

**Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation Partners with the National Compassion Fund to  
Distribute Santa Fe Strong Funds**

100% of donations collected will provide direct financial support to victims and families

Santa Fe, Texas | June 5, 2018 – The Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation, in close coordination with GoFundMe, announced an agreement with the National Compassion Fund (NCF), a subsidiary of the National Center for Victims of Crime, to develop and implement a fund distribution plan to provide direct financial support to the families of those killed and injured in the horrific tragedy at Santa Fe High School on May 18, 2018.

In response to this tragedy, the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation, the National Compassion Fund and GoFundMe are collaborating to serve victims by maximizing resources and ensuring a victim-centered, transparent distribution process. The Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, will serve as the central repository for the Santa Fe Strong Fund, and a local steering committee will be responsible for setting the fund’s distribution policy. The National Compassion Fund, a leading authority on how victims are compensated for loss, will advise the committee, assist with ongoing fundraising efforts, administer victim application and vetting processes, and coordinate the distribution of proceeds from the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation’s official campaign, other fundraisers, and third-party donation sources. GoFundMe will advise the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation and support both ongoing fundraising and distribution of proceeds to victims and their families. 100% of the donations will be distributed directly to the victims and their families.

In consultation with NCF, the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation has formed the steering committee that includes local leaders to ensure that the voices of the victims are heard, as they are integral to the distribution process. Experts with experience in mass crime victim compensation and the needs of crime victims will also be asked to serve in a volunteer capacity. The fund and committee are completely transparent, and the committee will inform the public of its deliberations in the distribution of funds.

To make a contribution, you can **donate online** to the [Santa Fe Strong Fund](#), **in-person** at any Texas First Bank banking center or **by mail** (checks should be payable to Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation), and mailed to Texas First Bank, Santa Fe Strong Fund, P.O. Box 608, Santa Fe, TX 77510.

“Our hearts go out to the students, teachers, their families, and the entire Santa Fe High School community,” said Jeffrey Dion, Executive Director of the National Compassion Fund. “The National Compassion Fund is honored to join forces with the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation and GoFundMe to increase charitable giving and help meet the overwhelming

needs of victims of mass shootings. We stand in solidarity with all of those impacted by gun violence.”

Additional details will be provided about the distribution plan as soon as possible. The committee will receive public input and will keep the community updated about how the funds will be delivered.

The National Compassion Fund was founded in collaboration with parents and family members from some of the worst mass casualty events in U.S. history – September 11<sup>th</sup>, Columbine, Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University, Aurora, Oak Creek Sikh Temple and Newtown. Unlike other charitable funds, 100% of donations are distributed directly to the established victim base of these terrible atrocities. The National Compassion Fund has the experience to help victims navigate this process, and to treat victims with the respect and dignity they deserve. NCF also preserves the intent of donors who want to know that their gift is going directly to those harmed and will not be used for other purposes.

#### **About Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation**

The Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports Santa Fe ISD students. Our mission is to unite the Santa Fe community support of quality public education. Funds for the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation are maintained separately from the Santa Fe Strong Fund at Texas First Bank, and are also maintained independently from the school district.

#### **About the National Compassion Fund**

The National Compassion Fund is a subsidiary of the National Center for Victims of Crime, 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. The National Compassion Fund has led distributions to victims of mass events in Fort Hood, Chattanooga, Orlando, Las Vegas, Charlottesville and Parkland, Florida.

#### **About GoFundMe**

Launched in 2010, GoFundMe is the world’s largest free social fundraising platform, with over \$5 billion raised so far. With a community of more than 50 million donors, GoFundMe is changing the way the world gives. Find us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).