



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 22, 2016

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## **AUSTIN DISASTER RELIEF NETWORK AIDS LOUISIANA FLOOD SURVIVORS VOLUNTEERS, FUNDS NEEDED**

Austin, TX – Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN), a network of more than 170 greater Austin churches, arrived with a team of more than 40 volunteers in Denham Springs, Louisiana, late Friday, August 19, 2016. Since Saturday, Austin volunteers have begun distributing more than 28 pallets of fans, clean up kits, toiletries, toys, disaster supplies, food and other items donated by the Austin community.

Elderly and disabled survivors and small children found respite from the 95-degree heat in ADRN's new air-conditioned mobile disaster tent, recently purchased with a grant from the WalMart Foundation. Survivors waited patiently up to three hours in long lines, as thousands of survivors came to the Healing Place Church to receive disaster supplies and personal items.

ADRN anticipates reaching more than 2,000 families in Denham Springs over the next 7-10 days, providing crisis intervention, spiritual support, gift cards and connecting families with critical resources that will help them rebuild their homes and their lives over the coming months. ADRN's Crisis Team visited nearly 200 homes on their first day of deployment. The majority of the area sustained approximately seven to eight feet of water, devastating many homes.

"ADRN is humbled to represent the greater Austin churches and our city to meet the needs of so many families in need," said Daniel Geraci, Executive Director of the Austin Disaster Relief Network. "Since I arrived this last week, I've been incredibly inspired by the strength and resilient spirit of the people of Denham Springs. I'm confident that the people of Austin can come together to help meet their great needs, from clean up to food and toiletries to undergarments to comfort items."

### **INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:**

ADRN leadership is available for interviews:

- **In Austin:** Associate Director Stephen Brewer
- **In Louisiana:** Executive Director Daniel Geraci (phone, Skype)
- **Audio/Visual Files:** Pre-recorded survivor and damage videos and photos available

### **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED:**

Due to the devastating impact of the flooding, the people of Denham Springs need significantly more support than ADRN and the Austin community have already provided. Additional opportunities include:

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- **Louisiana:** Individuals and church/community groups are welcome to join the ADRN Clean Up effort in Denham Springs Louisiana
  - **Dates:** Present through Sunday, August 28
  - **Location:** Healing Place Church, Denham Springs, Louisiana
  - **Sign Up/Details** (including sleeping accommodations): <http://www.adrntx.org/index.php/great-la-flood-2016/>

### **ITEMS FOR SURVIVORS:**

**Drop Off Details:**

- **DATES:** Monday, August 22 – Saturday, August 26
- **TIME:** 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
- **LOCATION:** ADRN's Hope Family Thrift Store 1122 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Austin, Texas (in back of building)  
*Volunteers deploying to Louisiana will bring new donations from ADRN Headquarters to deployment site throughout the week.*
- **Items Needed**
  - New undergarments (all sizes, children and adult)
  - New socks (all sizes, children and adult)
  - Toiletries (ie: shampoo, facewash, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.)

- Black Trash bags
- Mops and Buckets
- Snacks
- Utility knives
- Leather work gloves
- Inflatable mattresses
- Hand sanitizer
- Box fans
- *Clothing is not needed – ADRN already has clothing sorted and packed for this deployment*

#### **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:**

To date, ADRN has raised more than \$25,000 for Louisiana flood survivors but anticipates providing at least \$40,000 in gift cards for basic needs. ADRN invites members of the Austin community to contribute:

- **Online:** [ADRNTX.org](http://adrntx.org)
- **Text:** AUSTINRELIEF to 444999
- **Mail:** Post Office Box 3817, Cedar Park, Texas 78630, ATTN: Great LA Flood 2016 Fund

ADRN previously responded to historic disasters outside of the five-county area surrounding the City of Austin, including the 2013 devastating tornado in Moore, Oklahoma, and the 2013 fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas.

Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization comprised of 165 Greater Austin churches and 4,500 volunteers. ADRN's network enables church members to organize, prepare, mobilize and respond quickly in the event of a disaster, large or small. ADRN's network of churches, volunteers, business partners, local agencies and community organizations generously provide in-kind donations, monetary gifts and additional volunteer assistance that enable ADRN to fund the rebuild/repair of survivor homes and provide immediate assistance to those in crisis. Since 2009, ADRN has brought emotional, physical and spiritual relief to more than 17,000 individuals, sponsored more than 2,300 families, and given more than \$3.5 million in disaster relief funds. Learn more at [ADRNTX.org](http://adrntx.org).

Visit online at [www.adrntx.org](http://www.adrntx.org) | [Facebook/ADRNTX](https://www.facebook.com/adrntx) | **ADRN's Survivor & Public Hotline # 512-806-0800**  
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