

NTRA businesses give to Hurricane Harvey relief

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Businesses around the North Texas Regional Airport — Perrin Field did their part throughout the month of September to raise funds and supplies for victims of Hurricane Harvey in South Texas. This comes nearly a month after the hurricane made landfall in Texas and dealt significant damage to Corpus Christi, Rockport, Houston and other portions of the gulf coast.

As a part of these efforts, Lake Texoma Jet Center donated a quarter for each gallon of fuel sold over the Labor Day weekend to a charity that is assisting in the relief effort. Over the three-day holiday, the jet center raised more than \$1,000 for the Samaritan's Purse.

"For the city of Houston, this isn't going to be over in a couple weeks," Terry Vogel, operations director for Lake Texoma Jet Center, said last week.

Vogel said she decided to donate the proceeds of the fundraiser to Samaritan's Purse as all of the money would be used for relief efforts and none would go toward administrative costs. Vogel encouraged other businesses in the region to take similar action, noting that through combined efforts, business owners can offer real relief to the less fortunate.

"If every business in the area could donate a percent of one day's sales, the contribution would be enormous," Vogel said.

In addition to the monetary donation, Vogel said the jet center also accepted donations of non-perishable items in its lobby. These items were then transported and combined with donations that were collected nearby at the U.S. Aviation flight school.

In the past month, the flight school has collected more than 10,000 pounds of supplies for the relief effort, Flight Operations Director Seth Hamilton said Wednesday. Many of these donations came from business partners throughout the region, he said.

Hamilton said the school first started delivering the supplies using its aircraft, which include a Cessna Caravan and King Air, to Red Cross volunteers at George Bush International Airport in Houston. Following the storms, there were only about five or six airports in the region that were open, but it was still one of the easiest ways to get supplies into the regions affect, Hamilton said. However, air deliveries quickly became unrealistic as the donations became too much for the small-engined aircraft to handle.

"The issue we ran into at first was we got a lot of donations," he said, with a chuckle.

Since then, the school has been filling a trailer with supplies that will then be transported down to Corpus Christi, Hamilton said.



Terry Vogel, center, with the Lake Texoma Jet Center, presents a check for \$1,036 to Laura Winter, left, and Karen Bruggink from the Samaritan's Purse. The jet center donated 25 cents for each gallon of jet fuel sold over the Labor Day weekend to help with recovery efforts following Hurricane Harvey.

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