

Santa Fe Strong Fund Releases Draft Protocols to Distribute Santa Fe Strong Funds

**Announces Town Hall Meeting and Seeks Public Comment on Plan to
Distribute Donations to Victims and Families**

Santa Fe, Texas | June 26, 2018 – The Santa Fe Strong Fund published Draft Protocols which it proposes to govern the eligibility and distribution of charitable donations to the families of those killed, injured or held hostage in the horrific mass shooting at Santa Fe High School. It is asking for feedback from the public on the proposed rules.

The Santa Fe Strong Fund is a project operated under the 501(c)(3) of the Santa Fe Education Foundation. The Fund is governed by a local Steering Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Education Foundation. The National Compassion Fund (NCF) will administer the distribution of funds under an agreement with the Education Foundation.

In consultation with NCF, the Foundation has appointed local civic, business and community leaders to the Steering Committee to make policy and ensure that community and victim voices are heard. Members could NOT be: SFISD or school board members, Education Foundation employees or board members, elected government officials, an immediate family member of a SFHS student or staff (as they are potential beneficiaries). Numerous members are SFHS alumni and parents of SFISD students. Members of the Steering Committee are:

1. Debbie Abney – SFHS graduate and retired SFISD occupational therapist
2. Billy Burns – SFHS graduate and Valero maintenance manager
3. Ginnetta Coker – Parent of SFISD students and small business owner
4. Niki Cronk – SFHS graduate and nurse practitioner/owner of a family medicine clinic
5. Clint DeGroot – SFHS graduate and pastor at Dominion Church
6. Amanda Garcia (Recording Secretary) – Parent of SFISD students and space industry engineer
7. Don Gartman – Retired utility company executive and COM trustee
8. Erica Garza – SFHS graduate and insurance agent/owner
9. Rosetta Gibbs – Parent of SFISD students, small business manager and leader of the Hayley's Buddy Benches project at SFISD
10. Keith Gray- SFHS graduate and CenterPoint Energy service area director
11. Fidencio Leija – SFHS graduate, Navy Veteran and Farmers Insurance Agent
12. Robin Reid – SFHS graduate, local business owner and HIS Ministries volunteer
13. Phil Roberts – Probate lawyer and serves on numerous non-profit boards
14. Danelle Tibaldo (Chair) – SFHS graduate, parent of SFHS graduate, legal assistant, Galveston County Fair and Rodeo board member, and Registered Nurse
15. Shardale Villareal – SFHS graduate and community fundraiser
16. Gaddis Wittjen – Business leader in real estate
17. Rebecca Wright – Grant writer, NASA history author, and parent of SFHS graduates

The Draft Protocols propose to provide benefits to families of deceased, injured, and students and faculty present in the art labs where the shooting occurred. An online application and verification process is proposed which will begin on July 24 and end on August 31. Any eligible person seeking benefits must submit an application by the August 31 deadline. The Committee proposes keeping the fund open for donation until

September 30 to allow sufficient time for corporations to donate. Distribution of benefits would take place in early October.

A Town Hall meeting will be held on Thursday, July 12 at 7:00 pm at Ed Pickett Hall at the Galveston County Fairgrounds, 10 Jack Brooks Road, Hitchcock, Texas, to provide information on the Santa Fe Strong Fund, accept feedback on the Draft Protocols, and answer questions. Public Feedback can also be provided to the Committee by sending an email to SantaFeStrong@victimsofcrime.org. The deadline for submitting public comments is July 16, 2018. The draft protocols are posted at www.nationalcompassionfund.org.

The National Compassion Fund was founded in collaboration with parents and family members from some of the worst mass casualty events in U.S. history – September 11th, Columbine, Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple and Newtown. Unlike other charitable funds, 100% of donations are distributed directly to the established victim base of these terrible atrocities. The National Compassion Fund has the experience to help victims navigate this process, and to treat victims with the respect and dignity they deserve. NCF also preserves the intent of donors who want to know that their gift is going directly to those harmed and will not be used for other purposes.

To make a contribution, you can donate online at <https://texasfirst.bank/about-us/blog/santa-fe-strong-fund>, in-person at any Texas First Bank banking center or my mail. Checks should be payable to Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation and mailed to Texas First Bank, Santa Fe Strong Fund, P.O. Box 608, Santa Fe, TX 77510. You can also donate at nationalcompassionfund.org.

About Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation

The Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation was established in 2010 as a non-profit organization that supports Santa Fe ISD students. Our mission is to unite the Santa Fe community in support of quality public education. Funds for the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation are maintained separately from the Santa Fe Strong Fund and independently from the school district.

About the National Compassion Fund

The National Compassion Fund is a subsidiary of the National Center for Victims of Crime, the nation's leading resource and advocacy organization for crime victims and those who serve them. The National Center for Victims of Crime is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and an authority on how victims are compensated for loss. The National Compassion Fund has lead distributions to victims of mass events in Fort Hood, Chattanooga, Orlando, Las Vegas, Charlottesville and Parkland, Florida.

If you would like to receive updates on the Santa Fe Strong Fund, you may sign up to be on their contact list by visiting nationalcompassionfund.org and clicking on "Victim and Survivor Contact Form."