



Jessie Ball duPont Fund pledges \$250,000 to relief effort

By Special to The Star

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The trustees of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund have pledged \$250,000 to the Salvation Army for immediate support of the organization's relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Michael.

Through its emergency disaster response teams, the Salvation Army is providing mobile feeding sites and shower trailers, helping Florida's Gulf Coast residents secure access to food, water, personal hygiene and emotional care.

The Jessie Ball duPont Fund has a long-term interest in the Gulf Coast, particularly the town of Port St. Joe and surrounding Gulf County, which was one of the places Mrs. duPont called home. During her life, Mrs. duPont funded numerous organizations in Port St. Joe, and today the Fund honors her legacy with continued philanthropic support.

Representatives from the Fund are in active contact with grantees and community leaders in Port St. Joe to assess damage and identify opportunities for support.

"We're just beginning to understand the level of destruction in Port St. Joe and we know that coordinating resources will be a challenge," said Katie Ensign, senior program officer for the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. "We will continue to evaluate the needs and determine how the Fund will contribute to the area's long-term recovery."

The Jessie Ball duPont Fund works to expand access and create opportunity by investing in people, organizations and communities that were important to Jessie Ball duPont. The Fund has assets of \$309 million and has awarded more than \$376 million in grants since 1977.

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