

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2017

Contact: Heidi Mahoney, Community Relations Officer
Mosaic in Southeast Texas
Office: 281.257.5430
Cell: 713.791.3794
heidi.mahoney@mosaicinfo.org

Volunteer Firefighter, an Individual with Disabilities, Joins Hurricane Harvey Rescue Efforts

SPRING, Texas – Marcus Capozzelli – brother, son, Pizza Hut delivery person, volunteer firefighter and person with intellectual and developmental disabilities – stepped up to support his community during Hurricane Harvey.

As wind and rain barraged the Houston area, Capozzelli was on-hand at Needham Fire & Rescue preparing meals and taking calls. As search and rescue needs increased, Capozzelli joined in recovery efforts and helped transport people out of flood zones to safety.

Capozzelli, a self-described natural first responder, said coming to the aid of others is just what he does.

“I have a big heart,” Capozzelli said. “I don’t care what color you are or what race you are, I’m going to help you no matter what.”

Capozzelli, 28, grew up in a firefighting household, so his inclination to lend a hand runs deep. His father, a career firefighter who retired from Needham Fire & Rescue, would take Capozzelli and his older brother, now a firefighter himself, out on rescues as kids.

The CPR-certified Capozzelli said he started volunteering with the fire department himself as early as his freshmen year of high school.

Though his disabilities have made it difficult for him to pass the written tests required to become a full-time firefighter, he serves the needs of his community in a variety of ways. In addition to volunteering at the fire department, he builds fences, does yard work and is often the first on the scene of accidents in the neighborhood.

Deborah Fulgham, a Mosaic contract worker and Capozzelli’s longtime advocate, said, “Helping others is just embedded in his soul.”

With Fulgham’s help, Capozzelli continues to pursue his goals. In May of this year, he earned his probationary shield from the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department, and he is currently studying for the Firefighter 1 Exam. To help with his reading comprehension skills and to improve his chances of passing the test, Fulgham has arranged for Capozzelli to begin speech pathology soon.

Always moving forward, Capozzelli said, “If I want it, I’m going to get it.”

###

About Mosaic

Mosaic provides disability support services to more than 3,700 people – including more than 60 people in Southeast Texas – through programs in 10 states. Services are tailored to meet individual needs and goals, and range from residential and medical services through job coaching and teaching independent living skills. Mosaic is an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a member of Lutheran Services in America and the American Network of Community Options and Resources, and a founding member of IMPACT, an international alliance. Mosaic is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information visit www.mosaicinfo.org.