



SBEF Harvey Relief Fund exceeds expectations

By mid-September, the SBEF Harvey Relief Fund had exceeded \$300,000, according to Spring Branch Education Foundation Executive Director Cece Thompson.

“The community’s out-pouring of care and support for families in the Spring Branch/Memorial community leaves me speechless,” Thompson said. “As far as we know, this is the only fund dedicated to this area. Every penny will go to student and staff families in Spring Branch ISD schools.”

There are no administrative costs associated with the fund, she said.

SBISD officials estimate there are 600 student and 200 staff families displaced by Harvey. The district uses the Student Residency Questionnaire (SRQ) to make this assessment for students. Generally completed at the time of enrollment, the SRQ can be updated throughout the school year as living situations change.

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, living situations may reflect substandard living conditions (no electricity, for example); or living in a shelter, with friends or relatives, in a hotel/motel, transitional housing or unsheltered locations such as a car or tent.

Overseen by SBEF, with guidance from a district and partner steering committee, distribution of the Fund will be made in the form of \$300 Target and Walmart gift cards.

“We feel gift cards are the most equitable way to assist families,” Thompson explained. “Only the families know their most pressing needs, whether it’s food, clothing or supplies. Additionally, we will work with Community In Schools - Houston staff to help identify other specific needs. SBEF will award a grant of \$25,000 to CIS to cover vouchers to help families with rent, utility assistance and other basic needs.

“SBEF’s mission is to support students and educators to enhance education and prepare our students for a successful future. This relief helps our students to thrive in school and our staff to provide quality instruction despite the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey. The SBEF Harvey Relief Fund is dedicated to helping fill gaps not met by other local and federal efforts. We are indebted to community donors for making this possible.”

Community members who wish to donate to the SBEF Harvey Relief Fund may visit <https://www.pledgecents.com/cause/yldlny/hurricane-harvey-supporting-sbisd-famili>.

About Spring Branch Education Foundation:

Spring Branch Education Foundation is committed to supporting SBISD students and educators. It partners with the district and community to fund programs that enhance education and students for the future. In 2016, Caruthers Institute ranked SBEF 42nd in the nation among 188 K-12 education foundations and in the top 10 of its division of foundations with \$1 million to \$1,999,999 in revenues. Since 1993, the Foundation has donated more than \$11 million to the district. SBEF is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax deductible.