



*****DISASTER RELIEF SPECIAL EDITION*****

The MNS Cares Committee is here to foster social action in our students and the larger MNS community by providing opportunities and ideas that contribute to our community, and that our MNS students can participate in. While these activities usually focus on our local, NYC, community, in light of the recent hurricanes and earthquake, we are issuing this special edition with ways for you and your children to help those affected by these devastating events.

Before reading about how you can help, please make note of our upcoming sponsored events:

MNS Park Clean Up on 10/14

Post-Halloween candy drive on 11/1 – 11/3

Please stay tuned to **This Week at MNS** for all of our sponsored events throughout the year, as well as occasional links to project suggestions you can do at

home with your children and their friends. We look forward to giving back to the community with you soon!

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait
a single moment
to start improving the world." -Anne Frank*

Helping Hands Committee

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How to be a Hurricane Helper



a featured

Doing Good Together Newsletter

DoingGoodTogether.org

The images of Hurricane Harvey's devastation in Texas and Louisiana are heartbreaking and frightening. And the arrival of Hurricane Irma causes anxiety as well. But we have also been heartened by the stories of those who have stepped up - even risking their own lives - to rescue their neighbors. There are things your family can do to help, too. Take this opportunity to talk

to your children about how much you admire these big-hearted heroes - and how your family might follow their example. Choose how you will become a Hurricane Harvey helper, and remind your children how much your family values kindness.

-*Jenny Friedman*, Executive Director of Doing Good Together

6 WAYS TO AID THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE Make a Difference...



- Monetary donations are best, especially in the early days of a disaster. Organize a [family fundraiser](#), and donate the proceeds to hurricane relief efforts. You can throw a party that includes a request for donations, or host an auction, neighborhood

carnival, or dance-a-thon. When donating your funds, check out [BBB Wise Giving Alliance](#), [Charity Navigator](#), and [CharityWatch](#) to choose a reputable nonprofit (and avoid scams). These watchdog groups have lists of highly rated organizations.

Send essentials from the Red Cross Wish List

[See the List](#)

- Send supplies. If you want concrete ways to donate, consider the [Red Cross Amazon wish list](#). Review the list with your children and together decide what to send. (Please stick to the list so responders don't have to spend time dealing with an influx of unneeded supplies.)



- [Create emergency clean-up buckets](#). Church World Service will be providing clean-up buckets (with needed supplies) and hygiene kits to Harvey victims. Together with your children, purchase the listed items, assemble the kits, and mail them to your nearest collection site.



- **Create Stars of Hope.** The idea here is to decorate wooden stars to send messages of hope and healing to disaster victims. Make this a family activity, or make this project an adjunct to a fundraiser. (The address to send your creations to the 2017 Houston victims will be available soon.)



- **Host a hygiene kit assembly party.** Convoy of Hope, a well-respected relief organization, is delivering hygiene kits to flood victims. You can donate and have the kits sent through minimus.biz, or order the supplies and bring a group together to assemble the kits.

The following is excerpted from the New York Times:

Where to Donate to Mexico Earthquake Victims

By AODHAN BEIRNE and CHRISTINA CARONSEPT. 20, 2017

Here is a list of local and international organizations that are providing aid.

Topos México is a nonprofit rescue brigade made up of volunteers that was created after a 1985 earthquake. The group posted to Twitter information on how to donate through PayPal and its bank accounts, and thanked people for their support.

Mexican Red Cross has been accepting direct donations online and has set up an Amazon Wish List for necessary items.

Direct Relief, a humanitarian aid organization, has staff members in Mexico City and has pledged that 100 percent of its donations will go directly to relief efforts, which it says will include facilitating the delivery of medical supplies to affected areas.

GlobalGiving, a crowdfunding organization, has pledged that all money donated to its earthquake fund will go to recovery and relief efforts.

Fondo Unido México, part of the United Way network, has created an emergency fund to help the areas affected by the earthquakes as well as the recent series of hurricanes.

What to Know Before You Donate

Before deciding where to donate your money, don't be afraid

to ask tough questions.

“There are a lot of individuals in times of disaster that will take advantage of the emotional response people will have,” Sara Nason, a spokeswoman for the nonprofit watchdog Charity Navigator, said in a phone interview.

The Charity Navigator website, which rates United States charitable organizations, is a good place to start when researching a nonprofit, as it does much of the legwork for you. It recently posted [a list of reputable charities](#) that are helping in Mexico.

But sometimes it’s good to do your own due diligence.

From The Official Website of the City of New York:



Mayor de Blasio Encourages New Yorkers to Donate Critically-Needed Items at 18 Locations for Hurricane Relief

September 22, 2017

NEW YORK—Mayor de Blasio today announced 18 firehouses and EMS stations across the five boroughs where New Yorkers can donate critically-needed items for Hurricane Maria relief.

"New York City stands in solidarity with those affected by Hurricane Maria, and many of us are looking for ways to help. We're encouraging New Yorkers to donate these critically-needed items at a local drop-off site," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**.

"Donations of necessities – such as baby food, feminine hygiene products, and first aid supplies – are of utmost importance after any natural disaster, and can help relieve the burden on residents and families who are struggling after the impact of the recent storm," said **Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito**. "I strongly encourage New Yorkers to donate at their nearest participating firehouse or EMS station, or volunteer in

whichever capacity possible. New Yorkers have always helped out our neighbors in times of need, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, we stand ready to provide assistance to Puerto Rico."

The City encourages donation of items that are critically needed for recovery. These items will be delivered to families directly affected by the storm. Below is a list of items New York City is collecting to send to those affected by Hurricane Maria:

- Diapers
- Baby food
- Batteries
- First Aid Supplies
- Feminine Hygiene Products

Please note the City is only collecting the items listed above.

All donated items must be non-perishable, not second-hand, nor contain any liquids of any kind. Open or unsealed donations of food or hygiene supplies will not be accepted. Wet wipes will also not be accepted. Any other items will be kindly returned.

There are 18 drop off locations accepting donations across all five boroughs. Donations will be accepted during the hours of 7 am through 9 pm. Please be aware that FDNY members at these locations may not be present during drop-off hours if

they are responding to an emergency.

Manhattan

- Engine 91: 242 E. 111th Street, New York, NY 11220 (East Harlem)
- Engine 95/ Ladder 36: 29 Vermilyea Avenue, New York, NY 10033 (Inwood)

Engine 28/ Ladder 11: 222 E. 2nd Street, New York, NY 10009 (Lower East Side)

Thank you for taking the time to read this special-edition issue from MNS Cares. Our mission is to support you as you empower your children to realize the power of their small but mighty hands to help repair the world.

"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended.

Not with time, as they say, but with intention."

-L.R. Knost, American author