



Jewish Federation

OF GREATER HOUSTON

Contact

Taryn Baranowski

tbaranowski@houstonjewish.org

713-805-6374

MEDIA RELEASE

Today, on behalf of Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, Lee Wunsch, President and CEO, thanked Israel for allocating \$1 million to help the Jewish community of Houston recover from the devastation left by Hurricane Harvey.

From Lee Wunsch, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.

On August 25, 2017, a hurricane of unprecedented proportions overwhelmed the City of Houston and its dynamic and robust Jewish community. Hurricane Harvey brought catastrophic damage to hundreds of Jewish families and multiple Jewish community institutions. The homes of more than 1,000 Jewish were damaged or destroyed; many of those families are displaced from their homes for likely 8-12 months. Several of our largest Jewish institutions were heavily damaged and cannot reopen until remediation and rehabilitation is completed. No other Jewish community in the United States has witnessed such widespread devastation.

We deeply appreciate the support of the state of Israel during this difficult time--in particular Diaspora Minister Naftali Bennett for putting this forward. The unprecedented decision to support Jews in the Diaspora marks a historic change in our relationship with Israel. It is a profound confirmation of the Talmudic injunction: Kol Yisrael Aravim Ze La Ze - all Jews are responsible one for the other. The extraordinary financial support will help accelerate the recovery process and help make our Jewish community whole and vibrant again.