

**September 4, 2017**

### **The American Patriots the III% Dispatch Donations to HAAM**

The flood waters were still rising at the tail end of Hurricane Harvey when a truck pulled into Humble. Cindy Marshall, a long-distance trucker, had supplies that she'd picked up along her route. She was offering to deliver them to Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM) so that the social services agency could distribute them to the people who were affected by the more than 30 inches of rain that dumped on the region over the multi-day storm.

What brought Cindy to HAAM at this critical time, when the town of Kingwood was divided in half with the interior portion completely cut off by flood waters?

Cindy is part of a nation-wide network of people who come together in times of need. They're called the American Patriots the III%.

Steve Harbin, who helped coordinate the effort, explains:

The American Patriots are made up of everyday folks who care about our country. We focus on preparedness, but go into action when relief efforts are needed. About 16,000 members across the US coordinate through social media, building networks to help in times of need.

Even before the storms rolled in, they put out a call to action, anticipating the scope of the storm's impact. They notified the United Truckers, who responded to the call. While American Patriots gathered supplies and established pickup locations, the Truckers reached out to its network to engage drivers who had extra space and who had the ability to end their journey here in Southeast Texas – either in Humble or Bay City.

Every aspect of the operation is a volunteer effort. The donations come from individuals around the country, are collected by Patriots, and are stored and loaded by people who want to help. The drivers are donating their expertise, their time, and their money for fuel beyond their scheduled routes.

"This is all done outside of the government," said fellow patriot Daniel LeDoux said, while preparing to serve hot food to HAAM's staff, volunteers, and clients with his wife Cherrie, owner of A Grand Affair. "These are just good people who want to help in times of need."