

Dear Ms. Farris,

My name is Samantha. I am 9 years old and belong to St. Tammany 4-H Club. My horse's name is Max. He is a paint horse that does Western and English. I love him very much.

He was at the barn near our house when the hurricane came. My mom and I stayed home because my grandparents that live near us are too sick to go anywhere. My grandfather needs dialysis three times a week.

It was very scary when the hurricane came. My mom and I hid in our laundry room and put blankets over us. I could hear the noise outside and trees were crashing on my house.

Then we could not get out because trees blocked all the doors and windows. I got big clippers and started to help my mom cut away branches and started calling for help. Neighbors helped us get out but there was water everywhere and it was deep. So we couldn't tell if my grandparents were ok but they were even though the house they were in had holes in the roof and water in it.

Max's barn got holes in it too. He had to go to the barn and live with strangers for a while. They said he swam every day in a pond but some horse bit him on the back because they didn't like him. He is okay now.

My school closed so I had to leave my home and family and stay with my aunts in Houston, TX and I went to school there too. Things are better now but some of my friends have moved for good. I hope this never happens again.

Thank you so much for the money you helped collect for our club. You made us feel so good and lucky to have friends like you in 4-H.

Samantha Niemeck