

ecclesia



HARVEY RELIEF: IMPACT REPORT

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A DISASTER, A RECOVERY AND A CITY COMING TOGETHER.



None of us had any idea on August 25, 2017 that the city we call home would be forever changed. And yet 4 days later, over 4 feet of rain had been dropped across greater Houston, enough to make the ground sink three inches. Hurricane Harvey was the second worst rain event in American history, affecting the lives of 13 million people, damaging 204,000 homes and causing 88 precious brothers and sisters to lose their lives.

From the beginning, the icon of Ecclesia has been an open hand. We chose this image as a way of signifying our open-handed posture to God and our city. Our hands are free to receive and free to give, and this has been our story in the weeks and months following Hurricane Harvey.

Ecclesians across Houston used their homes as neighborhood hubs for cleanup. Our campuses across Houston were repurposed as warehouses for supplies and accommodations for volunteers. Our staff's job descriptions were re-written to help bring food to our brothers and sisters in Denver Harbor, medical attention and counseling downtown, and supplies across the city.

Over two thousand Ecclesians and countless friends from around the country came together to muck out over 600 waterlogged homes. And thanks to the generosity of nearly 60 partner churches, we distributed nearly a million dollars worth of supplies in the weeks following the storm. And thanks to strategic partnerships with organizations with World Vision International and

BuildAid, many millions of dollars have gone to restore and rebuild homes around Houston.

It is our belief that the church exists for the world and not for ourselves. We would never wish this storm on anyone. The trauma and memory of these days continue to live with us.

But if there is a gift in this painful season, it is that the storm allowed us to rediscover what it means to be Houston's Holistic Missional Christian Community. For that gift, and for so many of you who leaned in during this season, we are deeply grateful.



PHASE 1 - IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Our first response phase lasted six weeks. In the immediate aftermath of Harvey, we focused on providing assistance to food-insecure families downtown and in East Houston. We distributed \$279,000 worth of grocery cards at both our campuses and arranged for thousands of dollars of groceries to be distributed in Denver Harbor.

Thanks to the inspiration of Ecclesiasts Mike and Kimberly Reese, we adopted a hub strategy for cleanup across Houston. Ecclesiasts in Meyerland, Briar Forest, Nottingham Park, Denver Harbor and East Houston opened their homes as a staging point for over 600 muck outs. From these hubs we were able to distribute mosquito nets for brothers and sisters sleeping outside their flooded homes.

Our Elder campus stayed open for those needing medical attention and counseling. A building on the West Side campus was quickly converted into a supply warehouse, collecting and distributing over \$750,000 worth of cleanup supplies - dehumidifiers, fans, shovels, brooms and wheel barrows. On the second floor, we built Hotel Jesus: dorm-style housing for the hundreds of volunteers that came to muck out Houston while our chefs at Paper Co. kept them well-fed.

PHASE 2 - REBUILD

We met with the State of Texas and negotiated rent-free usage of the recently-sold East Downtown campus. After renovating the 50,000 square foot warehouse, we donated the space to World Vision International, the largest Christian nonprofit relief organization on earth. In turn, World Vision staffed our warehouse and immediately began sending millions of dollars of rebuilding supplies and furniture to Houston for distribution.

Our East Hub in Northeast Houston became a primary spot for rebuilding and construction assistance, as the majority of families in the neighborhood lacked financial resources and access to insurance. Through a partnership with BuildAid, we contracted builders and construction workers to help these families move back home as quickly as possible. And we hosted neighborhood dinners and block parties to restore a sense of belonging and normalcy to our brothers and sisters there.

PHASE 3 - MY NEIGHBOR

As weeks turned into months, we realized that many of our neighbors had specific needs best met on a case-by-case basis. So many Ecclesiasts leaned in to assist - creating Amazon wishlists for donations of clothes and diapers, spending your weekends to landscape, remove debris, and employing your unique gifts and talents for Kingdom work across Houston.

Pastor Chris was inspired after a conversation with an Uber driver. This brother from Vietnam lost his home, his family's car and his restaurant to the floodwaters. Instead of cooking pho, which he claimed was the best in Houston, he spent his days as an Uber driver in his father-in-law's car. We know that it's nearly impossible to be a business owner in Houston without a car, so we donated a new car to this brother and to nine other people nominated by Ecclesiasts.

In addition to transportation assistance, we leaned into other benevolence opportunities to provide housing assistance, rental assistance, food and medical assistance to hurting Houstonians, striving to do for one what we would do for anyone.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

PARTNER CHURCHES

Nearly 60 churches from across the United States sent volunteers and much-needed supplies in the days following Harvey. While dehumidifiers were nearly impossible to find in Houston, our friends were bringing them in by the truckload. In fact, our friends at Parkview Church in Chicago sent a

18-wheeler packed full of supplies. Our friends at Mariner's Church in Southern California sent dozens of staff to reinforce the efforts of our own staff family. Dozens more of our partner churches sent hundreds of volunteers, often staying weeks at a time.

There's absolutely no way we could have responded so quickly and strategically had it not been for these brothers and sisters. With their help, we were able to raise \$1.6 million, give away an additional \$750,000 worth of supplies and help muck out over 600 homes across the city.

TEXAS

18 Churches



MIDWEST

15 Churches



WEST COAST

13 Churches



SOUTH EAST

8 Churches



NORTH EAST

4 Churches



World Vision

WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL

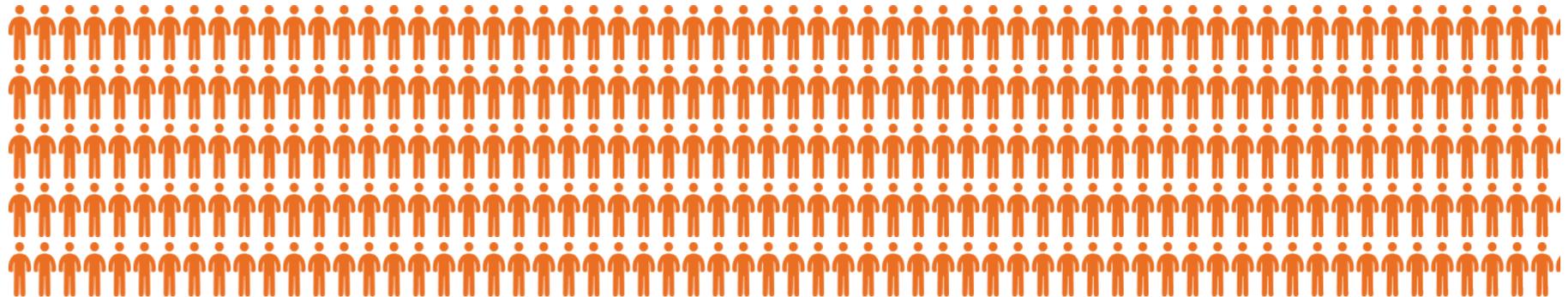
In terms of impact, it's difficult to imagine a better partnership than the one God provided with World Vision International. Our former East Downtown campus had been purchased by the State of Texas with plans to demolish it for freeway expansion. This beautiful building, covered with the best street art in Houston, sat empty for years waiting to be knocked down.

Immediately after Harvey, we negotiated rent-free usage of the empty warehouse with the city and

invited Rich Stearns, the CEO of World Vision, to visit Houston. After Ecclesia's \$17,000 investment to renovate the warehouse, World Vision was able to impact over 311,000 brothers and sisters across Houston through donations and other community outreaches, distributing over \$9 million worth of housing supplies including drywall, refrigerators, washers, dryers and furniture.

"The partnership with Ecclesia was a Godsend. Ecclesia had a warehouse and we had relevant product and warehousing expertise, which allowed us to serve millions of vulnerable families in the region as they put their lives back together after Hurricane Harvey. This partnership also provided us a model of how we can partner with the local church to magnify our impact in the community." Reed Slattery, National Director U.S. Programs World Vision

311,000 PEOPLE IMPACTED | 179,000 Children, 132,000 Adults  = 1,000 people



100 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

7,532 PALLETS DISTRIBUTED

\$9,011,465 WORTH OF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

BUILD AID

BuildAid is a partnership between HomeAid Houston, a charity of the Greater Houston Builders Association, and the Association's builder members. Over 100,000 homes in greater Houston were impacted by Harvey, and an estimated 85% of families and individuals did not have flood insurance.

For anyone who has experienced a flood, you know that the muck out is a volunteer effort, but rebuilding is a process best done by professionals. Through our partnership with BuildAid, we were able to provide a comprehensive process for rebuilding homes across Houston, including drywall and insulation, cabinetry and countertops, new flooring, plumbing, millwork, trim and painting as well as final inspections - assuring that each home was fully completed and ready for families to move back home.



For our sister Alkandra, the process with FEMA had been slow and frustrating. Friends had helped her gut the house, but without flood insurance, she had no options but to take out a large loan to rebuild. When she returned to her flooded home, she grabbed a marker and wrote the words "God bless this house" over the doorpost.

Today, she feels that God has miraculously answered this prayer. Through Ecclesia's Harvey fund, we were able to support Alkandra's rebuild without the need for her to incur any debt. And BuildAid assured that the work was done professionally.



"It looks like a model house. Everyday I came to see the progress and was overwhelmed with the quality and beauty of the work. Throughout the process, BuildAid was compassionate and understanding. We bonded with them like they were our own family."





EXPENSES AND REVENUE

TOTAL HARVEY REVENUE **\$1,621,000**

TOTAL HARVEY EXPENSES **\$1,621,000**

CONSTRUCTION \$485,000 | Contract labor and supplies for home construction



PARTNERSHIPS FOR REBUILD \$342,000 | Rebuilding projects supervised by BuildAid



FOOD ASSISTANCE \$279,000 | Purchase of grocery cards for food-insecure families



TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE \$191,000 | Purchase of 10 new cars for flood victims in need of transportation



ADMIN & VOLUNTEER EXPENSES \$120,000 | Meals, housing and contract labor for immediate storm response



DEMOLITION ASSISTANCE \$75,000 | Supplies and support for muck outs and clearance of debris



PUERTO RICO \$88,000 | Disaster relief funds for partner churches following Hurricane Maria



BENEVOLENCE \$21,000 | Assistance for neighbors in immediate financial hardship



RENTAL ASSISTANCE \$20,000 | Temporary housing solutions for flood victims



PUERTO RICO

On Sept. 20, 2017, just three weeks after Harvey, Hurricane Maria came ashore in Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm, the strongest to hit the island in nearly a century. As our response was getting underway in Houston, we heard stories of the devastation from our friends on the island. We knew that, even in the midst of our own devastation, we were called to respond. Ramon Huertas and Lymar Sola, both longtime Ecclesians, introduced us to a group of pastors in Puerto Rico. We flew these brothers and sisters to Houston for a chance to rest and regroup. And then we sent a team to visit them in San Juan, sharing ideas and insights that we had gained in response to Harvey. We knew that these pastors had the best sense of how to help people. The purchase of vans meant that thousands of volunteers could be transported to relief projects. The purchase of window screens would prevent mosquitos from spreading disease. And the purchase of solar panels would allow churches to get their power on during a sustained blackout, providing a space for the community to gather and find healing.



PUERTO RICO EXPENSES \$88,000

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE \$30,000

Purchase of three vans for relief efforts across the island

ENERGY ASSISTANCE \$31,000

Purchase and installation of solar energy panels for consistent power

HEALTH ASSISTANCE \$10,000

Purchase of window screens to prevent mosquito-borne illness

TRAVEL EXPENSES \$12,000

Travel for Puerto Rico pastors and Ecclesia project staff

FOOD \$5,000

Support of partner churches' hospitality outreaches

PUERTO RICO FUNDRAISERS

HOME RUNS FOR PUERTO RICO / CARLOS CORREA

\$27,398

PUERTO RICO POP DINNER

\$11,515

“Ecclesia was one of the first ones to invest in us. Because of that we were able to buy vehicles which have helped us host hundreds of volunteers in our efforts to help this community repair their homes, trust and dignity.”

- Steven Feliciano, Director of Hunger Corporation Puerto Rico

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A LETTER FROM CHRIS SEAY

Resilience is a word we heard often about Houston in the days after Harvey.

But if you're like me, thinking back on those days feels like an out-of-body experience. It's challenging to remember everything that was happening in our church and in Houston. But those difficult days helped shape and clarify exactly who we are as a church and how we're called to respond in our city.

There really are no words to express how grateful I am to be your pastor. I told you the week after the storm, if we're going to go through hell together, you're the people I want to go through hell with.

The swiftness of your response, your creativity and generosity, your love for this beautiful city, for your neighbors, for brothers and sisters without adequate food and shelter - all of it was truly something to behold.

I hope these stories serve as a sacred act of remembrance for Ecclesia. It's so easy to forget how God used each and every one of us, the friends and churches that leaned in and the resources. He miraculously provided to care for Houstonians during this moment of crisis.

I hope we never have to walk through something like this again, but I will always thank God for His faithfulness and your love as the body of Christ.

God bless you and thank you, Ecclesia.

Pastor Chris

