

The HARI *Perspective*

Healthcare Heroes

Hospital and healthcare system workers are among the first to respond in the face of a crisis, often at their own personal risk, to provide their services to those in need. Over the past two weeks, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma left a path of destruction that will be felt for years to come. Homes were lost, but hope was not. When first responders were unable to respond to calls, neighbors and strangers alike came together to offer their assistance.

From human chains being formed to save neighbors from flood waters to healthcare workers riding out the hurricanes within their hospitals, everyone pitched in to provide their support to their communities. On a national level, relief funds were established to assist all those impacted by the hurricanes. Both the [Florida](#) and [Texas hospital associations](#) established hospital employee assistance funds, and HARI has donated to both.

Throughout each of the hurricanes, HARI Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dawn Lewis maintained contact with emergency preparedness coordinators at other hospital associations to offer advice, resources and coordination.

Although Hurricanes Harvey and Irma did not directly impact the shores of Rhode Island, the Healthcare Coalition of Rhode Island (HCRI), co-led by HARI and the Rhode Island Department of Health, utilized the opportunity to engage its partners in a review of local policies and procedures related to hurricane preparedness.