

EF3 Tornado rips through multiple schools in Van, TX

“Families affected by the tornado have so many things to worry about in this community right now. Our part is to make sure they get the school supplies.” – Dave Smith, Executive Director

In May of 2015, a devastating storm system tore through Texas and Arkansas. **The town of Van, Texas, 90 minutes east of Dallas, was struck by a deadly tornado late one evening that tore through the small community, destroying several homes with hundreds of people taking shelter in a local church. If that wasn't enough, elementary school J.E. Rhodes was completely destroyed, and Van Intermediate was severely damaged.** Because of the severity, students are taking classes from portable classrooms for the next school year while the schools are being rebuilt.

With a community in desperate need of help, the Kids In Need Foundation partnered with Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores to provide students with school supplies, getting them excited about returning to school.

- Working with the district and principals, **2,900 pounds of school supplies were distributed.**
- Between the two schools, **765 kids received new backpacks** filled with supplies to help them return to a normal routine as they continue to move forward in the recovery and rebuilding efforts.
- **With help from members from the nearby Jo-Ann location, a backpack assembly was coordinated at each school.** This allowed for the students to receive their new items during a fun celebration event, with the local media invited to capture the special moment.

Natural disasters tear through communities, families, and lives. With our Second Responder® program, the Kids In Need Foundation looks to replace a little bit of what has been lost. When everything you know and love has been destroyed, something as simple as a backpack, or a notebook of your very own, makes a tremendous difference.

Our mission is to ensure that every child is prepared to learn and succeed in the classroom by providing free school supplies nationally to the kids most in need.



Historic rainfall causes major flood damage to rural Kingstree, SC

“The Kids In Need Foundation thought enough of us during our time of need to support our community and children. Because, when you don’t have anything and someone reaches out and gives you something, it means more than you will even know.” – Cynthia Brown, Principal

In October of 2015, a historic storm system pounded South Carolina, pouring 25 inches of rain over a 5-day period, and flooding the small town of Kingstree. Located an hour north of Charleston, Kingstree was severely damaged, setting records for the wettest October and highest flood levels in the state’s history. The storm condemned buildings, destroyed neighborhoods, and forced people out of their homes.

Williamsburg County is the third poorest county in South Carolina. Every student at W.M. Anderson Primary (Grades K-2) and Kenneth Gardner Elementary (Grades 3-5) are eligible for federal nutrition programs. **The heavy rainfall left behind mold and mildew, destroying everything the teachers needed to resume instruction and closing both schools for 10 days.**

With a community holding together in desperate need of help, the Kids In Need Foundation partnered with Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores to provide students with school supplies, getting them excited about returning to school.

- **Between the two schools, 910 kids received new backpacks filled with supplies** to help them return to a normal routines.
- **An assembly was coordinated at each school to surprise students with their new items.** WBTW Channel 13 news was onsite to capture the event and all the student excitement.
- **60 additional backpacks were sent to the school district to be used as they needed.** These backpacks were donated on behalf of students at the University of South Carolina.

Natural disasters tear through communities, families, and lives. With our Second Responder® program, the Kids In Need Foundation looks to replace a little bit of what has been lost. When everything you know and love has been destroyed, something as simple as a backpack, or a notebook of your very own, makes a tremendous difference.



“Thanks so much for the things you gave all the kids at my school after the flood. We really needed them... Thanks for helping me stay super smart!”

Olivia, 2nd Grader
W.M. Anderson Primary



Our mission is to ensure that every child is prepared to learn and succeed in the classroom by providing free school supplies nationally to the kids most in need.