



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# MDOC Donates Items to Texas Schools Affected by Hurricane Harvey

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JACKSON – A husband and wife team from the Mississippi Department of Corrections are delivering donated school supplies today to two 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms affected by Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas.

The items, including book bags, crayons, notebooks and pencils, had been collected since September through the Gulfport and Biloxi Probation and Parole offices.

Donors include MDOC employees, offenders being supervised on house arrests, probation and parole, Food Giant, Academy Sports and local attorney George Blair.

“People helped us when Hurricane Katrina hit,” said Probation and Parole Agent Barbara B. Gill, who is being accompanied by her husband, Steven Gill, on the trip. “We appreciate this opportunity to give back. This was a group effort of all the MDOC employees.”

Barbara Gill said the idea to donate to the classrooms came from a Facebook post about Adopt a Classroom.org, a website of a nonprofit organization that helps teachers in need of classroom supplies.

“I applaud and commend our employees’ efforts to give back,” Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. “I also appreciate the offenders who voluntarily donated.”

The Gills will meet a liaison at World Harvest Outreach Seventh-day Adventist Church, the designated distribution center for Houston and outlining areas, today before going to Carter G. Woodson Elementary and Alcott Elementary School.