



GERALD W. TAMBURRO
Mayor

Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

Administrative Offices:
Municipal Complex
1 Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, N.J. 08831
732-521-4400

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 12, 2017

Windfall of Donations from Monroe Headed to Harvey Victims

MONROE – Monroe Township banded together this past week for a disaster relief effort that drew in a windfall of donations for Hurricane Harvey victims.

Harvey, a Category 4 hurricane that swept through the Houston area in late August, left thousands homeless and a trail of destruction in its path.

Monroe Library, the Police Benevolent Association, as well as the Township responded with their own respective drives and a sundry of resources for displaced Texans.

For its part, the Township held a 24-hour clothing drive that kicked off at its community center the morning of Sept. 8.

In that short window, residents dropped off thousands of pounds of clothes, proceeds from which will benefit The Greater Houston Community Foundation.

“The outpouring of support our residents have shown is inspiring,” said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro.

“We are a community that cares and when hard times strike, a community that comes together for the greater good. Our success is a major credit to our residents and the local businesses and organizations like Stop & Shop, Monroe Village and Indian Cultural Association of Monroe, all of which stepped up to help in whatever way they could.”

Initially, the Monroe Township Library aided Harvey victims with a seven-day fine-forgiveness drive that, boosted by monetary donations, resulted in a more than \$1,000 check for the Red Cross. Additionally, the library raised another \$500 for The Humane Society of the United States.

Library officials would shift gears soon thereafter, relaying any further contributions to the Township’s effort. In a little over a week, that resulted in another \$1,200 that was directed to The Greater Houston Community Foundation.

“We here in Monroe and in New Jersey are no strangers to the devastation brought about by hurricanes,” said Monroe Council Vice President Elizabeth Schneider. “Watching the news, you have literally seen families in Texas left with nothing. With everyone pitching in what little we could here in Monroe, I’m certain that we’ve made a huge impact on the lives of so many who were affected by Harvey.”

At the same time, the local chapter of the Police Benevolent Association designated the Monroe Police headquarters as a staging point for a massive collection of nonperishables, toiletries and other household items. On Sept. 8, the Township’s police, Emergency Medical Services and Department of Public Works staff readied five pickup trucks and one trailer chock full of supplies for shipping.

Employees transported this stockpile of necessities to South Brunswick, where they were combined with other area collections and loaded onto Houston-bound tractor trailers for distribution among various relief organizations.

“The residents and the businesses in our town have been a force all their own,” said Monroe Councilman Leonard Baskin. “During times of disaster, you really get to see what people are made of. I’d say this town has no shortage of good Samaritans and people who I’m proud to call neighbor.”

For further details, contact Monroe Township’s Public Information Officer Maria Prato at 732-521-4400 or mprato@monroetwp.com.