# ANSWERING THE CALL: LEGEND FOUNDATION SERVICES OFFERS HELP IN TEXAS HILL COUNTRY.

When catastrophic flooding struck the Texas Hill Country in the early morning of July 4, Legend Foundation Services saw its chance to return the generosity they have seen first hand.

In just days, the Legend team began mobilizing to help. Mechanic Dustin Vice answered the call Monday afternoon, July 7. Irby Construction Senior Vice President Brian Beck had a simple and urgent request: Could Dustin put together a crew to help flood victims in the Texas Hill Country?

"I jumped at the opportunity," Vice recalls. That evening, he gathered his family and began loading supplies. By Tuesday night, a six-man crew from Legend was driving close to 600 miles from Geismar, Louisiana, to Comfort, Texas—their cook trailer and 20-foot enclosed trailer packed with everything needed to feed a community in crisis. There were eight 160-quart ice chests full of meat, vegetables, and fruit, along with paper goods and other supplies.

#### A DIFFERENT KIND OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The flooding that devastated the Texas Hill Country in the early morning of July 4 left a trail of destruction unlike anything the Louisiana-based crew had ever seen. Houses lifted from their foundations. Vehicles and campers twisted into unrecognizable piles. But for Vice, who lived through Louisiana's 2016 flooding, the most heartbreaking aspect wasn't the property damage—it was the loss of life.

"Most storms that I have experienced, there is more damage than anything," Vice explains. "A bunch of people in the Texas flooding really lost everything—they lost their loved ones. My heart and prayers go out to all these families."

### MORE THAN 1,000 MEALS AND UNFORGETTABLE CONNECTIONS

The Legend cook crew set up operations at the Comfort RV Resort and spent three days and nights serving the

community. Wednesday found them in the Home Depot parking lot in Kerrville, ladling out their Cajun twist on pasta with white beans and smothered green beans-"pastalaya." Thursday, they moved to Trinity Church in Center Point, where church members helped box meals for distribution throughout the community.

Over the course of three days, the teams cooking became so famous people started asking how to find Legend's delicious food. In response, local residents created an outreach team that delivered plates to those that couldnt leave leave their post. They served 1,300 meals to first responders, volunteers, and affected families. The menu - pastalaya, sausage po-boys with french fries, BBQ chicken with cowboy beans brought a taste of Louisiana comfort food to Texas hearts.

"Our company's ability to pass out hot meals really lifted the spirits of the community," Vice observed. But one encounter at Trinity Church will stay with him forever. As the crew packed up Thursday evening, a man whose family had suffered loss in the flooding approached with tears in his eyes.

"He came up to me, gave me a hug, and was just so grateful," Vice remembers. "And expressed how grateful he was for what we were doing for his community."





Mike Smith, Daniel Billiot, Dustin Vice, and Roland Cortez.

"The service we were able to provide to the communities very much aligns with who we are at Legend and Irby," Vice reflects. "Family first, be your brother's keeper, and come together as 'ONE' to do something great!"

coast firsthand. For them, the effort represented something more profound than emergency response-it was about paying forward the kindness they'd received in their own times of need.

"Texas always comes to help our communities when we have natural disasters," says Roland Cortez. "It felt good to repay the favor."

Daniel Billiot echoed the same sentiment: "People have come out to help my community, and it meant so much. I am grateful to be able to pay it forward. You never know when you will need help."

The experience reinforced what the crew already knew about their company culture. "Southern hospitality is important to our culture," notes Corey Ramey. "We are proud to help when we can."

#### **NEWS OF THE CREWS**

## ANSWERING THE CALL (CONTINUED)

#### **MORE THAN POWERLINES**

While Irby and Legend typically respond to disasters by restoring electrical infrastructure, this mission proved that our collective commitment to the communities we serve extends beyond foundations and power lines. Our company's culture was exemplified in the form of steaming plates of food and moments of human connection.

"The service we were able to provide to the communities very much aligns with who we are at Legend and Irby," Vice reflects. "Family first, be your brother's keeper, and come together as 'ONE' to do something great!"

Cornell Slaughter perhaps summed it up best: "It was a blessing to be able to go help others in need, it was great thing that Legend and Irby answered the call for help and provided hot meals and support to the affected communities.."

As the crew packed up and headed back to Louisiana, they left behind more than empty serving trays. They left a reminder that in times of crisis, communities extend far beyond geographic boundaries—and that sometimes the most powerful response to disaster isn't measured in megawatts, but in the simple act of sharing a hot meal with a neighbor in need.

A very special thank you to the our chefs and volunteers for stepping up to make a difference for Central Texas in their time of need. You all make Irby and Legend proud.





