



Dear Delia,

The Rhodes School opened its doors in 2007 to educate pre-K through eighth grade students in Houston. Throughout our decade of serving the northeast part of Houston, we have never experienced anything near the devastation that Hurricane Harvey brought to our community's doorstep.

I encourage you to donate to the [TCSA Harvey Relief Fund](#) to help public charter school communities like mine that were impacted by Hurricane Harvey.



Out of our four school facilities, one was severely damaged and a second is a total loss. The damage includes the loss of classrooms, cafeterias, offices, supplies, books, and equipment.

Painfully, a large portion of our musical instruments, costumes, set designs, and theater program props were also damaged beyond repair. Since Rhodes is a fine arts public charter school, the loss of the fine arts equipment is particularly devastating for our program.

What I have described to you is merely the physical impact of Harvey. The gravity facing our community is much more severe. Our largest school campus is located in one of the hardest hit communities in Houston with more than 70 percent of families displaced in the weeks immediately following the storm and about 40 percent who remain displaced today. We have a double-digit increase in the number of students now legally classified as homeless as a result of the storm.

At Rhodes we are working to meet the very real basic needs of several of our families and staff. I wish I could say that our story is unique, but I know that many of my public charter school colleagues are also on the front lines working to rebuild and provide a much needed sense of normalcy for their families. Our community has suffered much loss, but it is with everyone standing together in support of each other that we will come out stronger on the other end.

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[DONATE TODAY](#)



Michelle L. Bonton, M.Ed.
Founder & Superintendent
Rhodes School for the Performing Arts