

BOCA TIMES

SERVING BOCA RATON AND HIGHLAND BEACH

Hurricane Laura supply drive brings in truckload of donations

By Kari Barnett

South Floridians are all too familiar with the damages caused by a hurricane. The community has received help after storms and residents have reached out to help others, which was the case last year when Hurricane Dorian left a path of destruction in The Bahamas.

Now, with southwestern Louisiana dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Laura when it blew through Aug. 27 as a category 4 storm, a Boca Raton real estate agent has stepped up to help.

Lang Realty's Brian Battaglia, a native of the city of Lake Charles that was devastated by the hurricane, recently organized a relief effort to collect and deliver supplies to the area.

He received \$4,600 from Lang Realty and supplies, over \$2,300 in food items from Broken Sound, along with additional donations from Holistic Pet Cuisine, friends and family members.

"Lang Realty is proud of its team of agents who rallied together to help one of their own bring relief to his hometown and many friends and relatives who have been heavily impacted by this storm," Scott Agran, president of Lang Realty, said in a statement.

With an outpouring of support, Battaglia extended his original three-day collection period to five in order to receive as many donations as possible.

Some of the items collected were non-perishable foods (gallons of water, dry cereals, canned goods, peanut butter, bread, fruits, crackers, nuts, granola and energy bars); minimal-prep foods (rice, pasta, sauces, seasoning and oats); supplies (first-aid kits, toilet paper, moist toiles, garbage bags, dish soap, paper goods, food storage bags or containers, flashlights, bug repellent, rain gear, plastic tarps, rope, duct tape, manual can openers); pet supplies (pet food, water and food bowls); and baby supplies (diapers, wipes, formula or baby food, bottles, rash ointment).

Battaglia rented a large truck to transport the goods to Lake Charles.



BRIAN BATTAGLIA/COURTESY

Lang Realty's Brian Battaglia loads a truck with supplies to be driven to Lake Charles, Louisiana where they will be distributed to victims of Hurricane Laura.