

★ PREPARED TO SERVE ★

4B | DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK

For the good of people, for the glory of God



Board, left to right: John Eckeberger, Beau Egert, Greg Plummer, Aaron Sanders, Steve Shelby, Chris Alston, Jack Roady

IN the days and weeks following the August 2017 devastation to the Texas Gulf Coast by Hurricane Harvey, churches and ministries in our area began to gather to share information and resources. As virtually every church mobilized to serve their neighbors, we quickly realized they would be better

served if the Body of Christ presented a unified effort to the families most highly effected by the storm damage.

Recognizing our communities were best described as being within the boundaries of Beltway 8 south

to the Beaches of Galveston and from the Brazoria County line east to the Bay, the steering committee chose the name, “4B Disaster Response Network” (4B DRN). This team of volunteers became the initial Board Members for the fledgling organization. By-Laws were developed, adopted and recognized by the State in late November of 2017. The state issued 501(c)(3) Non-Profit status was fully granted in early 2018.

Fast forward to 2021, as over 10,000 volunteers have come to assist us in over 1,600 homes in the 4B Area. By the end of this calendar year, we will have completely restored almost 500 homes to a pre-Harvey condition.

But we are far from finished. The best estimate reveals there are likely another 500 homes that are either still so damaged they are uninhabitable, or they are being lived in under unsafe conditions. Our target groups are single parents, widows, senior adults, those with disabilities, and veterans. They likely will never get their homes back to normal unless someone steps in to help them in a significant way.

We have been given a unique opportunity to provide for a steady stream of volunteers to help us through our “**Prepared to Serve**” campaign. You will read more about this timely effort through the pages here.

Would you consider being a part of the important work of the 4B DRN now and in the years ahead?

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Eckeberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Eckeberger, Executive Director

HURRICANE HARVEY BY THE NUMBERS

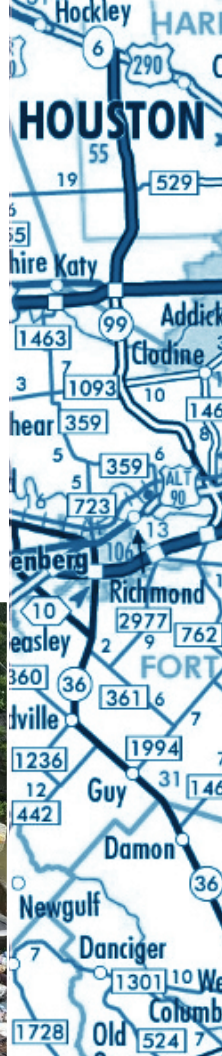
Hurricane Harvey was a Category 4 storm that hit Texas on August 25, 2017. It caused \$125 billion in damage according to the National Hurricane Center. That's more than any other natural disaster in U.S. history except Hurricane Katrina.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott asked for more than \$125 billion in federal relief. The storm affected 13

million people from Texas through Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. By October 13, 2017, at least 88 people died from the storm.

Harvey made landfall three times in six days. At its peak on September 1, 2017, one-third of Houston was underwater. Two feet of rain fell in the first 24 hours. Flooding forced 39,000 people out of their homes and into shelters.

Hurricane Harvey damaged 204,000 homes. Three-fourths were outside of the 100-year



A map of the Houston, Texas area, showing major highways and city names. A black rectangular box is overlaid on the map, containing the text 'THE 4B AREA' in white. The area within the box is shaded in orange and includes parts of Pasadena, Bay Area Houston, and the area around Webster and League City. The map also shows the Gulf Coast with Galveston Bay and Galveston Island.

THE 4B AREA

flood plain. Those homeowners did not have flood insurance.

There were 738,000 people who registered for assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which has paid out \$378 million in direct payments. Immediately after the storm, it delivered 80 tractor-trailer loads of emergency supplies, including cots, blankets, and meals.



HOMEOWNER STORY

Candice D. Family
34 inches of flood water
609 days to full recovery

When Hurricane Harvey struck, Candice was a single mother with an infant and a young son with special needs. The challenges of single parenting were significant, but the hurdles she would face after her home was destroyed were overwhelming. While displaced, her son had to move in with his father. Candice and the baby stayed with coworkers and friends.

When contacted by the 4B DRN, she was skeptical of receiving any significant assistance. After several days of volunteers working in her home, she gained her hope back and became more aware of God's plan in her life.

Many volunteers worked in Candice's home, but it was the regular weekday volunteers and the 4B DRN



staff that established a relationship with Candice and were able to minister to her the most.

Candice and both of her children were reunited as a family in April 2019. Despite all that has been lost, Candice boasts of all her blessings and is thankful for the work that the 4B DRN did in her home.



“I am forever grateful for those who God has put across our path and has blessed us in any way. 4B DRN isn’t just helping rebuild a structure or shelter. They are helping re-establish a family’s stability, security, and place where they come together. I have been amazed to see and meet the volunteers, all ages and walks of life, even past hurricane and flood survivors.”

Candice D., Dickinson



HOMEOWNER STORY

Ginamarie C. Family 48 inches of flood water 846 days to full recovery

Our lives were forever changed by Hurricane Harvey. Everything was turned upside down. We had over four feet of water throughout our entire house. Everything we owned, I mean everything, was completely destroyed or mildewed and had to be thrown away. We did not have flood insurance because this neighborhood had never flooded in the past 30 years. FEMA only gave us enough money to basically buy clothing and replace a few household items.

We were at a total loss and didn't know where or how to get money to fix everything in the house. We went through our local church, Clear Creek Community, and applied for assistance with Eight Days of Hope and the 4B DRN. We remained living in our house with no walls and plastic separating

rooms for almost a year. Eight Days of Hope came in and helped us demo everything out of the house in spring of 2018.

We made do with the house as is was for over a year, and if it wasn't for the 4B DRN we would still not be complete today. In October of 2019 we were notified by a family member there was a possibility we could adopt my cousin's child. We were still not recovered, and I reached out to one of the volunteers as I still had their phone number. I asked if there was any possibility of more volunteers to help complete the house, because we had to pass an inspection for the child to be placed in our home.

The 4B DRN came through and helped us complete everything that we needed in order to get our home approved. Our house finally passed inspection and we are still currently in legalities of the adoption as I am writing our story.

If it wasn't for the hundreds of volunteers and organizations that helped, whether that be their time, material or blood sweat and tears we would not be where we are today and for that I am completely grateful. We are extremely appreciative of all the help that your organization has given us. May God bless you all!

Ginamarie C., League City



HOMEOWNER STORY

**The Lisa R. Family of Santa Fe
4+ feet of flood water
1,238 days to full recovery**

As Hurricane Harvey made landfall again and again in late August of 2017, it brought with it the type of rainfall Category 4 storms are famous for. When it stalled over the Greater Houston area and Galveston County, the floodwaters had nowhere to go but into neighborhoods and the homes of families living there.

Living in the rural town of Santa Fe, Lisa R. and her two teenagers awoke to an unusual sound they could not identify. Soon the rushing water was evident, and as their doors gave way, their lives changed forever. This single mom rushed upstairs to the children's bedrooms and waited for the 4+ feet of water to sweep their belongings away and ruin anything left behind.





As the family's needs came to light, Lisa was grateful for any assistance that could be provided but insisted there must be others with needs greater than theirs. She was assured that she would be moved to the top of the rebuild list, and that few could be in need more than her family. Their house was uninhabitable. The water pump, A/C units, septic system, and electrical systems were compromised. They moved into an 800 square foot furnished apartment and lived there until January of 2021, while still paying their mortgage on the home.

Five months of rebuild work took place that included: rewiring, re-piping, sheetrock, flooring, kitchen cabinets & countertops, interior & exterior doors, painting, bathroom remodeling, new A/C

units, new water pump, new septic system, and newly constructed outside staircase. Local businesses, churches, and individuals filled her home with new and gently used appliances and furnished the three bedrooms.

They moved into an 800 square foot furnished apartment and lived there until January of 2021, while still paying their mortgage on the home.

On Saturday, January 16th, a "Ribbon Cutting Celebration" was held for the family and those who helped rebuild their home and contributed items and services. It had been 1,238 days since Hurricane Harvey forever altered their lives. "To God be the glory!"

HOMEOWNER STORY

**Lorenzo J. of Texas City
12-18 inches of flood water
1,003 days to full recovery**

When Hurricane Harvey camped over the 4B Area in August of 2017, Lorenzo was visiting family out of state. On his return to his home two weeks later, everything seemed fine other than some mud and debris. Located on a street facing the ocean, just a few blocks from the Texas City Dike, he saw no evidence of flooding in his home.

At 97, Lorenzo's eyesight is not what it used to be, so it is understandable how the telltale signs of rising water escaped him. It turns out his home likely had 12 to 18 inches of water throughout the house.





Twice widowed, this World War II veteran has seen his share of hardship, so he was not fazed by the ever-growing mold that ravaged his house until we discovered him in the Spring of 2020. The mold had a 30-month head start on us when we showed up on his doorstep.

His granddaughter, serving as his caregiver, convinced Lorenzo to take up residence in our FEMA trailer parked in his driveway while we gutted the house of virtually all of its contents. What followed was a total re-build around the existing walls. We re-wired, re-piped, installed new walls, new flooring, new bathrooms, and a new kitchen.

We celebrated his “ribbon cutting” Memorial Day Weekend, 80 years to the day from when he enlisted to serve in World War II. Now almost 99 years old, Lorenzo has been a Deacon in his church since 1958 and proudly shares stories of all the ways God has blessed him throughout his life.

HOMEOWNER STORY

Marie V. of Texas City Quality of life opportunity Over 11 years to full recovery

Marie's story is not so much about the recovery from the effects of Hurricane Harvey but about providing for her quality of life. The flooding at Marie's house was minor compared to other homes in the area and actually took a backseat to the needs we uncovered when we first met her.

A native of Haiti, Marie was injured in an automobile accident eleven years ago that left her paralyzed as a quadriplegic. With the help of a caregiver and his family who reside with Marie, she is able to maintain some degree of independence. However, her modest home was never remodeled to accommodate Marie's motorized wheelchair, and when we discovered her situation, we had to come to her aid.

The first order of business was to start construction on a new bathroom with special features critical for her safety, comfort, and dignity. Widening interior doors, replacing the front door, and creating a wheelchair-friendly front porch and ramp were a part of this project as well.

Although our connection with Marie may have started with needs related to a storm, our opportunity to provide her with more specific assistance related to her own personal disaster was much more pressing. Her future is brighter because the 4B DRN was able to step up and assist her.





VOLUNTEER STORIES

One of my favorite contemporary quotes is from Stan Lee's Spider-Man: "With great power comes great responsibility." Its origin I would think, however, is rooted in Luke 12:48 which says: "...From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded ..."

While giving to others isn't necessarily a function of what we've been given materially or talent wise, it's what we've been gifted with eternally through Christ's redemptive work on the cross, that compels us to good works. We love, because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). It is this love of Christ that fuels me to share His grace with others in word and in action.

The Lord commands us to serve others all the while promising an abundant life. While I maintain several jobs, He always provides windows of time for me to work disaster relief throughout the week, some days for two hours and other days seven hours. It's a constant testimony to me that the more time I give to Jesus, the more time He returns to me to take care of my other responsibilities. On top of that, I also get to expand my skill set for my next God adventure. It's a beautiful and amazing paradox. If any small amount of my time or the work of my hands can tell someone about the love of Christ, then I count that as an enormous privilege and blessing.

Eva Go, Gateway Community Church





I've always enjoyed volunteering for the 4B Disaster Response Network. From the beginning they have always been warm, welcoming, and grateful to volunteers. I actually have a hard time saying "they" because it is more like "we." The 4B DRN is a family to me.

After retiring in 2018, I volunteered for Eight Days of Hope several times following Hurricane Harvey. I started volunteering full time with the 4B DRN in 2019. The 4B DRN was created by, and is funded by, numerous area churches. It is a gospel-centered, Christ loving organization that strives to meet the needs of those less fortunate. For me, knowing that God may use these efforts to further His kingdom, by drawing even one homeowner to Himself, is more than worth my time of serving. I think most people struggle to some degree with the two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul & mind." And "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Volunteering with the 4B DRN is one way that helps me love God and my neighbor more. Working side by side with the 4B DRN employees, volunteers, & engaging grateful homeowners, is nourishing food for my soul. I love my 4B DRN family!

Greg Murphy, Clear Creek Community Church

CHURCH PARTNER STORY



Antioch Community Church joined the 4B Disaster Response Network in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Like so many other churches in the 4B area, Antioch mobilized its local body and sister churches around the country to muck out hundreds of homes days after the water receded from Harvey. As the period of immediate relief transitioned to long-term recovery, we questioned what we could do as a local body both to address the enormous task of rebuilding homes and to provide the hope of Jesus to our region after such a debilitating disaster. When Clear Creek Community Church initiated a gathering of church leaders for prayer and discussion, we had no idea what the plan would be, but we knew we would be stronger together, united with other local churches. The story from there is truly history as we

had the blessing of being involved with the 4B DRN in every step of its journey.

From its inception, Antioch was attracted to the 4B DRN as an extension of the local church rather than simply a non-profit. As such it is an incredible means to demonstrate the love and hope of Jesus to our area above and beyond what Antioch could do on its own. It is also a direct answer to Jesus's prayer in John 17:23 for the unity of His Body, the Church. We have stood in awe as God has used the 4B DRN to rebuild our communities, advance the Kingdom, and renew faith in the local church. Antioch counts it as a distinct blessing and privilege to be a part of the work and mission of the 4B DRN.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS IN THE 4B AREA

We ask partnering churches to:

1

Appoint a Disaster Readiness Coordinator to be the primary liaison with the 4B DRN for the purpose of:

- Communication
- Promotion
- Volunteer Recruitment / Training

2

Permit representatives from the 4B DRN access to your congregation at least one time per calendar year.

3

Provide Financial Support to the 4B DRN for operational costs.

- \$500 Annual Fee as a yearly partnership renewal OR
- \$50 Monthly Fee over the course of 12 months
- “Generosity Pledge” over and above the Annual Fee as possible

For more info regarding establishing a Church Partnership, please contact our Executive Director, John Eckeberger, at john.eckeberger@4bresponse.org or at (713) 628-2453.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The 4B DRN is excited to partner with these organizations, businesses and ministries. They make it possible for us to fulfill our mission.



We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the business community, private foundations, and other ministry organizations in the effort to meet the needs of the communities in the 4B Area. Whether the partnership reflects direct funding, discounted services, or donated items, we work hard to be good stewards of what is provided for our use.

For more information regarding how to establish a Strategic Partnership, please contact our Executive Director, John Eckeberger, at john.eckeberger@4bresponse.org or call (713) 628-2453.

CHURCH PARTNERS

These current 4B Area church partners make our ongoing work possible:



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1 PRAY All of us can pray for God to work through the efforts of the 4B DRN to help restore what has been lost in a disaster. Pray for homeowners and the volunteers who serve them. Pray for God's provision for this important work.

2 SERVE Some of us can serve as volunteers and minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our neighbors in the 4B Area. Whether you are skilled or unskilled, there is a place of service for you in the various types of projects we take on.

3 GIVE Many of us can give financially to the needs of the 4B DRN so we are in a position to respond to the families of our communities when they are in great need. All gifts are tax deductible to this non-profit 501c3 organization. Two primary ways individuals give are through our "Champion" and our "Bring 'em Home!" campaigns.



Be a CHAMPION for your 600K neighbors in the 4B Area. Your \$50 recurring monthly donation provides the working budget as we continue disaster recovery and readiness for the 4B Area.

To become a 4B DRN CHAMPION go to:
www.4bresponse.org/champion



From time to time we come across a unique situation that requires funding above the norm. We provide individuals, small groups or churches the opportunity to give specifically toward this project by choosing a portion of the need to sponsor. You can choose to cover the cost of materials like flooring, drywall, counters, doors, etc. as we work together to bring a family home!

To participate in a “Bring ‘em Home!” campaign go to: www.4bresponse.org/bring-em-home

ALL GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

★ PREPARED TO SERVE ★

Hurricane Harvey was a huge wake-up call to the Body of Christ in the 4B Area. As area church leaders began to meet in the wake of the storm, we all agreed we never wanted to be caught unprepared again. Forming the 4B DRN was the first step in being **PREPARED TO SERVE**.

Establishing ongoing Church Partnerships and identifying Disaster Readiness Coordinators (DRC's) in each church was an important next step. The best vehicle for rallying volunteers is through the local church, and the DRC's play a huge role in getting the local church **PREPARED TO SERVE**.

Strategic partnerships with local governments, foundations, organizations, and businesses are critical to mobilizing our neighbors in the 4B Area to serve others who have been impacted by disasters big and small. Those relationships help us expand our volunteer base and ensure we are all **PREPARED TO SERVE**.

Through our partnership with New Life Fellowship in Texas City, we have the opportunity to create a “disaster response facility” to serve the 4B Area for the decades to come. We are repurposing a building that once provided a full-size gym, classrooms, offices, nursery, and kitchen. The new footprint



will provide warehouse space, offices, commercial kitchen, restrooms with showers, and housing space.

Immediately following a disaster, we will have the capacity to shelter 100 residents and then be in a position to utilize that same space to house volunteer crews who will come to serve the 4B Area. Additionally, the commercial kitchen will be **PREPARED TO SERVE** 1,000 meals a day to locals and teams of volunteers who follow.

Conservatively, it will require \$300K to fully renovate the facility and meet local building codes. While we pursue Grants and Foundation funding, we are asking local churches and individuals to consider making a one-time, tax-deductible gift at: www.4bresponse.org/prepared Please consider helping us be **PREPARED TO SERVE** our neighbors in the years ahead. For more info, contact: Executive Director John Eckeberger at john.eckeberger@4bresponse.org or at (713) 628-2453.

THANK YOU

Born out of a disaster but fueled by the those who are called to serve their communities in the name of Christ, the 4B Disaster Response Network has the privilege of being the “hands and feet” of God in very practical ways. Literally, tens of thousands of our neighbors have been impacted by the generosity and compassion of the Body of Christ in the 4B Area and we have the joy to be a part of it.




4B DRN Leadership Team: John Eckeberger, Armando Escobar, Shari McCormack, Eva Go, Ted Tompkins, Chris Short, Mary Short

Thank you does not seem big enough to express our appreciation for the individuals, churches, businesses, foundations and agencies who enable the 4B DRN to respond to the needs of our area. Without the Lord’s provision and the selfless service of countless volunteers, we could never hope to carry out our mission.

Thank you for answering the call to service even while the floodwaters of Harvey were still receding. **Thank you** for serving alongside one another as the unified Body of Christ to meet the most basic needs of shelter and security for our neighbors. **Thank you** for continuing to volunteer in homes all over the 4B Area that still need to get back to their pre-Harvey condition. **Thank you** that your continued faithfulness will guide us into the next challenge the 4B Area will face. **Thank you** for entrusting the 4B DRN with the work of the Gospel for the sake of the souls of men, women & children of the 4B Area.

FOR THE GOOD OF PEOPLE, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD





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