

## 2017-2018 ROTARY DISTRICT 5930 HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF



Betty Ramirez-Lara  
District Governor 2017-2018

August 28, 2017  
District 5930 Disaster Relief Program

### District 5930 Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief Program

If you lose your money you lose much. If you lose a friend you lose much more. But if you lose hope you have lost everything. As Rotarians, it is our charge to do what we can to insure our fellow humans never lose hope. No one knows the number of people who lost all hope this past weekend when Hurricane Harvey made landfall at Rockport Texas. In response to the requests for information concerning our District response to the Hurricane Harvey Disaster I want to discuss briefly three responses that our district and your clubs may want to consider:

**District Disaster Relief Fund** – We must remember that Rotary is not an immediate responder organization. Rotary clubs do not have training and infrastructure to provide first-response assistance. In keeping with Rotary's goal of helping humanity, and understanding that those affected will be in need of relief for many months, if not years, our most effective opportunity for service is in creating a District Disaster Relief Fund to receive contributions from our clubs. Funds designated for this method of distribution should be payable to McAllen North Rotary FUND a 501(c)3 - Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief (Fed ID#27-3855943) and sent to 501 W. Nolana, McAllen, Tx 78504. The Disaster Relief Committee will evaluate the opportunities as they are presented and provide support where we believe it can best be used. Even now districts in or near the disaster area are beginning to respond with solid suggestions for our consideration. We know that a disaster of this magnitude will require our financial assistance for months into the future. Our district was part of the direct line of Hurricane Harvey and it is my hope that Rotary clubs in and out of our area would want to help our clubs with their special projects that will be required to help establish the new normal. I believe that this is our best approach as Rotary clubs and as a District of Rotary International.

**ShelterBox** -Another opportunity for contribution is to contribute to the ShelterBox program. Last year ShelterBox asked that contributions for ShelterBox be sent to the District Treasurer who will, in turn send one check to ShelterBox. Please make checks payable to Rotary District 5930 -ShelterBox Program. This will reduce the paperwork required of the ShelterBox program. Visit [www.ShelterBoxUSA.org](http://www.ShelterBoxUSA.org).

**American Red Cross or Salvation Army** -For those clubs and individuals who prefer immediate response to the disaster, I suggest that they contribute to the American Red Cross, or to Salvation Army. Although these are appropriate agencies to accept contributions, these agencies are marketed so well at times of disaster that they have no problem soliciting contributions. Never the less, I believe contributions sent to these organizations will be well placed.

For more on Rotary's response to this disaster visit [www.rotary.org/](http://www.rotary.org/).

I want to know how your club is responding to this disaster. Let me know what your club is doing.

The following are a few points that I think are important to keep in mind during this event.

- Rotary is not an immediate responder to disaster situations, although individually, many of our members are involved with agencies that serve in this capacity.
- Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar says that “when organizing your club or district's response to a local or international disaster, we recommend that Rotarians work closely with an experienced disaster relief organization such as the International Federation of the Red Cross.” We will serve best by providing help through organizations such as Red Cross or Salvation Army than try to send our members to the disaster area where they are likely to become part of the problem instead of the solution.
- Because disasters seem to be occurring more frequently we need to consider how to plan for a response the next time this happens. We may wish to consider the following:
- The District should establish a Disaster-Relief Committee that will develop a plan of action and will help the governor implement the plan when disaster happens.

Even as the disaster and accompanying tragedy has hit our district directly, it is heart-warming to know that the members and clubs in our district and though-out the world, continue to demonstrate the love and magic of Rotary.

Thank you for your commitment to SERVICE Above Self.

Checks should be mailed to:

McAllen North Rotary FUND 501(c)3  
Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief  
501 W. Nolana  
McAllen, Tx 78504  
(Fed ID#27-3855943),

See next page  
for additional details

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Details

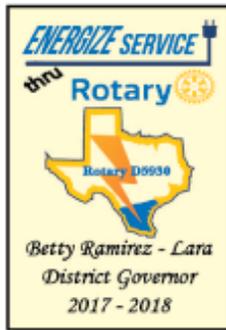
Rotary District 5930 is collecting funds to provide immediate and long-term assistance for community members in the affected areas of District 5930. All requests for funds will be requested by local clubs in D5930 and approved by the Disaster Relief Fund Committee.

To this end, I am requesting that the funds collected in support of this program be sent to McAllen North Rotary FUND a 501(c)3 - Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief (Fed ID#27-3855943) and sent to 501 W. Nolana, McAllen, TX 78504. Please indicate "Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief Program" on your check.

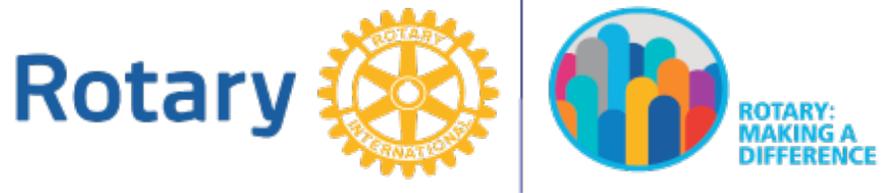
I am grateful for the generosity of those clubs who are supporting this fund. We believe that this is the best way to assure that our funds are distributed to the areas in need. We are comfortable in the belief that each dollar contributed in this way will be used directly in providing relief to those whose lives have been disrupted.

To those clubs who have chosen other ways to provide disaster relief, I thank you too.

Betty Ramirez-Lara  
District Governor District 5930  
2017-2018



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### RESOURCES



**American  
Red Cross**

**TX 800-928-4271**



**United Way**



**2-1-1 TEXAS**

**(361) 884-9497**