



For immediate release

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Spring Branch Education Foundation partners with Community in Schools to extend Harvey relief in three Spring Branch ISD schools

An American Red Cross grant makes mental health services possible in storm-affected schools

Spring Branch Education Foundation (SBEF) has announced a grant from the American Red Cross that will provide part-time mental health services to students at Frostwood Elementary, Memorial Middle and Rummel Creek Elementary Schools. Last school year, these same services proved to be invaluable to students who were displaced from their homes due to Hurricane Harvey.

This \$66,000 grant will enable Community in Schools Houston (CIS) trauma-informed counselors to provide mental health counseling to students who are still dealing with issues caused by the storm. Approximately 900 SBISD employees and 1,500 students were negatively impacted by flooding. Some are still displaced and are waiting to move back into their homes.

“Frostwood, Rummel Creek and Memorial Middle are schools that normally do not benefit from CIS services, but the effects of Hurricane Harvey are unprecedented,” said Cece Thompson, SBEF executive director. “We are grateful to the American Red Cross for recognizing our students’ needs and to CIS for helping them.”

A week after the storm, SBEF initiated a Harvey Relief Fund to assist displaced SBISD families. The fund has raised more than \$1 million and has helped 1,104 families.

In August 2017, CIS was a first responder in schools after Hurricane Harvey flooded the city. Its staff cared for students and families by providing emergency services, helping with living arrangements and offering mental health and case management services. This grant will extend

mental health services in three schools beginning in January 2019; the first half of this school year was covered by Project SERV grant funds.

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ABOUT AMERICAN RED CROSS:

The American Red Cross is a United Way agency that shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

ABOUT COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS HOUSTON:

Communities in School Houston, established in 1979, is a campus-based, non-profit organization that provides direct services and resources to underserved children with unmet needs. Its mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

ABOUT SPRING BRANCH EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

Spring Branch Education Foundation is committed to supporting SBISD students and educators. It partners with the district and community to fund programs that enhance education and students for the future. In 2016, Caruthers Institute ranked SBEF 42nd in the nation among 188 K-12 education foundations and in the top 10 of its division of foundations with \$1 million to \$1,999,999 in revenues. Since 1993, the Foundation has donated more than \$13 million to the district. SBEF is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax deductible.