



Rice University's Special Fall Summit

Look for the Helpers, Listen for the Stories

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SCHOOL LITERACY & CULTURE

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers, you will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world." – Mr. Rogers

As early childhood educators, we know that children look to us as helpers and desperately need opportunities to engage in meaningful conversation about Hurricane Harvey. We must ask ourselves, "How can we create safe spaces for our children to share their stories?" Research tells us that young children learn and heal through play. Play offers children open-ended opportunities to engage in extended conversation and express their emotions in a safe environment.

Dr. Patsy Cooper, award-winning author and researcher will share what is certain to be a poignant keynote address: *Look for the Helpers and Other Things We Want Them to Know: Letters from Teachers to Their Children Post-Harvey*. In her remarks, Patsy will incorporate experiences in working with children in New York post-9/11 and Hurricane Sandy.

Breakout sessions will center on practical, hands-on activities that create safe spaces for children to talk with their teachers. Participants will take home a tote of resources and classroom materials that encourage both teachers and children to discover the power of story to heal.

Special Fall Summit Details

Date: Oct. 14, 2017

Schedule: Registration: 7:45-8:15 a.m.; Conference: 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Location: Rice campus

Fee: Special reduced rate- \$25 (For scholarship information, please contact Emily Merriweather at emilymerri@rice.edu)

Professional Development Hours: 4

Visit literacy.rice.edu to learn more and register today.

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