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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**AUSTIN DISASTER RELIEF NETWORK TO LAUNCH SUPPLY DRIVE,  
PREPARE FOR VOLUNTEER DEPLOYMENT, AND INTENSIFY FUNDRAISING EFFORTS  
IN RESPONSE TO TROPICAL DEPRESSION IMELDA**

Austin, TX, September 24, 2019 – In response to the devastation caused by Tropical Depression Imelda in Beaumont, TX, one of the hardest-hit regions in southeast Texas, the Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN) today announced the launch of a supply drive along with plans for a major deployment later this week. Given the scope of the destruction in the region, ADRN is also amplifying its efforts to raise funds to meet the immediate and long-term needs of survivors in the area.

**DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLIES** – Those interested in donating supplies are being asked to assemble CARE KITS for survivors and/or CLEAN-UP BUCKETS. CARE KITS, consisting of basic hygiene and personal items, will be distributed to individuals and families displaced from their homes due to flooding. CLEAN-UP BUCKETS will be distributed to residents and muck-out teams will clear mud and debris from flooded homes. *(See pages 2 and 3 for details on assembly CARE KITS and CLEAN-UP BUCKETS.)*

**DEPLOYMENT TEAMS** – ADRN is mobilizing teams of badged and credentialed volunteers for a major deployment later this week. Deployment teams will likely distribute thousands of dollars in emergency financial assistance and provide emotional and spiritual care to thousands of survivors.

“The Austin Disaster Relief Network is preparing to mobilize volunteers in great numbers to the Greater Beaumont, TX area,” said Daniel Geraci, executive director of the Austin Disaster Relief Network. “Our volunteers are trained to understand the range of physical, emotional and spiritual needs people experience after disaster and will help survivors as they begin rebuilding their homes and lives.”

**FUNDING NEEDS** – Monetary donations are needed at this time to help ADRN provide support to flood survivors. Funds will be distributed in the form of gift cards, emergency housing, emergency transportation and/or building materials to meet immediate and long-term needs.

“With more than 40 inches of rain dumped in some areas of Greater Beaumont and hundreds of homes flooded, the destruction caused by Imelda in certain areas is on par with, and in some cases worse than, what we saw with Hurricane Harvey,” Geraci said. “We anticipate needing \$100,000 minimally to begin providing emergency financial assistance to the families impacted. To date, only \$5,000 has been raised. This need is urgent, and we’re believing in faith that our community will answer the call to support their neighbors in Southeast Texas. We saw them do it for Hurricane Harvey and we believe they’ll do it again.”

To make a tax-deductible gift to support disaster survivors, go to <https://adrn.org/give/>

Imelda response efforts are being conducted in partnership with United Aid of Southeast Texas (UAST), a Beaumont, TX-based disaster relief network that ADRN has partnered with over the last two years to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Harvey.

Additionally, ADRN is sending a semi-truck full of canned and bottled drinking water to Beaumont residents today.

**CARE KIT ASSEMBLY AND DONATION** – Following is a list of items needed for CARE KITS:

- Towel (if family kit, purchase 4)
- Washcloth (if family kit, purchase 4)
- Soap
- Tissue
- Toothbrush (If family kit, purchase 4)
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant (If family kit, purchase 4)
- Feminine Products (family or female version only)
- Shampoo
- Comb (if family kit, purchase 4)
- Blanket (if family kit, purchase 4)
- Pillow (as many as you can fit in if it is a family kit)
- Wipes
- Baby Bottles/Formula (with baby version only)
- Diapers (with baby version only)
- Baby Food (with baby version only)
- *A note of encouragement for the family or individual*

**CARE KIT Assembly Instructions:**

1. Determine if you want to build a Family Care Kit, Family Care Kit with Baby, Individual Male Care Kit and/or Individual Female Care Kit. Go shopping!
2. Purchase a sturdy plastic container with a lid so we can easily stack them for shipping.
3. Fill the container with listed items above.
4. Place a 12" strip of grey duct-tape on the top of your container to label (duct-tape is preferred). Using a permanent marker, indicate if the kit is a Family Care Kit, a Family with Baby Care Kit, an Individual Male Care Kit, or an Individual Female Care Kit.
5. Drop your Care Kit(s) off at Hope Family Thrift Store, 1122 East 51st Street, Austin, 78723 (Monday-Saturday, 10AM-5PM, Closed on Sunday)

**CLEAN-UP BUCKET ASSEMBLY AND DONATION** – Following is a list of items needed for CLEAN-UP BUCKETS:

- 1 Bucket
- 1 Lid
- 1 16 oz spray bottle
- 1 Antibacterial multi-purpose cleaner
- 1 can of powder cleanser
- 1 package of 2 scrub brushes
- 1 bar of soap (Lava if available)
- 2 packages of large Latex gloves (2 pairs per packet)
- 2 scrubbing sponges (Brillo or 3M scrub pads)
- 2 regular sponges
- 1 pair of safety goggles
- 2 cloth rags
- 1 roll of Heavy-Duty black contractor trash bags
- 1 radial dish brush
- 3 N-95 masks
- 1 60-ounce (1/2 gallon) bottle of bleach
- 2 Ziploc quart-size bags

*Warning: NEVER Combine Bleach and Ammonia/Vinegar/Rubbing Alcohol. NEVER Combine Hydrogen Peroxide and Vinegar*

**CLEAN-UP BUCKET Assembly Instructions:**

1. Items should be placed within the bucket with the lid fastened tightly in place.
2. Drop your CLEAN-UP BUCKET(s) off at Hope Family Thrift Store, 1122 East 51st Street, Austin, 78723 (Monday-Saturday, 10AM-5PM, Closed on Sunday)

**ABOUT ADRN**

Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization comprised of more than 190 greater Austin churches and thousands of trained volunteers. ADRN's network enables church members to organize, prepare and respond quickly in the event of a disaster, large or small. ADRN network churches, volunteers, business partners, local agencies and community organizations provide in-kind and monetary donations 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 42,000 individuals, sponsored more than 2,950 families and given more than \$15.5 million in disaster relief funds. Learn more at [ADRN.org](http://ADRN.org).

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