

# Lend a Hand to TX

## Hurricane Harvey Relief Trip



# The Situation...

## Hurricane Harvey Hits Port Arthur

26 inches of rain in 24 hours. 31 people perished, everyone lost their home, cars, and belongings. The city was underwater for days. FEMA came in with some initial help, but now that we are months from the disaster, the government and many emergency disaster groups have pulled out of west Texas leaving residents to pick up the pieces and rebuild with few people to help but the people of God.

People with few resources didn't have quality insurance and so many have been denied payouts or gotten so little that it is just not enough.

Many have moved, but if your livelihood is here and the storm took everything...where are you going to go?

Most of the displaced residents are living with relatives or in cheap motels with their entire family. Some are living in campers or tents in the yard of their devastated home. We met one family of four living in their shed. Some, the very poor, are living in houses filled with mold because they can't go anywhere else.

This is where the church steps in.

# The Plan...

## Churches in Watchung are headed to TX

The devastation in TX is no longer a news item, but we haven't forgotten them. Wilson Memorial Church and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church are partnering together to help a few families rebuild. We can't fix Port Arthur, but we can do our part in the rebuilding story.

Experience Mission is an organization that has been on the ground in TX right after the storm and began making relationships with residents and relief work. In the months after, EM began making a plan to help and we secured a week in August to join them.

We will be picking up hammers, sanders, scrapers, paintbrushes, and cleaning supplies to get to work on houses that have already been gutted and "demolded" to put families lives back together. EM has had teams since the early days after the flood and we will be coming after one team and then handing off to another. The work will be challenging, but doable for any age 13-above.

Our team will be staying at a local church that has turned their facilities into a relief headquarters. The accommodations are quite spartan, but it is a place to rest, eat, and recover from a day's work.

# The Schedule

What an average day looks like

Sunday: Travel day. Arrive in time for evening orientation.  
Transportation from the airport provided by the churches in the form of van rentals we will have for the week.

Monday - Thursday:

8:00 AM: Day begins with breakfast and a time of prayer

9:00 AM: Work at Job Site

12:00 PM: Break for Bag Lunch

3:00 PM: Break for the day. Head to Showers

5:00 PM: Dinner

6:00 PM: Evening Recreation

10:00 PM Bedtime

Friday: Travel Home

## Cost

As you can imagine, this is a costly undertaking. We are asking every participant to be **responsible** for **\$1,100**. This can be covered in a variety of ways (see attached fundraising sheet). The cost breakdown is as follows:

Food/Lodging/Mission Cost: \$450 pp

Flight: \$550 pp

Van Rental: \$100 pp

# Funding

While this is a more expensive trip than we have done in the past few years, this cost is completely reachable. Every person is responsible to cover the cost of their trip, but we are providing support to reach the goal.

## **Option 1: Pay the entire amount**

Clearly, that is an option. If you choose to pay the entirety of the fee you can do it in one lump sum or through a monthly payment plan. However, every participant is still required to assist with our annual spaghetti dinner to raise funds and awareness.

## **Option 2: Participate in our fundraising team**

This team will work together to create fundraising options that are fun and effective. The centerpiece of our fundraising plan is the spaghetti dinner. Every member choosing to use the dinner as a fundraising tool will be responsible to sell at least one table of tickets (10) at \$20 per ticket and solicit at least one item for our basket/silent auction. Every table sold is \$200 toward your trip fee and auction sales will be noted accordingly.

Other group fundraising options can include "stock" sales, car washes, a drive in movie night, "Seniors" prom, ect. The Fundraising team will plan and execute these events. Participation on the team equals another \$100 toward your trip plus whatever is raised at the fundraiser.

### **Option 3: Personal solicitation**

Some participants may choose to invite family and friends to support their efforts through personal fundraising. You are welcome to do that and we can help you compose your letter, printing, and tracking incoming donations.

### **Option 4: Combination**

This is highly recommended as the most effective way to raise the funds you need to do this trip. Consider the following scenario:

*Anne has signed up as a participant on the trip and has paid her \$200 deposit. That means she has \$900 left to raise. She writes letters to family and friends which brings in \$500 in donations. She only has \$400 left and has covered \$200 by selling a table at the spaghetti dinner and another \$50 by the silent auction items she brought. Only needing \$150 more, Anne participates on the fundraising team and earns another \$50 by doing Stock Sales after services on Sunday. Her trip is fully covered and Anne packs for Texas.*

# **How to register**

Go to <https://experiencemission.org/register/regmemintro.asp> and use our pin number **3054**. That will give you your own unique account to fill out medical release forms, etc. All your information stays private and held by EM. If you have any difficulty using the online process, we can either work together or you can fill in a paper application.

*Once you have registered for the trip, your \$200 deposit is due. You can pay by check (Wilson Memorial Church) or through the online option at [www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org](http://www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org).*