



Agency staff, supporters across nation help TDCJ employees hit by Hurricane Harvey

As Hurricane Harvey weakened and dissipated over land, TDCJ staff and criminal justice groups from around the nation were working hard to gather much-needed supplies and raise funding for criminal justice employees in Texas who were especially hard hit by the storm.

TDCJ Executive Director Bryan Collier explained that the storm made no distinctions among its many victims, saying “Hurricane Harvey left its mark on Texas. Homes were lost and lives were shattered as the storm made its way across the Gulf Coast. Employees of TDCJ, like many in the Lone Star State, were not spared.”

Collier went on to describe how the agency took early action to mitigate the storm’s damaging effect on staff members. “We established an employee hotline as the storm began and encouraged employees to contact the hotline with any questions and needs that they may have. We had nearly 900 employees contact the hotline during the storm.”

Human Resources and Victim Services staff compiled a list of the most needed items, and helped hotline callers identify potential resources in their area. TDCJ employees across the state, as well as employees of other entities reporting directly to the TBCJ such as the Windham School District, were anxious to help their coworkers. Churches and other outside organizations also made helpful



Trailers loaded with items donated by TDCJ employees leave Huntsville for Beaumont, Rosharon and Liberty, where hundreds of their coworkers were severely impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

contributions. Several trailers loaded with staff-donated supplies left Huntsville early on the morning of September 13, bound for Beaumont, Rosharon and Liberty, where hundreds of employees were hard hit by the storm.

Even as the storm raged, individuals, businesses, correctional agencies and other groups from around the nation were asking how they could help. A partial list of those who provided financial assistance includes the Association of State Correctional Administrators; the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction; the Indiana Department

of Correction; the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections; the Kentucky Department of Corrections; the Arizona Probation Officer Association; the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; the Texas Public Employees Association and the Texas Corrections Association. Working together, nearly \$90,000 was raised to aid the recovery of Texas criminal justice employees who bore the brunt of the storm. ▲