

Hurricane Harvey: Recommended Relief Organizations

Excellence in Giving recommends 5 charities based on these criteria for effective disaster relief in Texas:

1. Member of Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster ([VOAD](#)) – which coordinates relief efforts strategically with local and national officials through online & in-person communications
2. Scope and quality of staff or volunteers that can be rapidly mobilized for rescue and relief efforts
3. Geographically convenient staging of supplies for quick transportation and distribution
4. Proven disaster relief experience with pre-existing response plans and strong network of partners



[Team Rubicon](#) unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams.

- Already dispatched 3 rescue boats
- Has responded to over 200 disasters
- 35,000+ volunteers able to deploy
- Texas VOAD associate member

PLAN: Team Rubicon is gearing up to send additional Hurricane Harvey relief volunteers trained in swift water rescue to Houston to support strained emergency services and join the search and rescue efforts.



[Texas Baptist Men](#) trains volunteers and coordinates efforts to provide prompt assistance and emergency support during times of disaster.

- 50 years of disaster relief experience
- Care for families spiritually & physically
- Massive food production capabilities
- Texas VOAD full member

PLAN: Texas Baptist Men had 38 volunteers active in the field on 8/27 and have deployed shower/laundry units, feeding units, childcare units, and other resources to affected areas and nearby shelters.



[Convoy of Hope](#) has responded to 280+ disasters by bringing help and hope through food, water, emergency supplies and long-term solutions to families in tragedy.

- 5 loads of product distributed & 20 in queue
- Texas VOAD full member
- Convenient supply staging in 9,000 ft² food, water and hygiene supply tent in Victoria, TX

PLAN: Convoy of Hope plans for additional distribution points closer to Houston as it is safe to do so.



Samaritan's Purse

[Samaritan's Purse](#) is a nondenominational, evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world since 1970.

- Disaster relief units already arrived in Texas
- Responded to 2 flood-related disasters in Houston area last year
- Billy Graham Rapid Response Team chaplains provide spiritual support
- Texas VOAD associate member

PLAN: When floodwaters recede, Samaritan's Purse will help homeowners clean up and repair their homes.



[AmeriCares](#) provides emergency medicine and supplies to people in natural disasters.

- Every \$10 donation results in \$200 in aid
- Texas VOAD associate member
- Responds to ~30 humanitarian crises per year
- 38 years of medical relief expertise

PLAN: AmeriCares deployed an emergency response team to Texas to meet urgent health supply needs.