic needs, like food. Once the community is stabilized, United Way will focus on long-term recovery efforts. https://www.unitedway.org/
- You can visit the crowdsourcing website GoFundMe to give money to the Direct Impact Fund, a nonprofit that distributes money to smaller campaigns within the United States and its territories.

Ferris Service Trips to Areas Impacted

If you are interested in planning and/or participating in opportunities to travel and personally assist with relief efforts over our upcoming breaks (Thanksgiving, Winter, and/or Spring), please contact the Dean of Student Life at joypufhal@ferris.edu.