



ROCKPORT, TEXAS

MAMMOTH TRAINING CENTER

PEOPLEFUND CDFI HELPS KICKBOXING CENTER KICK HURRICANE

HARVEY'S DEVASTATION

PEOPLEFUND CDFI



Mammoth Training Center After Hurricane Harvey

"PeopleFund needed to act fast to help fellow Texans...and we did. We made loan payments for existing clients, and rapidly deployed capital to small business owners determined to succeed against all odds."

Gary Lindner, President & CEO
PeopleFund

Recovering from a disaster is a long, traumatic, and expensive process for survivors and the communities in which they live. In distressed and underserved areas, where insurance or private financial resources are often unaffordable or unavailable, recovery is an even more daunting effort. While local, state, and federal government agencies provide critical support necessary for survival and rebuilding after disasters, many low-income families are unable to access these resources because of delays in securing necessary government approvals; an inability to qualify for assistance or loans; or a general lack of available assistance.

Corey Stringer and his wife Stephanie were enjoying much success after opening their Mammoth Training Center in Rockport, Texas—a fitness gym and store that also offered martial arts training. Unfortunately, disaster struck with the arrival of Hurricane Harvey on August 24, 2017. The Stringers experienced a total loss of their business when the Category 4 hurricane hit. "Hurricane Harvey completely demolished our facility and destroyed our inventory and fitness equipment," said Corey Stringer. They, like other small business owners in the area, faced the real possibility of not being able to recover and reopen. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center, Hurricane

CDFI Fund Lender:

PeopleFund

Community Profile: Rockport, Texas

- Population: 10,555
- Median Income: \$59,549
- 18.5% Poverty Rate
- 4.6% Unemployment Rate

Project Investment:

- \$25,000 Loan at 0% Interest– PeopleFund

Project Highlights:

- Receipt of working capital loan to rebuild business
- Expansion of business with ability to hire two full-time and two part-time staff
- Ability to offer additional training courses

Harvey caused \$125 billion in damage across the Louisiana and Texas Gulf Coast region.

Working quickly to aid small businesses impacted by Hurricane Harvey, PeopleFund—a certified CDFI headquartered in Texas—established the Hurricane Harvey Bounceback Loan. This small business loan product had a low-interest rate and expedited underwriting, which minimized delays in delivering resources to help small businesses recover quickly. PeopleFund also deployed mentors and staff that provided business planning, education, and support services.

Armed with a Hurricane Harvey Bounceback Loan for working capital, the Stringers were able to quickly move forward with their rebuilding efforts. They salvaged what equipment they could and spent a year finding and securing a new location. The loan enabled them to expand their business and hire two full-time and two part-time employees, expand their services to offer personal training, boxing, martial arts classes, and seminars from guest trainers, and restock inventory for their fitness store.

Through PeopleFund's work, entrepreneurs like the Stringers were given a lifeline when they needed it most. PeopleFund lent \$1,300,944 to 36 clients in response to Hurricane Harvey through the Hurricane Harvey Bounceback Loan, and paid \$429,730 (about six months of interest payments) on the existing loans of 90 clients who were impacted. A total of 126 businesses were helped, 90 within their current portfolio, and 36 which were not but needed funding to recover from the disaster.

PeopleFund is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established in 1994. It is a U.S. Treasury, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) Certified CDFI and Small Business Administration (SBA) certified lender. PeopleFund provides business loans up to \$350,000 to Texas businesses that do not qualify for bank loans. Their target market is minority, women, and veteran business owners, and those residing in low to moderate income census tracts. 59% of current loans are to startups and nonprofit organizations.

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