



**American  
Red Cross**

## Texas Severe Spring Flooding (2016)

Six-Month Update | November 2016



### Bringing Relief to Flood-Ravaged Texas Communities

Spring 2016 brought a string of severe weather and devastating flash floods to communities across the Lone Star State, from the Gulf Coast to North Texas. In March, a powerful storm caused flooding across the region, affecting many communities that had already suffered severe damage from 2015's floods. Houston, the nation's fourth largest city, came to a near standstill in April when record floods impacted more than 5,000 homes.

Finally, in late May, severe storms and rising waters again damaged or destroyed thousands of homes. Through the spring and beyond, American Red Cross volunteers and employees worked tirelessly to help individuals and families seeking shelter from devastating flood waters or struggling to clean up the damage and rebuild their lives in their aftermath.

With support from our generous donors, the Red Cross brought food, water, relief items and cleanup supplies to

impacted neighborhoods and communities. Just as importantly, disaster mental health workers were on hand with emotional support for flood survivors coping with enormous stress. And as families began putting their lives back together, trained Red Cross caseworkers met with them to help identify pressing needs, find available resources and begin planning their recovery.

In some areas, the Red Cross helped operate Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC)s, where affected people could meet with the Red Cross as well as government and community partner organizations offering assistance. And because large disasters create more needs than any one organization can meet, the Red Cross worked closely with the entire response community—federal, state, county and local agencies—to deliver help quickly and efficiently.

### Red Cross there for Texas Families Impacted by Floods

With four feet of water lapping at the door of their home in Rosenberg, Texas, Maria Esquivel and her family sought refuge at a Red Cross shelter in Fort Bend County. At the shelter, she, along with her husband, son, daughter and grandchildren, found a safe, dry place to stay while they waited to return home and begin rebuilding their lives.

"We have family in San Antonio but want to be able to get back in the house to clean up as soon as the water recedes," Esquivel explained.

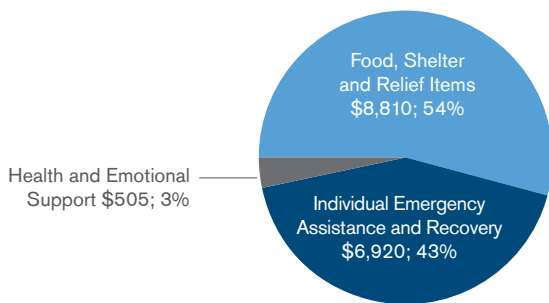
The family lost everything except for five sets of clothing that they were able to take with them as they evacuated, including her husband's car. For hundreds of families in the Houston area and around the state, the spring 2016 floods followed on the heels of 2015 floods that also caused widespread damage. Thanks to our donors, the Red Cross was able to help families like Maria's across Texas who were forced to leave homes and cherished belongings behind as they fled last spring's rampaging floodwaters, many of them for the second time in months.

## Compassionate Donors Help Power the Red Cross Response

Thanks to our generous supporters the Red Cross has raised \$6.9 million to help people impacted by the March to May 2016 severe flooding in Texas. As of October 12, 2016, the Red Cross has spent or made commitments to spend approximately \$16.2 million on emergency relief and recovery efforts for the spring 2016 Texas floods.

### 2016 Texas Severe Spring Flooding

Expenses and Commitments\* through October 12, 2016  
 \$16.2M (in thousands) – \$6.9M raised



\*These costs include the logistics, staff and technology expenses that make our services possible. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

#### Food, Shelter and Relief Items

After big and small disasters, Red Cross volunteers and staff open shelters to provide safe refuge, serve nourishing meals to residents and first responders, and hand out needed relief items, such as cleaning supplies, shovels and hygiene kits. We also maintain a network of warehouses, technology and response vehicles to provide relief where it's needed most.

#### Health and Emotional Support

The Red Cross cares for the basic health needs and emotional well-being of people affected by disasters. Our volunteers and staff help provide services such as first aid support, replacing prescription medicines or eyeglasses, and helping people to cope.

#### Individual Emergency Assistance and Recovery

The Red Cross helps people rebuild their lives in the aftermath of disasters of all sizes by supporting both immediate and longer term recovery needs. This includes working one-on-one with people to create recovery plans, find housing solutions, replace items like clothing and groceries, provide other support, such as transportation assistance, and apply for government and other community assistance.

The Red Cross must be ready for every disaster, big or small, and we respond to an average of nearly 66,000 disasters per year—including single-family or apartment home fires, severe weather, floods and wildfires. Those in need turn to the Red Cross in their darkest hours because they know they can depend on us right after the disaster and through their recovery. Your donation helps us fulfill this promise. We are grateful for your trust.

*Thank you!*

### Response at a Glance

More than 4,400 Red Cross workers have helped thousands of people impacted by the spring 2016 severe flooding in Texas, including:



More than **5,900** overnight shelter stays



More than **381,000** meals and snacks served



More than **382,000** relief items distributed



Nearly **16,000** health and mental health contacts made



More than **7,500** cases opened for people in need

—All numbers are cumulative and reflect Red Cross response efforts since March 8, 2016