

Hurricane Harvey Relief Call for Volunteers Info

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Hurricane Harvey victims in the Coastal Bend cities of Port Aransas, Rockport and Aransas Pass are in dire need of help to clear debris from damaged homes. Here's more detail for those interested in joining the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas' effort to physically assist. The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration's Disaster Relief Coordinator, Colin Hill, is organizing volunteers from the Fig to travel to the area to work in three-day weekend stints. Plans are fluid, changing as day-to-day as conditions unfold, but this is the current info:

Who? Volunteers are needed for unskilled physical work. The stronger you are, the better, but you don't need to be a lumberjack to help. Anyone who can swing a hammer will be of use. There is also a **special need for a photographer** to help get the word out about damage and relief efforts, and a need for individuals to prepare food for volunteers. At this time, minimum age for volunteers is 18.

What? Caravan in vehicles volunteered by members of the group to the Texas coast, departing at 9 am on Friday morning to work in small groups demolishing damage and removing debris from private homes. Volunteers will be lodged in a parish hall where they'll sleep on self-supplied cots or air mattresses Friday and Saturday night. Meals will be provided. The group will return to Dallas by 10 pm Sunday evening. Volunteers must also attend a training session prior to the trip.

Where? Work will take place in private homes in Port Aransas. The parish hall where volunteers will sleep is in Corpus Christi. The hall has power and water. At a later date, volunteers will be housed in a similar facility on Mustang Island.

When? Volunteers are needed on one or more of the following dates:

- Friday, September 29 - Sunday, October 1
- Friday, October 20 - Sunday, October 22
- Friday, November 10 - Sunday, November 12

How will volunteers get there? Water has drained in the area and the roads are passable. Colin Hills will coordinate transportation in vehicles of volunteers willing to drive their personal vehicles to the site.

What will volunteers need to bring?

Each volunteer should bring a cot or air mattress and bedding to sleep on. Recommended dress is long pants, long-sleeved shirts, work gloves and sturdy footwear. For extra precaution, protective-toed boots can be found at stores such as Academy Sports and Walmart. Tools, protective equipment (including gloves if not self-supplied) and food will be provided.

How can volunteers get more information and sign up?

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration website, www.transfiguration.net/serve has more information and a link where volunteers can sign up. Click the blue box labeled “Hurricane Relief Signup.”