

General Public Restaurant To Bring Special Food Delivery to Aid Homeless Youth at Covenant House In Houston

Covenant House International President Kevin Ryan To Visit To Assess Damage and Plan Recovery Efforts

Houston, TX, September 2, 2017 -- On Tuesday September 5th, the General Public Restaurant will make a very special delivery of food to support the 80 homeless young people living at Covenant House in Houston in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

“This could not come at a better time for our kids,” said Leslie Bourne, Executive Director of Covenant House Texas. “I am so grateful to Susan Wu, the general manager of The General Public, for her ongoing support and partnership. Like all Houstonians, we are struggling with the magnitude of what has happened to our city. But I have also been overwhelmed by the goodness and selflessness of people like Susan and our friends at The General Public, who are reaching out to our homeless kids when they need it most.

“What makes this delivery on Tuesday even more special is that one of the employees of the General Public is a former resident of Covenant House,” said Bourne. “Throughout this tragedy, I’ve been inspired by our young people, their goodness, their resilience. I have never been prouder of our kids and our mission at Covenant House.”

Covenant House Texas cared for 80 homeless young people during the height of the hurricane and flooding last week. “Leslie and her amazing staff here in Houston are the reason our kids are safe,” said Covenant House International President Kevin Ryan, who will be in Houston on Tuesday to assess the damage to the Covenant House shelter and work with the Covenant House Houston team on recovery efforts. “Leslie and her staff worked around the clock for our homeless kids, even as some of them dealt with major damage and losses to their homes and property. Like so many Houstonians, they are heroes, all of them, though none would claim the title I’m sure.

“The damage to our shelter has been severe,” said Ryan. “There were leaks throughout the residence and the water came through the roof, floors and foundation. Carpets have been removed, dry wall taken down, and ceilings caved in our our cafeteria. This is home for our kids, and need help to make it safe and warm and dry for them.

“I am concerned about the morale of the kids and staff in Houston,” said Ryan. “We learned about trauma and loss in Florida, New Orleans and the Jersey Shore when members of our staff lost their homes in storms. We must be family for these kids when they need us most.”

In addition to the local support in Houston from partners like The General Public Restaurant, support for Covenant House Texas has come from all over the country. Long time supporter Jon Bon Jovi and his Soul Foundation donated \$50,000 for recovery efforts. Broadway star Audra McDonald, Chelsea Clinton, New Jersey Senator Cory

Booker, Michael Chernow, Kate Walsh, Ashton Kutcher, Martina McBride and many more have reached out to support the youth at Covenant House.

“We are overwhelmed and blessed as a Covenant House family for the support we’ve received, from our friends in the entertainment community, to political leaders, to the thousands of individuals across the country who have been touched by the goodness of our kids and made financial sacrifices to help us during this crisis,” said Ryan.

“We are all Houstonians in an important way. We won't stop until your state is vital and vibrant again and has achieved something unprecedented and great: ending youth homelessness. Until that day, Texas is home to Covenant House.

Media are invited to the Covenant House program at 1111 Lovett Blvd. on Tuesday as The General Public Restaurant delivers food to the homeless youth at Covenant House. Interviews will be available with Covenant House International President Kevin Ryan, Covenant House Texas Executive Director Leslie Bourne, and with Covenant House residents and staff.

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