



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF HARVEY RELIEF FUNDS

Organization Awards \$10,000 to Five School Libraries Affected by Hurricane Harvey

AUSTIN, TX (June 6, 2018) - The Texas Book Festival announced the recipients of its special school library rebuilding grants, awarded to five Texas schools affected by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Each school will receive \$2,000 to replace books lost or damaged due to flooding.

The school libraries selected for funding are Aransas ISD Little Bay Primary and four schools in Houston ISD: Forest Brook Middle School, Mitchell Elementary, Martinez Elementary, and Robinson Elementary.

Aransas ISD's Little Bay Primary was heavily damaged during the storm and will not reopen. Its pre-kindergarten classrooms received substantial damage and all mentor texts for classroom libraries were lost. Funds will be used to purchase new classroom books for the 2018-2019 school year at Aransas ISD's new campus, the Discovery Learning Center.

More than 20,000 books were destroyed in the four Houston ISD school libraries selected for funding. Forest Brook Middle School, Mitchell Elementary, Martinez Elementary, and Robinson Elementary will receive funds to help replace the books that were lost at each campus.

Funds for these one-time grants were raised at the 2017 Texas Book Festival in Austin, where the TBF organization ran a successful weekend-long donation campaign. Festival-goers made generous donations at the registers and the TBF and Tocker Foundation matched the public support for Texas libraries affected by Hurricane Harvey. "These rebuilding grants are a wonderful example of the local community joining two Texas nonprofit literacy organizations to support Texas libraries in need," says Lois Kim, executive director of the Texas Book Festival. "We are looking forward to seeing the new books on the shelves of these worthy schools."

Since the Texas Book Festival's founding in 1995, a vital part of its mission has been to promote Texas libraries and literacy. Each year, proceeds raised at the annual Festival through book sales and individual, corporate, and foundation sponsorships fund the Festival's Texas Library Grants, which totaled more than \$100,000 in grants to libraries in 2018.

###

ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, the Texas Book Festival connects authors and readers through experiences that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by former First Lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys of reading and writing through its annual Festival Weekend, the one day Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars program, grants to Texas libraries, the Fresh Ink Fiction Contest, and year-round literary programming. The Festival is held in and around the grounds of the Texas Capitol each fall and features more than 275 renowned authors, panels, book signings, live music, cooking demonstrations, and activities for all ages. The 2018 Texas Book Festival Weekend will take place on October 27 and 28. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.