



The JEMS/PennWell - “Adopt an EMS Family Program”

To assist EMS families severely impacted by the Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana, *JEMS* is activating its “Adopt-an-EMS-Family” Program, established in August 2005 during Hurricane Katrina. This program is designed for EMS Agencies, their staff and other participating individuals to provide direct, personal support to individuals in EMS agencies who were significantly affected by a large-scale disaster.

More specifically, it gets gift cards to families that need supplies, food, clothing and other necessities essential to them in their time of deepest need. While we have found that many families in need frequently request gift cards like American Express, Home Depot, LOWES or others to purchase essential items, many do complete areas on the attached form and provide ages, sizes and special request by age, sex and size, particularly for their children.

This program affords you the opportunity to personally shop and send gift cards and box(s) to a contact person and specified address shown on the program form (often to their EMS agency headquarters). This is the *very rewarding aspect* to this *JEMS/PennWell* program.

If your agency is interested, and responds affirmatively to me by email, I will “assign” you a family (or families – if you offer) to “adopt” and take care of. An official from affected EMS Agencies will send me a **completed family form** (*see blank, sample copy attached*) that will exhibit the urgent needs or requests from a family. I will then send a form (EMS FAMILY) to you to handle. You can then assign administrative staff or divide the requested items, or specific family members needs/requests, out to interested staff to voluntarily fulfill the family members’ requests. (The form shows them as *Family Member #1, Family Member #2, etc.*)

We ask that:

- 1) The items in the boxes you send to the address specified on the form clearly identify the family member the items are meant for - **by individual family member name** - so there is no confusion when the boxes are opened. You should also insert a card that identifies who the donating agency or individual is and exhibit an address and/or email where they can send a thank you note to – if they so desire. *Note:* You are not obligated to purchase/supply *all* items on the family’s “wish list”. I’m sure they will be appreciative of whatever you are able to supply to them in this time of need.
- 2) Please email me (aheightman@pennwell.com) when you send the boxes to your adopted family so we are aware that the “mission” has been accomplished and can so advise their EMS agency.

It may take a few days or weeks until the families get properly re-located and establish an address where items can be sent. So please be patient and I will get back to you as soon as we have a family or families for you. You can choose to sponsor more than one family when you email me if you choose to participate. **If you choose to adopt more than one “EMS Family”, please tell me how many when you email me.**

In the event that there are sufficient (or too many) “adopting agencies” to meet the needs for families affected by this disaster, I can place you on hold and in cue for “adoption” of an EMS family in need of assistance after a future incident.

A.J.

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