



## Our Colleagues in Exhibition Continue to be Displaced by Hurricanes – They Need Our Help



The widespread damage caused by the storms is affecting thousands of people in the southern United States and even reaching our industry colleagues in Puerto Rico. There are many wonderful efforts being made by relief groups and exhibition companies, but with the relentless storms continuing to build, the need is overwhelming.

### WHAT DO PEOPLE NEED?

At this point in time, most requests are to help pay for rent and food. Many people lost the food supply that was in their home (which they had already compromised their budgets to stock up on in preparation for the storm) and have been forced to eat out for every meal, when a food bank is not accessible. In addition to food, most people have rent due, which landlords are requiring tenants to pay, even if they do not have access to the property. With budgets being maxed out due to food needs and temporary housing, and not being able to work, people have no other choice but to ask for assistance.

We are also experiencing requests for medical emergencies, travel to care for an ailing family member, and general living expenses.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

In 2016 the Pioneers Assistance Fund assisted more than 200 industry members. Since Hurricane Harvey made landfall, we have received 50 requests for assistance, and the number is climbing daily. We are here to do everything we can to help, but the demands could very easily overwhelm the annual budget for the program. The Pioneers Assistance Fund is providing immediate aid in the form of emergency grants in amounts of \$250, \$500, or \$1,000, with the maximum to any one person is \$1,000.

All those who work in exhibition are eligible for a [Bernie Myerson Emergency Grant](#), as well as, counseling services.

Any donations from industry members, companies and foundations will be restricted to the Pioneers Assistance Fund and utilized for the Bernie Myerson Emergency Grant. We will help people with immediate needs for food, shelter and transportation. Once initial relief is provided, we will transition to support long-term recovery efforts, once there is a clear understanding what the many relief organizations will provide.

**DONATE TODAY**

We can't do this without you!