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TOP STORY

# Boys & Girls Club of Dane County collecting needed supplies for Texas flood victims

BILL NOVAK [bnovak@madison.com](mailto:bnovak@madison.com) Aug 28, 2017



Donations collected for victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas await transport to the region in the offices of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County Monday. The group is seeking primarily cleaning supplies and hygiene products.

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JOHN HART, STATE JOURNAL

On Saturday, volunteers with the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County handed out 3,000 backpacks to needy kids on Madison's Southwest Side. Now, the group is organizing an effort to deliver much-needed supplies to victims of flooding in Texas.

Boys & Girls Club CEO Michael Johnson and Anthony Cooper Sr., executive director of the Focused Interruption Coalition, are seeking donations by Thursday of cleaning supplies and hygiene products, including toiletries, diapers, personal hygiene, deodorant, large garbage bags, shampoo and soap.

They and other volunteers plan to drive the items the 1,200 miles to Austin, Texas, where Boys & Girls Clubs from all over the country are heading to aid in the relief effort.

"We are optimistic the community will step up," Johnson said.

The comparatively compact cleaning and hygiene products are what's most urgently in need right now, Johnson said. Relief organizers are asking that items such as food, furniture, dishes and clothes not be donated for this effort.

Donated supplies may be taken to the club's development office at 1818 W. Beltline, near Culver's. Donations will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Thursday.

Money is good too, and Johnson said the club will deliver a check for 100 percent of the money raised here (minus online fees) to the Austin Boys & Girls Club, which is coordinating the flood relief effort for the approximately 25 clubs in Wisconsin and 100 clubs around the country helping out.

"We will cut a check to the people of Texas from the people of Wisconsin," Johnson said.

To make a contribution, visit [bgcdc.org/get-involved/donate](http://bgcdc.org/get-involved/donate).

About 10 to 15 volunteers are expected to travel to Texas with Johnson and Cooper. They hope to fill one semi-trailer and several rental trucks.

"If conditions are safe, we will travel to Houston and visit local shelters, day care centers and homes, and offer support to families in need," Johnson said.

Johnson also is working with his alma mater, Chicago State University, to possibly bring back some displaced residents from Texas who would be able to live at the school.

This trip to Texas is nothing new for the volunteers from the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County.

The organization brought 50,000 gallons of bottled water to Flint, Michigan, when the city's water supply was tainted, and six semi-trailer loads of supplies to Joplin, Missouri, and Oklahoma City when tornadoes ravaged those communities.

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