

Shirley

When it started raining, the water began pouring into our house. We tried to stop it by putting towels down by the door, but it kept rising. We were scared, so we wrote our social security numbers on our bodies and attempted to walk through the streets. The water came up to our waists though, there were spiders and insects all over and we couldn't see through it. This made us even more nervous, so we decided to take our chances and go back to the house.

Thankfully, my son flagged down a truck that was somehow still able to pass through a nearby street. We were finally rescued. We had nowhere to go, so we spent the first night at a furniture store that had opened its doors and mattresses to storm victims. Now, my four sons and I are staying with my sister. The five of us are all together in one room, but we are grateful to have somewhere to stay.

I was already going through a hard time before Hurricane Harvey. I had applied for disability because I am unable to work. Now, I have lost everything. They estimated my house will take six months to a year to repair. We are looking for a place to stay, but my kids will have to switch schools because we can't find a place close enough to their high school. I'm worried about my kids. They have been so quiet through all of this.

Despite the devastation, it's been encouraging to see all the people willing to help families like mine who have been hurt by this storm – including people at the food bank. They've given me food to feed my family, cleaning supplies to begin the long process of recovery and hope to keep pushing through. I don't know what I would do without their help. Their support has made a difficult time just a little easier, and for that, I'm grateful.