



# Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **Do I have to have construction skills to participate?**

No, many of our volunteers started with little to no construction experience, and have learned the skills as they go. However, we are always in need of those that have roofing, general contracting, drywalling, and finishing work skills. These volunteers will be given priority on our teams. General tasks for new volunteers will be helping those who are skilled and learning how to do basic tasks such as drywall, laying flooring, ripping off roof shingles, etc.

### **What kind of homes will we be working on?**

All homes that the team will be working on will have been vetted by Louisiana United Methodist Conference's (LA UMC) case managers who confirm that Hurricane Harvey has damaged the homes. While some homes will have deferred maintenance, IRT volunteers will only be working on homes where at least 50% of the damage was caused by the hurricane.

Many of these homes will require new drywall, mudding, floors, doors, windows, cabinets, and other finishing work to be done inside. Some homes will require new roofs or have their roofs patched. Repairing or replacing decking is another task that many homes require.

### **What tools do I need to bring?**

Power tools will be provided, but we suggest you bring: hammer, tool pouch, utility knife, pliers, screw drivers (Phillips and Flat), tape measure, putty knife, and catspaw. Ear plugs, knee pads, and gloves are suggested as well.

### **What will the week be like?**

Volunteers depart from their hometown and will meet at the Lake Charles airport on Sunday. From there they will drive to the LA UMC host church where they will be staying for the week. The work week consists of full days Monday through Friday, a half day of work on Saturday and returning home on Sunday. Volunteers will be transported to, and from the church to the various job sites by rental vans provided by IRT.

## **Where does the team stay?**

The team will be staying at United Methodist Church which is equipped with showers, sleeping spaces, and full cooking facilities. Please bring your bedding, pillows, toiletries, and towels. Most churches have cots, but many volunteers prefer to bring their own air mattress. All host churches are located within 15 - 30 minutes from the worksite.

## **How do meals work?**

Volunteers are responsible for their meals. Each of our facilities has a kitchen available for your use. The team will be responsible for maintaining the kitchen facilities and doing your own shopping and cooking. Some kitchens have dishes and dishwashers, whereas others do not, but IRT will provide these goods.

Most team members participate in a group buy where everyone pitches in for meals. This is roughly \$50-60 per week. Some nights the group does go out to eat.

## **How do I sign up?**

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