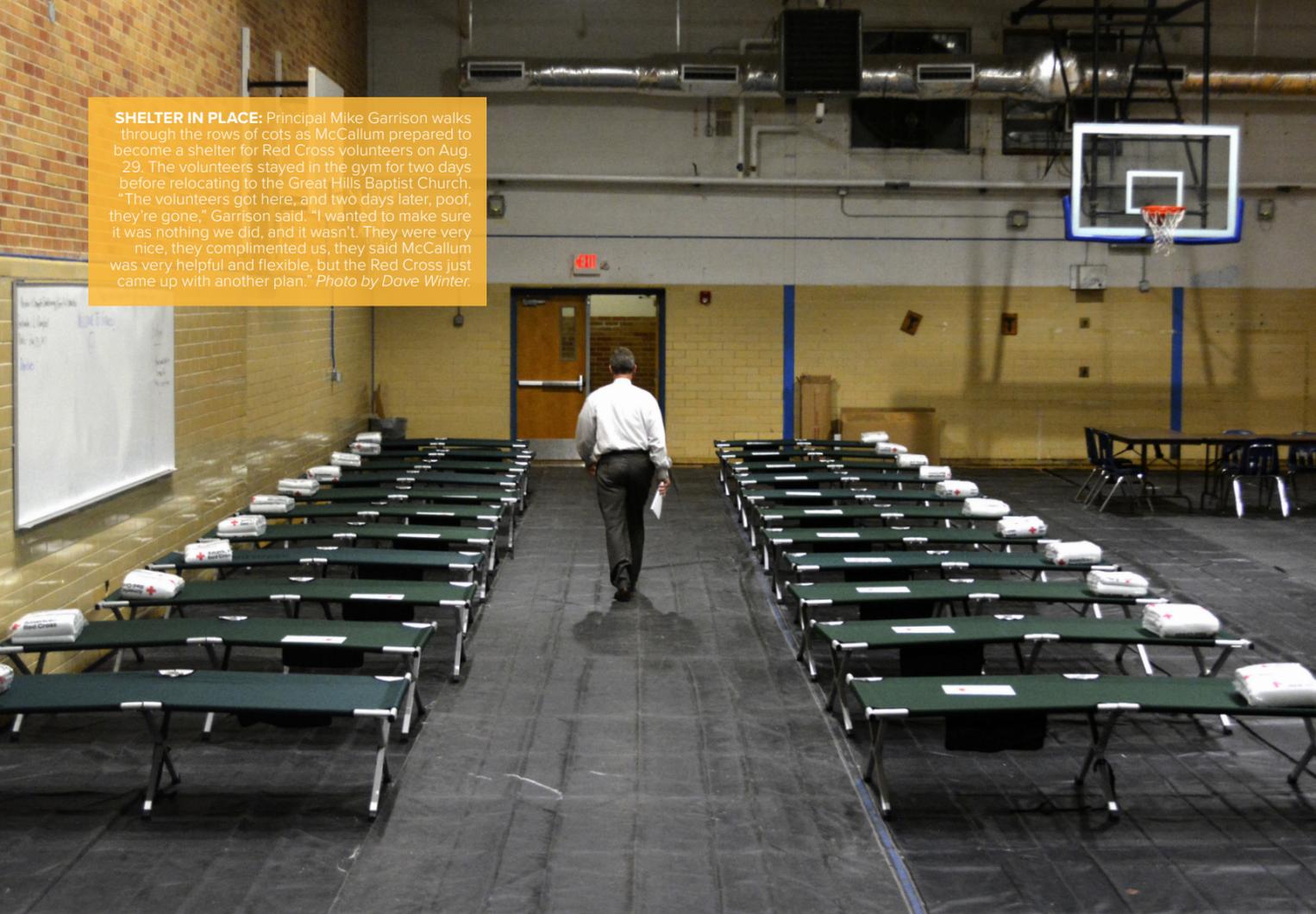


**SHELTER IN PLACE:** Principal Mike Garrison walks through the rows of cots as McCallum prepared to become a shelter for Red Cross volunteers on Aug. 29. The volunteers stayed in the gym for two days before relocating to the Great Hills Baptist Church. "The volunteers got here, and two days later, poof, they're gone," Garrison said. "I wanted to make sure it was nothing we did, and it wasn't. They were very nice, they complimented us, they said McCallum was very helpful and flexible, but the Red Cross just came up with another plan." *Photo by Dove Winter.*



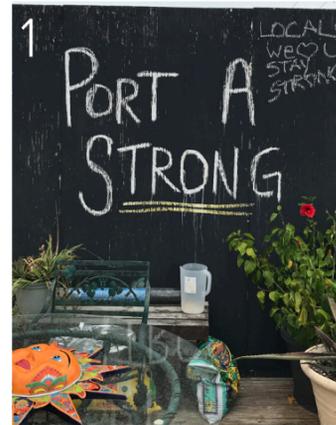
When Harvey hit, the Category 4 hurricane forced freshman Kai Kidd and his family to move to Austin from Port Aransas for safety.

"Right now, the whole town is unlivable," Kidd said upon arriving at McCallum, where he spent the fall semester. "There's a bunch of trash on the street, and most of the houses are flooded, and some are completely gone or demolished."

His arrival in the ATX was abrupt.

"When I first got here, I stayed for around five days at the Hyatt hotel and hung out with a couple of my other friends who came here," Kidd said. "We just hung out and hoped nothing terrible had happened. We were glued to the TV for a few days."

Instead of returning to Port Aransas, Kidd moved with his family to New Zealand at the end of the fall semester.



**1. STAYING STRONG:** Senior Kennedy Schuelke visited Port Aransas after the devastation of Harvey to check on her friends and her grandparents' residence there. "It's crazy because I go to Port Aransas all the time, and you never really think something like [Hurricane Harvey] is going to happen to you," Schuelke said. "When I first arrived, I was heartbroken. The whole town was completely ruined, and all the hard work and memories inside my house were gone, but it was really cool to see the whole town come together and work to rebuild the town." *Photo by Kennedy Schuelke.*

**2. EXTENSIVE DAMAGE:** Senior Maddie Doran shared this picture of some of the damage from Harvey in Bellaire, a suburb in Houston. Doran had friends living in Houston during Hurricane Harvey that affected their homes and neighborhoods greatly. *Photo by Hannah Goff.*



**Lily Morales**

The freshman and her family adopted a puppy from Austin Pets Alive during the chaos of Harvey. "[Luna] was from somewhere on the coast," Morales said. "Usually you get more information on the dog you adopt, but they had so many dogs that they weren't that particular about it."



**Annika Katz**

"It was a very big shock knowing water could get eight feet higher. Houses and highways have water all the way past up here. It was apocalyptic."



**Jane Farmer**

"[I] felt thankful that I had a way to get my loved ones here. Many people didn't. They could not have gotten in the car and driven."



**Ena Nolan**

"[My father] called us and said he was being deployed down to Katy, Texas. One of the [nuclear] plants exploded or was on the verge of exploding."

## lending a helping hand

In the wake of Harvey, McCallum opened its doors to the Red Cross, which housed volunteers in small gym

Between the rows upon rows of green cots that filled McCallum's small gym on Aug. 31, people clad in red vests bustled around carrying blankets or large boxes. The scene was a far cry from the gym on an average day, where one would likely see typical gym fare.

For two days, McCallum hosted Red Cross volunteers first arriving in Texas from all over country, sent by the organization for two weeks in order to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey's devastation.

As a Category 4 Hurricane Harvey, the biggest rainstorm (in terms of inches of rainfall) in the history of the continental United States, hit South Texas, around 70 Texans died and many were forced to evacuate amidst the flooding.

While they were here, the volunteers slept on cots and prepared supplies to aid evacuees arriving to Austin. These Red Cross employees arrived in Austin on Tuesday Aug. 28 and stayed in Texas for two weeks for their disaster deployment. They issued meals, set up shelters, provided supplies for the evacuees and sent people to South Texas to assist with evacuation and cleanup.

Connie Picard, a 50-year-old from Norfolk, Va., has volunteered in the Red Cross for two years, ever since

they helped her recover from a house fire and she decided to pay the good will forward. Acting as the site manager for this particular Red Cross station, she emphasized the severity of Harvey's damage, and that it could take years to recover from.

Disasters, she said, aren't just hard on the victims themselves. Picard said that while working with disaster victims is an incredibly rewarding task, it can also take a heavy emotional toll on a person.

"When we're working with clients we have to try to keep an upbeat attitude, but a lot of times, any Red Cross volunteer will tell you, you go back to where you're staying and you sit down and have a big cry," Picard said.

"A lot of folks who are coming to us have just lost everything in their lives: their homes, their clothing, some of them have lost pets that are like family to them. Children are completely traumatized and scared and affected mentally by everything they're going through, especially right now in Houston."

Picard added: "That's why we have mental care workers. They're specially trained to help not only the clients, but also the volunteers and the staff, deal emotionally with everything that's going on."

**1. RED MEETS BLUE:** Red Cross volunteers Nancy Rasmussen from California and Tom Erdmann of Michigan bring in cots to assemble in the small gym after school on Aug. 29. Erdmann and Rasmussen were two of four volunteers who arrived on campus to prepare the small gym to house Red Cross volunteers arriving in Austin to help evacuees displaced by Tropical Storm Harvey. Erdmann said that 4,000 new volunteers had arrived in Austin, Houston, and outlying areas all intent on volunteering until all evacuees are able to return to their homes. *Photo by Dave Winter.*

**2. PAY IT FORWARD:** Connie Picard of Norfolk, Va., was one of four Red Cross volunteers who set up a shelter for incoming volunteers who came to Austin to provide assistance to Harvey victims. The gym was set up for 79 volunteers, who continued to arrive throughout the night. "I was a victim of a house fire myself, and the Red Cross responded and gave me aid, and I decided that's one way I want to give back to my community," Picard said. "Normally, the Red Cross does disaster scales on a scale of one through seven. They've decided that what is happening right now in Texas is an eight." *Reporting by Sophie Ryland. Photo by Madison Olsen.*

**3. RESTING UP:** A volunteer rests on a cot in the small gym before heading off to help refugees in Austin's surrounding areas. *Photo by Madison Olsen.*



"I go to the University of Nebraska in Omaha, and this is my internship. It's been a week interning with them, and they said they had started deploying people to come help down here, and that's why I came here. I've met people from Virginia, Rhode Island, from Maine, from California, from Hawaii, and from just everywhere. This is the first place I've been, but another levy broke in Houston, so depending on what happens right now, they're just getting everything set up. If they need more people they might send us to Louisiana, Houston, Corpus Christi, or there's a storm going on at Rhode Island, too."

-Rafael Corrales  
Red Cross volunteer,  
interviewed on Aug. 30