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AUSTIN DISASTER RELIEF NETWORK DEPLOYS DISASTER RELIEF TEAMS TO HANKAMER, TX TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF TROPICAL DEPRESSION IMELDA

Hankamer deployment is first of three planned deployments. Additional deployments to Beaumont to take place beginning Fri., Oct. 4

Austin, TX, October 1, 2019 – Today, in response to the devastation caused by Tropical Depression Imelda in Hankamer, TX (population 3,000+), where 80% of the city’s population was impacted by flooding, the Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN) is deploying teams of ADRN-badged and trained volunteers (aka “yellow-shirts”) to provide residents with physical, emotional and spiritual support.

ADRN is working in partnership with Chambers County Emergency Management and the Hankamer Volunteer Fire Department to establish an intake center where ADRN volunteers will provide the following services:

- Assistance in identifying and connecting with resources and organizations offering clean-up services along with long-term recovery assistance
- Short-term financial assistance
- Emotional and spiritual care

“Hankamer is one of the hardest-hit areas impacted by Tropical Depression Imelda. Many families feel hopeless are asking for our help,” said Daniel Geraci, executive director of ADRN. “Our goal is to love them and restore hope to this community.”

ADRN and its team of volunteers will be serving residents in Hankamer today through Fri., Oct. 4, 2019. Additional teams of trained and badged volunteers will deploy to Beaumont, TX beginning Fri., Oct. 4 and will provide door-to-door emotional and spiritual support to survivors in the Greater Beaumont area through Sat., Oct. 19, 2019.

“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. “Our volunteers are trained to understand the range of emotional and spiritual needs people experience after disaster and will offer support to survivors as they begin rebuilding their homes and lives.”

ADRN continues its efforts to raise funds for relief efforts while collecting disaster relief supplies.

FUNDING NEEDS – Monetary donations are needed at this time to help ADRN provide support to Imelda 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. To make a tax-deductible gift to support disaster survivors, go to <https://adrn.org/give/>

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLIES – Those interested in donating supplies are being asked to assemble and donate CARE KITS and/or CLEAN-UP BUCKETS for survivors. 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 to help clear mud and debris from flooded homes. For more information on donating disaster relief supplies, go to <https://adrn.org/disaster-relief/tdimelda/>.

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.

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