

PRACTICE

Building Character Through Soccer



PRACTICE

Compassion:

Deep awareness of the suffering of another and doing something to help
Synonyms: mercy, kindness, empathy, benevolence

Compassion Story

This year there has been multiple natural disasters, hurricanes, floods, fires and tornadoes that have caused tremendous hardship from Florida to California. One of the most noted natural disasters, hurricane Harvey, affected the gulf coast of Texas and the Houston area. It reached the gulf coast on August 25, 2017 and left in its path 91 people who died and over \$200 billion in property damage.

JJ Watt, 4-time NFL All-Pro defensive end for the Houston Texans, felt he needed to do something compassionate for the victims of Harvey. Starting on Sunday, August 28th, he set out a goal of raising a goal of \$200,000 to be distributed and utilized for the benefit of victims. Within two hours, that goal was reached, and he reset the goal to \$500,000. The goal kept getting surpassed as each hour and day ended. By August 30th, Watt tweeted at 11:56 am that the fund is over \$6 million, and then he set a new goal of \$10 million.

“Everything is bigger in Texas, so I am raising the goal,” Watt said via Twitter. “Please keep donating. I can’t thank you enough. Everything little thing helps. Just because the storm is receding doesn’t mean we can stop raising money.”

Watt said the money will go directly to victims in Houston and the surrounding areas. “We’re using the money to purchase water, generators, clothing, cleaning supplies, things like that.” Watt said. Watt closed out the Harvey fund raising on September 15 at \$37,131,917 from 209,429 separate donors.

On Twitter, Watt said, “There are not enough words to thank you all for your generosity. If there is one thing that I have take away from these last few weeks, it is the reassurance of how much good is out there in our world. When times are the toughest, humanity stands at is strongest and you have all helped to prove that emphatically.”

Because of the compassionate work of JJ Watt, he was named the NFLPA’s Community MVP which he will be a semi-finalist of the Byron “Whizzer” White Award, which is given annually by the NFLPA to recognize charitable work of players.

