

## **TUMI COMMITS \$400,000 TO REBUILD TEXAS CHARTER SCHOOL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL HANDS AND HEARTS - SMART RESPONSE**

*Funds to be dedicated towards The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts in continuation of the organization's Hurricane Harvey relief efforts*

NEW YORK, NY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018 – Today, TUMI, the leading international luxury travel and lifestyle brand announced a donation of \$400,000 to disaster relief non-profit [All Hands and Hearts - Smart Response](#) to assist in their continued efforts to rebuild in Texas after Hurricane Harvey. Specifically, this donation will rebuild The Rhodes School for the Performing Arts, a public charter school consisting of five campuses across the northern and eastern areas of Houston, that was devastated by the Category 4 storm last year.

The Rhodes School, which opened its doors in 2007, is a tuition-free school primarily serving low-income minority communities and is the only charter school in the country to be designated as a Fine Arts Magnet School by the U.S. Department of Education. 550 pre-K through eighth grade students attended the main campus prior to the flooding, but currently 450 students have been displaced to other campuses and 100 students have left the area due to loss of homes. To date, the Rhodes School has mucked, gutted, and started to rebuild the main building on campus, and has completed the rebuild of two mobile units of classrooms.

All Hands and Hearts will be rebuilding the remainder of the main building on the campus, as well as gutting, sanitizing, and rebuilding the five remaining mobile units and demolishing and rebuilding two handicap ramps leading up to the units.

“We are incredibly grateful for this generous donation from our partners at TUMI,” said Petra Nemcova, Co-Founder of All Hands and Hearts - Smart Response. “TUMI has been a longtime supporter of our disaster relief efforts, and we are thrilled to be working together to make a significant impact on the Houston community’s recovery efforts. We are honored to be enabling the Rhodes School to continue providing quality education and unique performing arts opportunities to their students, and allowing those children to return to their campus to learn.”

“At TUMI we trust the All Hands and Hearts experience in rebuilding and restoring schools from natural disasters. We fully support them in their mission to get learners back to school so they can fulfill their potential in a safe environment. With the Rhodes School, we have a unique opportunity to support children and a community close to home in Houston. We are privileged to work with an organization whose impact reaches all over the world,” says Rob Cooper, President, TUMI North America.

All Hands and Hearts - Smart Response is currently running two programs within Texas, in Houston and Aransas Pass. The organization has committed to be in Texas for at least two years in order to provide the needed support for the community. To date, they have had over 1,800 volunteers complete over 460 sites. To learn more, please visit [www.allhandsandhearts.org](http://www.allhandsandhearts.org).

### **About All Hands and Hearts - Smart Response:**

All Hands and Hearts - Smart Response effectively and efficiently addresses the immediate and long-term needs of communities impacted by natural disasters. By listening to local people, and

deploying our unique model of engaging volunteers to enable direct impact, we rebuild safe, resilient schools, homes, and other community infrastructure.

**About TUMI:**

Since 1975, TUMI has been creating world-class business and travel essentials, designed to upgrade, un-complicate, and beautify all aspects of life on the move. Blending flawless functionality with a spirit of ingenuity, we're committed to empowering journeys as a lifelong partner to movers and makers in pursuit of their passions. The brand is sold globally in over 75 countries with upwards of 2,200 points of sale. For more about TUMI, visit [www.TUMI.com](http://www.TUMI.com)

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