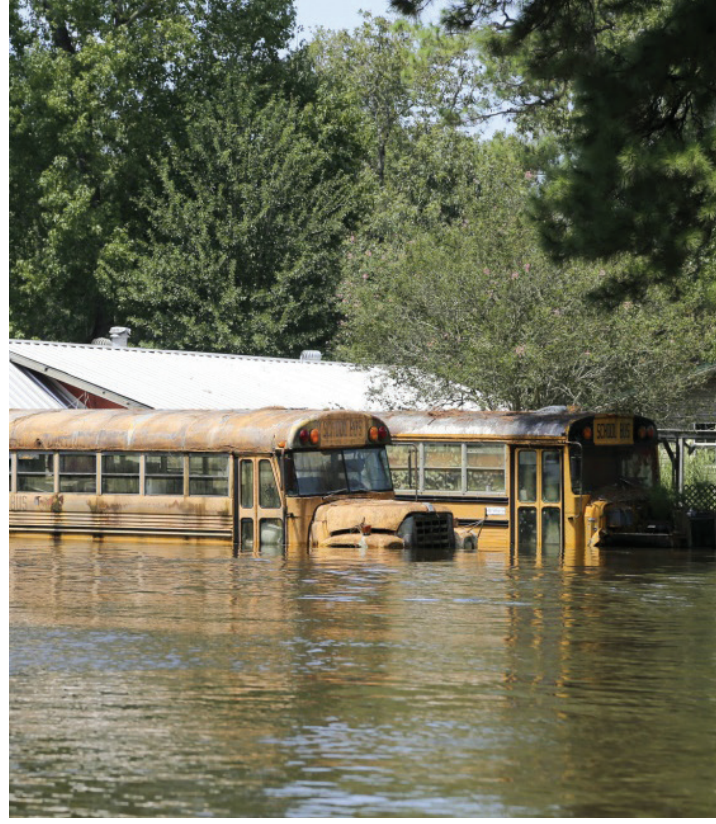




# DISASTER RECOVERY: IMPACT REPORT



“

**So many of our  
students and  
community members  
already go without  
on a daily basis, and  
then this flood took  
what little they  
did have away.**

**EDUCATOR,  
Sivells Elementary School,  
Wharton, TX**

**Donate at the Essentials  
for Kids Fund:  
[support.firstbook.org/  
disasterrelief](https://support.firstbook.org/disasterrelief)**



In 2017, the U.S. was ravaged by an unprecedented series of disasters: hurricanes, catastrophic flooding, and wildfires. In many areas, recovery is slow and effects are long-lasting. With a new year that began with extreme cold, mudslides, and continuing challenges in Puerto Rico, the need for recovery assistance is ongoing, even as communities begin to prepare for the 2018 hurricane season.

Among those most deeply affected are children whose lives have been disrupted, education derailed, and possessions lost. For children and families from low-income neighborhoods, who already were struggling, these losses are especially acute.

Since 2005's Hurricane Katrina, First Book has distributed over 5 million books to families affected by disasters. We have worked with first responders — and later schools and libraries as they re-open their doors — to get the right resources in the right hands at the right time.

First Book has aggregated a coalition of partners to respond, providing books; educational resources; basic needs items like first aid kits and dental care/personal hygiene resources; and other essentials. 100% of funds donated have been used for recovery. First Book is also included by Charity Navigator among the highly-rated organizations responding to disasters.

# SUPPORTING DISASTER RECOVERY ACROSS THE COUNTRY

First Book has made resources available to all FEMA-identified areas to support affected educators and children in 4,300 ZIP codes.

FIRST BOOK DISASTER  
RECOVERY IMPACT, 2017-2018

**\$925,000**

RAISED TO SUPPORT  
DISASTER EFFORTS

**800,000**

BOOKS AND RESOURCES  
DISTRIBUTED



## FLORIDA

“The pallets of Disney books we received allowed us to work with families where a parent or guardian serves as an agricultural worker or migrant fisher, and where students have moved and switched schools.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR,  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools,  
Office of Community Engagement



## PUERTO RICO

“Given schools' dire lack of materials before the storm, high-quality books in students' hands are more critical now than ever. The gift of books from First Book and JetBlue will offer students an opportunity to return to reading and extend reading into their homes.

FLAMBOYÁN FOUNDATION,  
*Puerto Rico*



## HOUSTON

“The majority of our students live below the poverty line. It's hard for some of them to understand why their favorite things were destroyed. So many of our students and community members already go without on a daily basis, and then this flood took what little they did have away.

EDUCATOR,  
Sivells Elementary School,  
Wharton, TX



# FROM RELIEF TO RECOVERY

Recovery from the storms and disasters is ongoing as communities — and especially children — work to recover from the trauma of the disasters and displacement. This is where First Book is focused: **on resources to help rebuild lives.**

## FIRST BOOK, AFT, & THE BARBARA BUSH HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation and First Book launched a targeted effort to deliver brand-new books and basic needs items, in coordination with first responders, educators, and volunteers, to areas devastated by Hurricane Harvey. In 2017, the partners delivered nearly \$200,000 in books and resources to children across affected communities in Houston, including a big book truck distribution event in Houston just weeks after the storm, and an energetic local school visit by AFT President Randi Weingarten, First Book President, CEO, and Co-founder Kyle Zimmer and Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation Chairman Neil Bush. In addition, AFT and First Book worked together to bring 15,000 English, bilingual, and Spanish language books to the U.S. Virgin Islands and to support educators in Florida and Louisiana affected by storms. AFT and First Book have also begun building basic needs closets filled with essential resources to Puerto Rico's highest-need schools, and are working to bring thousands of brand-new, diverse books to educators and children across the island impacted by Hurricane Maria.



**BARBARA BUSH**  
HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION

## THANK YOU TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS, AS WELL AS MANY INDIVIDUALS, FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

Albertsons Companies Foundation  
American Federation of Teachers

Anonymous

Barbara Bush Houston  
Literacy Foundation

Barnes & Noble

Blackboard

Candlewick Press

Citi

The Coca-Cola Company

Convergent Books

Cuentos Publishing

dd's DISCOUNTS

Disney Publishing Worldwide

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dr. Seuss Enterprises

Ford Motor Company Fund

Give Back Brands Foundation

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Hot Dudes Reading

IBM

JetBlue

KPMG's Family for Literacy

The LEGO Foundation

Macmillan Publishers

March 4th, Inc.

National Grid

New York State United Teachers

Nora Roberts Foundation

Parragon Books

Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women

Pizza Hut

Penguin Random House

The Quarto Group

Tata Sons, Ltd.

Team First Book Charlotte

Townsend Press

The Walt Disney Company

Wipro Limited

zulily





## FIRST BOOK & KPMG

First Book and **KPMG** partnered to launch “Reading to Rebuild,” a project that provided schools supplies and specially-curated books to more than 35 schools in Texas, Florida, and California that were affected by either hurricanes or wildfires.

## FIRST BOOK & DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

First Book also partnered with **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** and **Penguin Young Readers**, who pledged up to 500,000 books to support hurricane-affected areas. To kick off the campaign, Dolly's foundation donated 165,000 books and made a substantial donation to cover the shipping and handling charges that allowed the books to quickly be made available and at no cost to educators affected by the storms.



## FIRST BOOK & THE LEGO FOUNDATION

### The LEGO Foundation

First Book worked with the LEGO Foundation to bring its **Building Resilience with LEGO Bricks** training to Texas educators: a two-hour workshop that trained more than 200 Pre-K and early elementary educators how to use LEGOs to build resilience and work through trauma via play therapy. First Book was selected by LEGO specifically to bring this program to communities with children still recovering from Hurricane Harvey, and all participating educators received a LEGO classroom set.

## FIRST BOOK & DR. SEUSS

First Book, Random House Children's Books, and Dr. Seuss Enterprises partnered to bring **Dr. Seuss's Super-Dee-Dooper Bus Tour** — the first-ever interactive bus tour to Houston. The tour stop included a distribution of more than 9,000 books for teachers in classrooms impacted by Hurricane Harvey.



## FIRST BOOK & JETBLUE

Months after Hurricanes Irma and María devastated Puerto Rico's infrastructure, public schools are still reeling. Teachers are still struggling to make up lost academic time with extremely limited resources, while also attending to the critical social emotional needs of students. In partnership with **JetBlue**, First Book has worked with leading children's publishers to secure Spanish language books to provide to children on the island.



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