

AGTA Makes Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund Donation WJA Dallas Chapter Joins in Effort

DALLAS, TEXAS (September 27, 2017) -- Douglas K. Hucker, CEO of the [American Gem Trade Association](#) (AGTA), met with the Chief Philanthropy Officer of The Dallas Foundation, Helen Holman, and proudly presented a check for over \$11,000 in support of [The Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund](#). The funds were raised by AGTA Members, and the industry at large.

"The recovery process for the victims of Hurricane Harvey will be a long one, and many of those families were displaced to the City of Dallas," stated Hucker. "AGTA has a long history of helping those in need in our community, whether it be in Sri Lanka or Texas, so, it was important to us to work with a fund that will specifically help those in need in our hometown. The Mayor's Relief Fund will do exactly that." Hucker continued, "We are so proud of how generous our AGTA members are, and are especially grateful to the WJA Dallas Chapter and its members for their contribution to this important cause."

The [Women's Jewelry Association](#) (WJA) Dallas Chapter sponsored a silent auction at the annual *WJA Jewelry Night Out* event earlier this month to raise money for the WJA Scholarship Fund. The WJA Dallas Chapter voted to donate half of those proceeds to the AGTA cause of helping evacuees in the Dallas area. That donation, in addition to money raised by AGTA Members, was matched by AGTA, bringing the total to over \$11,000.



AGTA Marketing Manager, Megan Whitmire; The Dallas Foundation Chief Philanthropy Officer, Helen Holman; and AGTA CEO, Douglas Hucker.

About The Mayor's Relief Fund:

Originally established in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to aid those evacuees in the City of Dallas, in the coming months, the Mayor's Fund will support Rapid Housing for individuals and families who evacuated from their homes in Texas and Louisiana to Dallas emergency shelters due to Hurricane Harvey. The Fund is designed to assist with the transition from those emergency shelters to temporary housing while they are rebuilding their lives in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey or determining where they will re-locate permanently in the future. This is not a permanent housing fund. However, temporary housing allows children to re-enroll in local schools and allows families time to consider their future. Many of these families cannot and will not return to the Gulf Coast. Our goal is to help them through this transition phase, which we expect to last between six and twelve months.

For more information, please contact info@agta.org or 214-742-4367.

The American Gem Trade Association (AGTA) is an association of United States and Canadian trade professionals dedicated to promoting the long term stability and integrity of the natural colored gemstone and Cultured Pearl industries. The Association pursues its goals through the combined use of educational programs, publicity, industry events, government and industry relations, and printed materials for both the trade and consumer. The AGTA is well-known in the gemstone and jewelry industries for maintaining the highest ethical standards.

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