



MAHARASHTRA FOUNDATION

Appeal – Support for Texas

A joint effort by Maharashtra Foundation & Brihan Maharashtra Mandal of North America (BMM)

September 1, 2017

The effects of Tropical Depression Harvey which was a category 4 hurricane have been devastating, and are nothing short of insurmountable. These effects have been felt in over 50 counties, and forced thousands of people from their homes. Many may have to abandon their homes forever and seek shelter elsewhere. According to reports, over 13 million people from Texas and Louisiana together are affected by this category 4 hurricane. Schools are flooded, lives are disrupted, obtaining food, fresh water and other necessities is a challenge, and overall infrastructure is damaged. As you all have seen and heard in the news and through your friends and family, the rescue efforts have been underway since last weekend. Many agencies have dispatched volunteers to assist with the rescue and rehabilitation efforts of the affected residents. However, the situation is still fluid and continues to evolve. As the flood waters recede the extend of the damage becomes more apparent, and at times is difficult to fathom.

While manpower was and is needed now, monetary support will be needed to help rebuild the community and supply necessities to the affected families. To this end, Maharashtra Foundation and BMM are partnering to help support in rebuilding the community. We therefore are making an appeal to everyone to donate generously for rebuilding the community, and helping the affected families return to normality.

While there is no specific goal in terms of the amount, we do want to raise and give as much as possible, and we think we can do that given the timing. Most Marathi mandals across the nation are going to have Ganapati Programs over next couple of weeks where thousands of members will be in attendance. We are therefore appealing all the mandals and their membership base to donate the amount that is offered to Ganapati Bappa at such event to this effort. We don't consider this as a noble cause, but rather our duty, and an opportunity to help our fellow citizens stand again and rebuild their lives.

In addition to the funds collected by Marathi mandals, Maharashtra Foundation is also accepting donations via its website. Please visit www.maharashtrafoundation.org to donate. While there are many charities and nonprofits that are operating on the ground, Maharashtra Foundation has identified two potential recipients of the funds, **Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund** administered by Greater Houston Community Foundation, and **Rebuild Texas Fund** administered by Michael and Susan Dell Foundation. All donations raised will be given to these funds to support rebuilding efforts.

We would like to thank you for your generosity and support, and would ask that you hope for a speedy return to normalcy in TX as we are too.

Thank You

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