Keep Texas Beautiful Announces Rebuilding Texas Grant Winners

KTB awards grants to nine local affiliates through the Rebuilding Texas Fund in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, with support from Revolver Brewing, Waste Management and Chevron

[AUSTIN, Texas] - A year after Hurricane Harvey, Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB), in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, awarded grants to nine affiliate communities in Texas to continue to rebuild and restore their public spaces after the destruction caused by the storm. KTB founded the Rebuilding Texas Fund in August 2017 to support its affiliate communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey. With contributions from Revolver Brewing, Waste Management and Chevron as well as generous individual donors, KTB created the Rebuilding Texas Grants program to support restoration projects and long-term recovery efforts in the affected communities.

The winning communities are: Keep Aransas Pass Beautiful, Keep Weston Lakes Beautiful, Keep Aransas County Beautiful, Keep Seabrook Beautiful, Keep Friendswood Beautiful, Keep Cuero Beautiful and Keep Jasper Beautiful. With additional funding provided by Keep America Beautiful, KTB awarded two grants to Texas communities that are also Keep America Beautiful affiliates: Keep Sugar Land Beautiful and Keep Lake Jackson Beautiful.

KTB is excited to support the restoration taking place in the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey one year ago. The funded projects range from replanting palm trees on main streets to restoring parks that were formerly monarch and pollinator habitats, to replenishing supplies for waterways cleanups. “With all the news stories focusing on the anniversary of Hurricane Harvey, this award is most certainly a bright spot for us all” says Carol Fairbanks, Executive Director of Keep Weston Lakes Beautiful.

“Beyond financial support for restoration projects, we’re aiming to help our affiliates by providing them with an outlet to engage community members and focus on rebuilding together,” says Suzanne Kho, Executive Director of KTB. “We are so thankful for our partnership with Keep America Beautiful and numerous sponsors and donors, as it allows us to have an even greater impact on our Texas communities.”

KTB partnered with its national affiliate Keep America Beautiful to increase the level of funding available through the Rebuilding Texas Grants program. KTB awarded a total of $65,000 to the nine winning communities. KAB provided funding through its Community Resiliency and Restoration Fund, which it launched in September 2017 in partnership with Lowe’s, after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and the threat of Hurricane Irma.

“Public spaces are the heart of a community, providing safe, welcoming and beautiful places for neighbors to gather during the long journey of community healing after a major weather event,” said Keep America Beautiful President and CEO Helen Lowman. “Cleaning and restoring beautiful public
spaces — and improving their resiliency for the future — can play an important role in the overall recovery and strengthen a sense of community. Keep America Beautiful is pleased to support Keep Texas Beautiful in this effort at the local level.”

KTB is thankful to the many supporters who contributed to the Rebuilding Texas Fund to help those affiliate communities affected by Hurricane Harvey. To learn more about KTB resources and current grant opportunities, visit www.ktb.org/grants.

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**About Keep Texas Beautiful**

Keep Texas Beautiful is a network of dedicated Texans working together to make our state the best place to live, work and play. We equip local partners and affiliates with the tools they need to build vibrant, engaged communities. Founded in 1967, Keep Texas Beautiful has over 50 years of experience deploying resources for local clean-up, recycling and youth engagement efforts. Everything we do is focused on mobilizing volunteers to take action across the state. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we lead nearly 300 affiliates and reach 19 million Texans annually. We are proudly based in Austin, Texas. For more information, visit www.ktb.org, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @keeptxbeautiful.

**About Keep America Beautiful**

Keep America Beautiful, the nation’s iconic community improvement nonprofit organization, inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Celebrating its 65th Anniversary in 2018, Keep America Beautiful strives to End Littering, Improve Recycling and Beautify America’s Communities. We believe everyone has a right to live in a clean, green and beautiful community, and shares a responsibility to contribute to that vision.

Behavior change – steeped in education, research and behavioral science – is the cornerstone of Keep America Beautiful. We empower generations of community and environmental stewards with volunteer programs, hands-on experiences, educational curricula, practical advice and other resources. The organization is driven by the work and passion of more than 600 Keep America Beautiful affiliates, millions of volunteers, and the collaborative support of corporate partners, social and civic service organizations, academia, municipalities, elected officials, and individuals. Join us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Donate and take action at kab.org.

**About Hurricane Harvey**

Hurricane Harvey of 2017 is tied with 2005’s Hurricane Katrina as the costliest tropical cyclone on record, inflicting $125 billion in damage, primarily from catastrophic rainfall-triggered flooding in the Houston metropolitan area.

   Highest wind speed: 134 mph
Damage: $125 billion (2017 USD); (Tied as costliest tropical cyclone on record)
Affected areas: Texas, Nicaragua, Louisiana, Belize, Honduras
Category: Category 4 Hurricane (SSHWS), Tropical Depression (NHC/CPHC)