



AAC Disaster Relief through USSAAC Please help.

Dear USSAAC Members,

This fall has witnessed a seemingly endless series of disasters: Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, the Northern California inferno, and now the raging fires in Southern California. Each of these events takes a disproportionate toll on people with complex communication needs. They lose access to their speech-generating devices and their low-tech tools, their batteries are destroyed, they are relocated to places where helpers are clueless about communicating with them, etc. Fortunately, our organization has a disaster relief action committee devoted to the support of such people, which has stepped up with a unique approach to connecting these people with resources and experts who can provide immediate help and support.

To read about one family's experience in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and how USSAAC was able to help, please visit the *Practical AAC* blog, "[When Disaster Strikes: USSAAC's Response to Families with AAC Needs](#)".

[Recovers.org](#) is a web portal that enables people in need during disasters to make specific requests for support, allows people who want to help describe the skills they can bring to bear, and allows people who want to contribute money and

resources to do so with a single click on their computers. The site has been used successfully for past hurricanes like Sandy, for tornadoes like the one that hit Moore, Oklahoma, and for countless other incidents. Now [USSAAC](#) is putting it to work to help the people who are so often the hardest to reach and the last to get help.

Immediate help is available for people with communication disabilities impacted by the hurricanes. People who need help, people who want to help them, and those who want to contribute funds to this effort can go to [harveyaac.recovers.org](#) (specifically for those impacted by Harvey) or [aacdisasterrelief.recovers.org](#) (for all the others).

Fortunately, our disaster relief committee has managed to raise significant funds and in-kind resources to support those who are being impacted, including a total of \$30,000 in 1:1 "matching" grants from PRC/Saltillo and Tobii-Dynavox.

Now we must try to finish the task of matching these grants by year's end. We need USSAAC members to step up, go to USSAAC at <http://www.ussaac.org/donate> or log on to one of the sites described above, and make a donation NOW.

Whatever you donate will be doubled through our matching fund program. USSAAC will be able to help more individuals and families, you will have a way to help someone very directly, and you will feel good. Please help.

On behalf of the USSAAC Board of Directors,
Wendy Quach, President