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10/26/18

LA 7

This Texas Hero Saved 17 Lives

In late August 2017, Hurricane Harvey devastated Texas and Louisiana. A boy named Virgil Smith or VJ, live with his mom and older sister. Virgil was playing video games and talking on the phone with his friend Keshawn. Virgil didn't know that the hurricane was going to be this bad. Virgil said, "There was water everywhere it started rising until it was nearly as high as the door."

Keshawn, who lives in the same apartment and called Virgil saying, "VJ, we can't swim, can you come to help me and my family?" Virgil then remembered that he had a blown up mattress in his closet. Virgil heard screaming, so he went to help three more times. One time, he helped an older lady who had a puppy, so Virgil helped them and brought them to the group.

After the hurricane, Virgil and his family lost everything. They had to live in a hotel for six months and the estimated cost to rebuild everything would be one hundred and twenty-five billion dollars. Virgil bravery and calmness helped many people in his apartment. Now Virgil wants to keep helping people, so he wants to join the Marine. Virgil says, "Remember, you don't have to be an adult to make a difference."