

UPDATE ON THE SANTA FE STRONG FUND FOR VICTIMS OF THE SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

100% of funds raised benefit victims' families, survivors and those impacted

SANTA FE, TX. | August 27, 2018— The National Compassion Fund, in partnership with the Santa Fe Education Foundation and the Santa Fe Strong Fund Steering Committee, have announced that eligible victims of the Santa Fe High School shooting should complete a registration process by September 10, 2018, to receive a benefit from the Santa Fe Strong Fund.

“On May 18, there was an immediate response from the public who wanted to start a fund to help the victims in Santa Fe,” said Danelle Tibaldo, chair of the Santa Fe Strong Fund Steering Committee. “We are grateful for all the donors, from Santa Fe, throughout Texas, and across the country. We are also thankful for all the work of the Steering Committee members, the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation and the National Compassion Fund. These people and organizations have volunteered their time and expertise to help our students and families through this horrible time.”

Although every student in Santa Fe High School was impacted by the tragedy of the shooting, the following are victims eligible to receive a gift from the Fund: Family members of deceased victims; Victims wounded by gunfire and requiring overnight hospitalization; Victims wounded by gunfire and treated on an emergency outpatient basis by May 21, 2018; and Victims present in the Art Classrooms of Santa Fe High School. The gift will be given without any restriction on their use. The families and recipients are in the best position to determine how these funds would be most beneficial to their healing.

Eligible victims should fill out an application by September 10, 2018, and only one application can be filled out per victim. Potential applicants can receive in-person assistance in filling out their applications at the Santa Fe Strong Resiliency Center, located in Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 13217 FM 1764, Santa Fe, TX, open Monday – Saturday 10 am - 7 pm, and Sunday 1 - 7 pm. They can also call 855-4VICTIM (855-484-2846) or e-mail SantaFeStrong@victimsofcrime.org with questions or concerns.

The Santa Fe Strong Resiliency Center is also the location for free counseling services available to ALL students, their families, and anyone impacted by the tragedy. To learn more, call 409-218-7129.

In response to the mass shooting, Santa Fe Education Foundation, National Compassion Fund and Texas First Bank is collaborating to serve victims by maximizing resources and ensuring a victim-centered, trauma informed transparent distribution process. Santa Fe Education Foundation, with the help of Texas First Bank, is serving as the central repository for the official Santa Fe Strong Fund. The National Compassion Fund is advising the committee, assisting with ongoing fundraising efforts and is administering the victim application and vetting processes to ensure a legal process. None of these entities will receive monetary gain for their services. 100% of the funds raised benefit eligible victims.

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About the Santa Fe Strong Fund Committee

The Santa Fe Strong Fund Steering Committee comprises local business, community, and civic leaders

who volunteer their time. The Santa Fe TX Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports Santa Fe ISD students. The Steering Committee is being assisted by the National Compassion Fund to adopt the protocol pursuant to which claims can be made, prioritized, and processed and funds distributed. The Santa Fe Strong Fund's mission is to distribute the funds that have been and will be contributed to assist the victims of May 18 in a transparent, equitable, and expeditious manner. The Fund will be used to assist families of the victims who were killed, victims who were physically wounded by gunfire, and victims who experienced psychological trauma while physically present in the Art Labs of Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, on May 18, 2018, during the attack.

About National Center for Victims of Crime

The National Compassion Fund is a subsidiary of the National Center for Victims of Crime.

For 30 years, the National Center for Victims of Crime has been 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.