



# Section Families Want to Help

(Read about our “Grade Level Penny War Challenge” below)



We are all touched by the impact of Hurricane Harvey on our neighbors in Texas. Many of you have undoubtedly offered help already through your own generous donations. It is important for children to learn empathy and to participate in helping those in need as well. Section students have demonstrated this through participation in the many drives sponsored by our Student Council. Our students truly care and want an opportunity to make a difference in the world.

Please look over the following information about **Section’s “Grade Level Penny War Challenge”** or other ways to help those in need.

- Robert Slane  
Principal

## What Action can Students Take?

1. Participate in Section's "Penny War Challenge" with proceeds going to help Hurricane Harvey victims through J.J. Watt Foundation.

### **Section Elementary Grade Level Penny War Challenge - Sept. 11 - 15**

- ❖ **A jar for each grade level (and one for staff) will be outside the office daily.**
- ❖ **Students bring in loose change, allowance, etc. and strategically place in containers to see if their grade level wins the challenge.**

#### **Students:**

- **Put pennies in own grade level container**
- **Put other coins/paper money in OTHER grade level containers**
  
- **Pennies are a PLUS and go towards the grade level total**
- **Other coins or paper money are SUBTRACTED from that grade level's total in the jar.**
  
- ❖ **Obviously ALL money (pennies, other coins, paper) will be donated to the J.J. Watt Foundation to help with Hurricane Harvey victims.**
- ❖ **This challenge is meant for students to be involved and use change that might be accessible to them. If parents are interested in larger donations, please see additional information below.**

2. Learn about and/or participate in your own family donation choice. Highly personal values go into choosing organizations for donations, and parents should involve their children in these kind of discussions. The guide below may help your family discuss the value of organizations and which may (or have already) inspire(d) action on your part. Have a discussion with your child about the purpose of these organizations and where you might want to support.

## Ways for Families to Donate

Please note the many different organizations collecting funds to help victims of Hurricane Harvey. Use this guide below to discuss with your family how you would like to help.

- Walmart - Walmart has pledged to double donations made to Red Cross through their stores up to 10 million dollars. This program runs through Sept. 6th.

<http://news.walmart.com/2017/08/30/walmart-and-the-walmart-foundation-announce-up-to-20-million-toward-hurricane-harvey-relief-and-recovery>

- CBS News has published a guide (hyperlinked and portions published below) that offers ideas of where to donate.

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### [How can I help Hurricane Harvey and Houston flood victims?](#)

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Hurricane Harvey has caused widespread damage across southeastern Texas and the floodwaters are expected to continue to rise for several more days. Officials say they expect 450,000 people to register as disaster victims with federal government. Thousands are already in shelters.

### **Here are ways to help flood victims and donate to Hurricane Harvey relief efforts:**

FEMA Administrator Brock Long encouraged Americans who want to help storm victims to connect with the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) online, which is coordinating donations and volunteers.

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Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner established the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund, which accepts tax deductible donations for flood relief victims. The organization

will accept checks, money orders, bank wire transfers, stock, corporate bonds and other marketable securities. For donation instructions, [click here](#).

- [How to help your Harvey donation dollars go further](#)

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[Houston Texans star J.J. Watt](#) set up an online fundraiser called the [Houston Flood Relief Fund](#) on the YouCaring crowdfunding site. Watt has personally donated \$100,000 to those who've been affected by the storm, and more than \$10 million has already been pledged.

[GoFundMe](#) has also set up a web page for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

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The [American Red Cross](#) is accepting donations by phone and online. Donors may text HARVEY to 90999 to make a \$10 donation, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

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Following criticism of how the group managed some previous disasters, Gail McGovern, president and CEO of the American Red Cross, [told "CBS This](#)

Morning, "We are going to make sure that every designated dollar that is going to this storm is used appropriately."

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Google has set up a website for donations and says the company will match the amount people give, up to \$1 million. Donations will go directly to Network for Good and will then be distributed to the American Red Cross, with Google covering all processing fees.

Facebook also says it will match every dollar raised through its platform, up to \$1 million. Funds will go to the Center for Disaster Philanthropy's Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund to support local recovery and rebuilding efforts. Facebook users in the U.S. are getting a message at the top of their news feed on how to donate.

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The Salvation Army is also providing physical and emotional support to Harvey survivors and relief workers. Donors may make contributions to the "Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts" online, by mail or by phone.

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[Catholic Charities USA](#), the domestic relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, is accepting donations online and by phone. Text CCUSADISASTER to 71777 to make a donation.

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The organization [Feeding Texas](#) has mobilized to assist families affected by flooding. Coastal food banks are currently distributing food to the public while inland food banks are assisting Red Cross shelters with items needed by refugees. Those who are in need of assistance can call 2-1-1 to learn where distribution centers are located. Local food banks are in need of staple foods such as powdered milk, cereal, pop-top meat, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly and fruit cups. Cleaning supplies will also be accepted.

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The [Texas Diaper bank](#) is accepting diapers for Harvey victims (they need large sizes most of all) and donations. Their [Facebook page](#) is listing ways to donate, and they are suffering from more donations than their volunteers can sort, so they're looking for additional volunteers.

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Save the Children is providing infant and toddler supplies at all three mega shelter sites - including portable cribs and sheets, strollers, infant and toddler hygiene kits and portable washbasins - and will be distributing donated children's clothing and school supplies in the coming days. In addition to supplies, Save the Children's Child-Friendly Spaces are safe, well-supervised areas within shelters where children can play, socialize and begin to recover from the disaster, while allowing their parents to concentrate on addressing the family's immediate and longer-term needs.

To support Save the Children go to [SavetheChildren.org](http://SavetheChildren.org) or text Hurricane to 20222 to donate \$25 to the Hurricane Harvey Children's Relief Fund, added directly to your mobile bill.

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According to the [South Texas Blood and Tissue Center](#), hospitals in Texas are facing blood shortages. The organization is seeking blood donations in order to stock up trauma centers that are seeing an influx of patients in the aftermath of the storm.

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Several organizations are helping [pets displaced by the disaster](#).

Donations to [The Humane Society of the United States](#) help the group work with local officials to transport, rescue and care for animals.

The [City of San Antonio Animal Care Services](#) accepts donations online or by mail, and nearby residents can also drop off donations of items like pet food and cat litter.

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There are dozens of apps available to help you in the event of an emergency, including those that offer alerts for disasters and weather and apps for keeping emergency contacts or pertinent medical information easily available for first

responders. Download.com has compiled a list of [iOS and Android apps for emergencies](#).



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