

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**AACF APPLICATIONS ARE UP 78 PERCENT SINCE HURRICANE HARVEY**  
***Aftermarket Families Express Thanks***

**Sacramento, Calif. – October 10, 2017** – The [Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation](#) (AACF) has entered phase two of urgent response to aftermarket families in the wake of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose and Maria, and deadly wildfires, and is now watching tropical storm Ophelia.

This season has already produced five major hurricanes, including three catastrophic Category 5 storms, and 15 named storms. According to the Miami Herald, Ophelia could become the 10th consecutive storm to reach hurricane strength.

“Applications for help have increased 78% in the wake of recent natural disasters,” said AACF President, Bob Hirsch. “We continue working with SEMA, the Auto Care Association, AASA and others to reach aftermarket families in need, and early estimates indicate there may be hundreds of families that need our help. Parts of Texas, Louisiana, and Florida as well as the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico have suffered catastrophic damage.”

“You saved me in more ways than you could ever imagine,” wrote one Texas family following hurricane Harvey. “(After) 35 years of being a mechanic, your foundation was the only one that helped my family. I am forever grateful for all your help.”

“I can't explain how grateful we are for your quick response to our situation,” another hurricane Harvey victim wrote. “You really have no idea how much this means to us.”

“Thanks to the generous response of our industry we've raised a significant amount toward our goal, and we're so thankful for that,” said Joel Ayres, Executive Director of AACF. “But, we continue to ask for industry support. Many have lost homes, businesses, vehicles, belongings, and in some cases, loved ones including family pets. Now more than ever, every [donation](#) counts and is truly making a difference.”

Those in need are asked to complete the new [simple application](#) on the AACF website.

Sincere thanks to the many organizations that have already contributed generously including [SEMA](#), [Auto Care Association](#), [MEMA](#), [XL Parts](#), [National Pronto/Automotive Parts Services Group](#) (The Group), [CAWA](#), [Mighty Auto Parts](#), [Custom Automotive Network](#) (formerly PWA), [Engine Performance Warehouse](#), [The Shop](#), [Standard Motor Products](#), [Race Winning Brands](#) (RWB), [Gold Eagle](#), [NAPA](#), Donald Schlenger, Robert & Lillian Spar Family Trust and many more.

"On behalf of our team, our thoughts and prayers are with all those who continue to suffer," said Ayres.

Tax-deductible donations to [AACF](#) can be made online at <http://bit.ly/AACF-Cares>, by mail at P.O. Box 864520, Orlando, FL, 32886, or by calling 772-286-5500.

AACF will provide additional updates on this initiative as they become available.

***About the Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation (AACF)***

The Automotive Aftermarket Charitable Foundation (AACF) has been helping aftermarket families turn tragedy into triumph since 1959. Like the industry, AACF is driven by passion and devoted to family. It's tough to ask for help, but when someone in the aftermarket family faces profound circumstances, AACF is there when it seems like there's nowhere else to turn. As a nonprofit, this is accomplished through the support of generous donors, awareness partners and dedicated volunteers. To learn more, contact us at [www.AftermarketCharity.org](http://www.AftermarketCharity.org).

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