

Flooded Houses, Full Hearts



RESCUED: Daughters, neighbors, and pets of staff member Katrina

all in this together

What can we say that you haven't heard a thousand times over the past few weeks? There are no words to adequately express either the massive damage done to property or the intense emotional toll on millions who've gone through this traumatic event named Harvey. If we ourselves didn't experience devastating losses, we have family or friends who did. C.H.A.R.M. donors, volunteers, board members, and staff, as well as inmate families and correctional officers, have suffered much. But, through it all, it has been an incredible experience to see such a tremendous outpouring of love and selfless service happening all around us.

Christ's hands and feet getting dirty and wet

C.H.A.R.M.'s staff and transitional house residents have been privileged to participate alongside our supporters and volunteers in the rescue and relief efforts around our city, first in boats and a dump truck for high-water rescues, then tearing out carpet and sheetrock and hauling off furniture.

We assisted the pastor of an inner-city church and served other churches as part of "human assembly lines." We moved stuff, cleaned stuff, sorted and delivered stuff. We hauled generators from house to house and piled up debris by curbs.

And, not forgetting that little things can mean a lot, we delivered banana pudding, remembered a school girl's birthday, and helped a friend named Mary find her glitter "M."



repurposed containers, redirected lives

It was his third flood. This time, he's replacing the sheetrock with corrugated tin. He and his son will keep living here. He has no choice. Almost everything was lost, including the kitchen sink. There's virtually nothing left - just some damaged items on a concrete floor and a few possessions he's storing in a milk jug and a kitty litter container.

The owner was very grateful for our staff volunteers' help and wanted to serve them lunch. As they gathered to share the meal, our volunteers read scriptures and prayed. You could say they had "house church." The man wept. Surely, so did Jesus.



While God's people have been working, they've also been sharing: words from Scripture, prayers, and the mercy and compassion of Christ. Jesus has been the center of it all. God alone knows how many souls will turn to Him through all this tragic loss. When our world seems darkest, the light of Christ shines brightest.

healing rain

We pray that you and yours are now safe and able to sense God's presence and peace as we all take the first steps towards rebuilding. In the long recovery process, our prayer is that the body of Christ will have endurance and not grow weary of doing good. We're in it for the long haul.

So lift your hands, they can be held
By someone greater, the Great I Am.

Healing rain, it comes with fire
So let it fall and take us higher.
(Michael W. Smith, "Healing Rain")

Even in the midst of this trial, let us give praise to the Father, the God of all comfort.

For more on C.H.A.R.M.'s participation in the rescue and relief efforts, click here:
[Harvey Rescue and Relief](#)

*Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- Katharina von Schlegel*

Your donation helps us provide family-style housing for recently released men and women. There they learn how to "do life" as they continue to grow in the Lord. We give them a stable place from which to launch back into society, now free to be the people God created them to be.

[Donate Today!](#)

Christ's Hope and Reconciliation Ministry (C.H.A.R.M.) ministers to incarcerated men and women and their families. Our mission is to share the hope found only in Jesus Christ and to see souls reconciled to God. As the lives of individuals are transformed, so are their relationships with their families, local church, and communities.

STAY CONNECTED



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