



Community Update: Halloween Flood 2013

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Why we are here



- Provide update about the ongoing community-led flood recovery efforts
- Raise awareness about the critical need to align disaster response efforts among City, County, School Districts, non-profits, neighborhoods, and other groups.
- Highlight need for expanded support given magnitude of impact on families

What happened



- Historic flash flood October 31, 2013: Onion Creek flooded 1,100 homes and killed four people; left hundreds homeless, jobless, and in need of short & long-term emotional & economic support.
- Community systems weren't prepared for a flood of this magnitude
- Critical lack of available affordable housing forced residents out of neighborhoods



Community Response: Immediate



- Basic Needs Provision response by Neighborhoods, Faith Community, City PARD, Red Cross, City HHSD (Nov.), FRC/AISD, Salvation Army, RCYF, businesses (HEB, Home Depot, PODS, and many others)
- Flood Survivors *Help Center* at Quicksilver & S. Pleasant Valley managed hundreds of volunteers to serve thousands of flood survivors from November 1 through November 18
- First Independent Baptist and Texas Oaks Baptist on Bluff Springs provided drop off locations for clothing, furniture, and food
- Dove Springs Recreation Center housed flood survivors Nov/Dec
- Community Meeting at Perez Elementary by Dove Springs Neighborhood Association
- Door-to-Door, Yard Sign Flood Survivor Information Drives

Community Response: Short-term



- Basic Needs Provision response by Neighborhoods, Faith Community, City PARD, Red Cross, City HHSD (Nov.), FRC/AISD, ADRN, RCYF
- Resource & Information Fairs (Nov, Dec. & Jan) coordinated by Mendez FRC
- Community-based Holiday Activities (Rec. Center, RCYF, Springs Community Church)

Community Response: Short-term Con't



- Fundraising to support families:
 - (ADRN, Austin Relief Alliance, Dove Springs Neighborhood Assn; Latino HealthCare Forum; RCYF, AISD/TAP, United Way, Spring Community Church, Austin Fire Fighters Relief, & others)
- Community Surveys
 - (ADRN, First Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Mike Marcellius, Latino HealthCare Forum)
- Celebration of Life Services Feb 19 (City Serve, Dove Springs Neighborhood Assn, RCYF)

Community Response: Long-term



- Effort to align Flood Response through coordinated Case Management efforts TAP/Mendez FRC, AISD support services, COA HHSD, and Lutheran Social Services.
- Latino HealthCare Forum community health survey funded by Central Health helps flood survivors meet their health care needs (Dec)
- COA HHSD & Austin Interfaith established post-flood recovery collaboration (Jan)

Community Response: Long-term Cont'd



NEW infrastructure for long-term recovery has formed with Austin Community Foundation as its fiscal sponsor:

- Travis/Austin Recovery Group (TARG) exists to ensure effective and compassionate recovery to families and communities impacted by the 2013 Halloween Floods and any declared future disasters.

This will be done by:

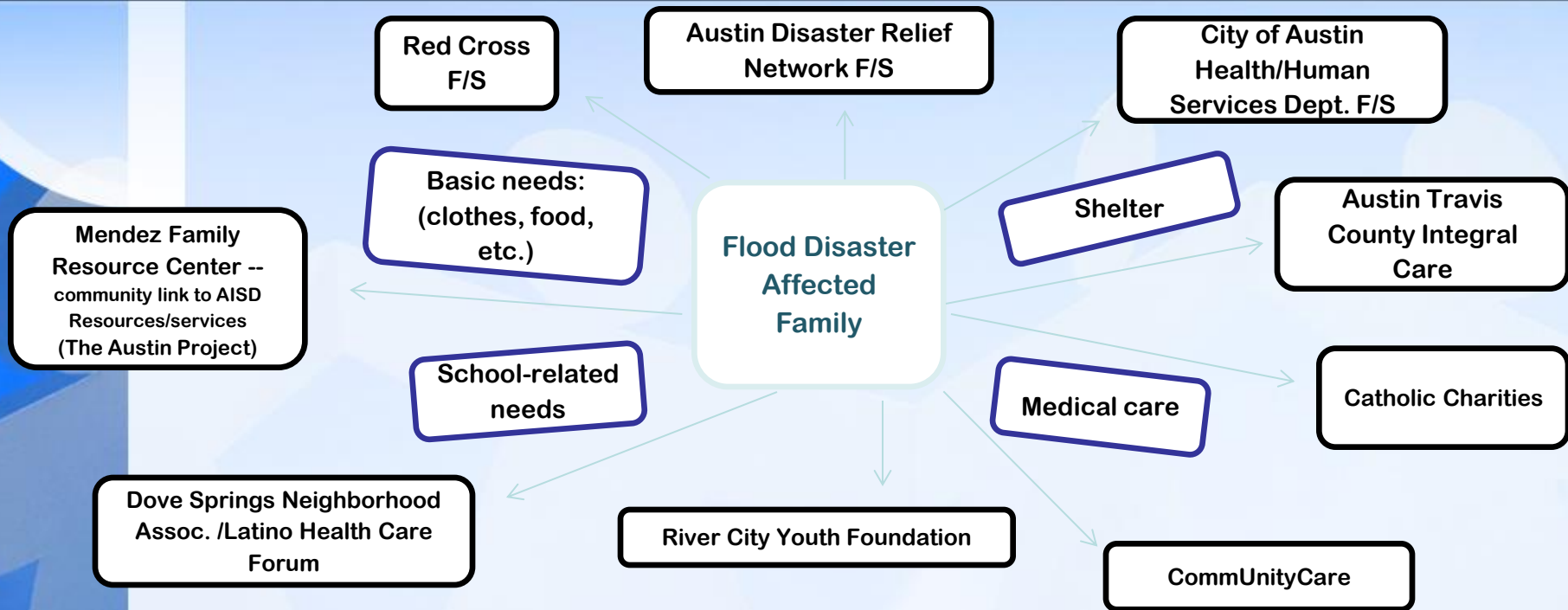
- Building a robust and accountable partnership that includes representation from residents, faith, voluntary, and governmental groups that support TARG's mission.
- Organizing all possible resources to help those impacted by the Halloween Floods and any future disasters.
- Supporting activities that promote TARG's mission.
- Advocating for services and assistance to those affected.

Summary

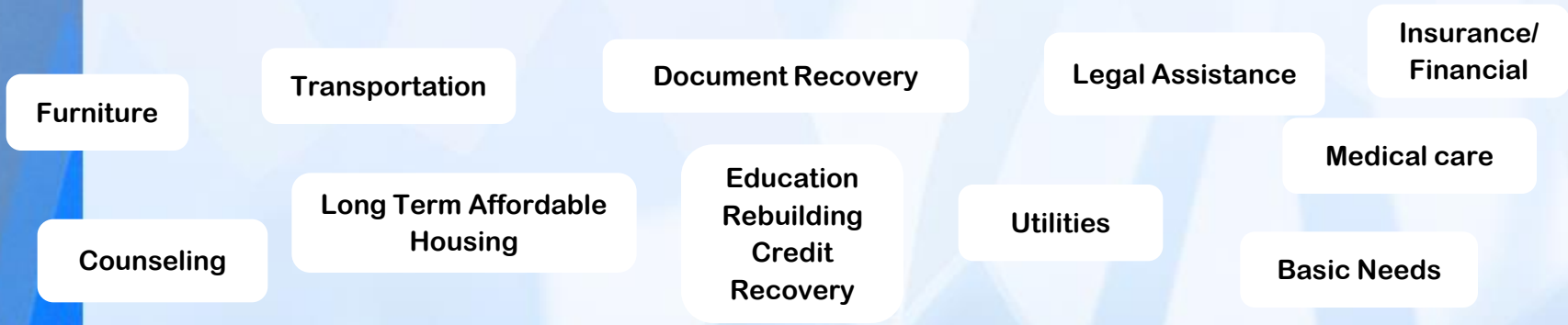


- The magnitude of the 2013 Halloween Floods requires expanded support on a long-term basis.
- To deal with the lack of Coordinated services that has created confusion for families impacted by the flood, our community needs:
 - Expanded resources
 - Expanded case management capacity
 - A well-developed continuum plan of care for all flood survivors who need our help.

Disaster Relief Immediate Needs/Responsive Services:



Intermediate to Long-Term Needs: Case Management



Short Term Success Stories



- City HHSD team on site & helpful, along with Red Cross, Non-profits & Neighborhood efforts
- AISD responded--requested their key donors to give support to the 230 school families impacted (\$149,000 raised).
- AISD's social workers, Parent Support Specialists worked with The Austin Project's Mendez Family Resource Center to insure displaced children could be transported to schools and receive support services.

Success Stories



- Although the experience of surviving a flood disaster is painful, valuable lessons are being learned that are preparing us for any future disaster.
- In response to the Flood, new disaster recovery organizations have formed:
- Austin Relief Alliance (ARA) successfully raised over \$120K to help flood survivors. Led by Council Member Mike Martinez and State Rep Eddie Rodriguez, ARA is now positioned to deal with local disasters.
- Travis County Recovery Group (TARG) in Southeast Austin has been formed to ensure help for the survivors affected by the Halloween Flood.

Success Stories



- In addition, scores of “heroes” emerged from the devastation of the Halloween Flood; those who risked their lives in raging waters to pull others to safety; those who went to the homes of our elderly to make sure they exited safely.
- In future presentations to PHHS, we will be sharing success stories that are helping to inspire hope among flood survivors as well as in those who are working to ensure their recovery and restoration.

Next Steps



- Establish TARG as our long-term recovery entity with Austin Community Foundation as its fiscal sponsor.
- Coordinate regular updates to PHHS by Halloween Flood-affected residents and groups.
- Conduct Community Re-assessment with pro-bono support from Church World Services
- Develop continuum plan of care addressing needs of affected homeowners, renters, businesses & others
- Expand Flood recovery resources
- Expand Case Management capacity
- Create shared intake systems between the City & other agencies.