

Mission **MOMENT**

SIGNS OF HOPE

Each disaster recovery has some particular uniqueness about it—a slogan that galvanizes the community, a practice of welcoming people home, a way of lifting people's spirits. The recovery from Hurricane Harvey is no different. In one community among the many affected, that unique element comes in the form of lawn signs.

Week of Compassion has been working with Disciples Volunteering to host a volunteer Mission Station at First Christian Church in Texas City, TX. Teams from across the country have come to work with homeowners in Galveston County whose homes were damaged during the storm in Aug. 2017.

One of the other churches in Galveston County leads a program called "Signs of Hope." People of all ages can come the church and make signs that simply say HOPE. These signs are distributed among the organizations that are helping people rebuild, to be placed at each job site. Some of the signs are a bit more elaborate, while others are quite simple. Steve Huston, the long-term volunteer who manages the Mission Station, says, "I derive much pleasure in presenting these signs to our clients and asking, 'May we put this in your yard or on your home?'"

One of those clients was Mr. "H," an older gentleman, who lives in LaMarque, Texas. Hurricane Harvey destroyed Mr. H's roof. He received some recovery funds from FEMA, which he used to hire a contractor to do the needed repairs. The contractor started the job, but never came back to finish. Mr. H waited almost a year and still the job was not finished. In the late summer of 2018, Mr. H connected with Disciples Volunteering. Huston describes it this way: "We brought in a volunteer group who finished the roof. Problem solved – not quite. We found that Mr. H needed more than roofing." With additional funding from Week of Compassion, the teams were



able to fix some plumbing issues discovered during the course of the repairs. With a now-functional bathroom, the job was nearly complete.

The final project was to fix the exterior of the house, which was in dire need of a paint job. In order to complete the job, the team had to remove the HOPE sign, which had been attached to the porch. Mr. H was quite adamant about the sign. "Where's my sign?" He questioned. "I want it put back." The team assured him it would be. The sign now hangs on Mr. H's porch for all who pass by to see.

A small thing: A Sign of Hope, but when we bring HOPE we can change lives.

Your gifts to Week of Compassion help those affected by disasters to rebuild their homes, their lives, and their communities by providing more than just building supplies and volunteer labor. Your gifts bring hope.