Helping Kids Find Comfort After Natural Disasters

**CHALLENGE**

Every year, devastating hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, and tornadoes destroy schools nationwide. These events tear through communities leaving shock and despair for those in the path of destruction. For the children, it means starting over and, in some cases, replacing all of their personal belongings. These items, the small things like a backpack or a notebook, can take on huge significance to a child.

“Many organizations came into our communities with food, clothing, and temporary housing, but no one thought about the educational effect the flood had on our students. I felt helpless! As I sat at my desk one day, I received a call from the Kids In Need Foundation.”

- Cynthia Brown, principal, South Carolina

To complement the efforts of first responders who provide immediate needs such as food and water, The Kids In Need Foundation Second Responder® program provides essential items including pencils, pens, and notebooks—allowing students to return to class with confidence.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

The Kids In Need Foundation’s Second Responder® program is dedicated to providing school supplies to students affected by natural disasters. We work with local authorities, schools, and select sponsors to help students return to normal routines.

The program has worked diligently to provided tens of thousands of backpacks filled with new school supplies directly to students affected by wildfires, tornadoes, and storms such as Hurricanes Florence, Michael, Harvey, and Katrina. Recently we partnered with several Fortune 500 companies to expand efforts to bring school supplies to affected areas through custom online fundraising portals and to secure additional supplies most needed for recovery.

“A lot of houses were lost.... their houses were lost. I can see in my students eyes, they’re saying, ‘Is this really for me?’ The backpack is the materials they may have lost... but the love... the sharing, and caring is what makes all the difference.”

- Dr. Jennifer Gardner, Principal at Kenneth Gardner Elementary

We are currently seeking organizations that understand the importance of helping students get back on their feet after natural disasters strike. Sponsorships are available at the national level and for individual events.

**CONTACT**

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