

Smith Middle School



1000 S. San Patricio, Sinton TX 78387

Date: September 21, 2017

To Ruben Diaz & the National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA),

On behalf of Sinton Independent School District, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation to Smith Middle School. Your \$700 donation has had a significant impact on our students and families that have been impacted and displaced by Hurricane Harvey.

Many of the school districts in our area are closed indefinitely due to the significant damage they received during the hurricane. While the districts work to repair or replace their school buildings, their students have been encouraged to enroll in open neighboring districts.

Many of these students and their families have spent the last few weeks removing debris from their homes, assessing and reporting damages, and attempting to locate cherished items that have been scattered throughout their neighborhoods. Most families went without power and water for weeks. Although difficult, enrolling in school has provided these students with a sense of "normal." As the school days pass, they hold their heads a bit higher. They talk to a few more kids in the hallways. They laugh a little louder at lunch. They smile bigger and brighter!

The funds that we received from the Fresno NLPOA helped us to provide items that many of us would take for granted; items that our new students and families have lost. Upon enrollment, we invite the parent/guardian to meet with the school counselor so that we can assess their living arrangements and offer appropriate support. Through those initial conversations, we've been able to share resources from one family to another, helping as many people as possible. We offer laundry services, personal hygiene items, paper goods, blankets, school supplies, etc. In addition, each student is offered a backpack on Fridays. The students have a wide variety of food to choose from and take home to their families for the weekend because we are only able to provide food during school hours.

Your contribution has allowed us to support and provide for a very special population of students and families. While we understand we may only have them for a short period of time, the staff at Smith Middle School is thankful for each day these students are here with us.

With many thanks,

Nicole Richards, Smith Middle School Math Teacher

Jennifer Davis, Smith Middle School Principal