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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

*At the heart of community. Giving to the future.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Bama Rising Fund announces \$340,000 in grants for repairing, rebuilding and furnishing homes**

The Bama Rising Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham is awarding an additional \$340,000 to repair, rebuild and furnish homes for **75 families in 12 counties** devastated by April 2011 tornadoes. Including this third round of grants, this Advised Fund of the Community Foundation has awarded a total of \$940,000 in 18 counties out of \$2.1 million raised in a June 2011 benefit concert organized and headlined by the band ALABAMA. Current grants are:

- **\$100,000** to support rebuilding and repairing homes through the Cullman Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC), through a grant to United Way of Cullman County.
- **\$125,000** to support rebuilding, repairing and furnishing homes in the nine counties served by the Long-Term Recovery Committee of West Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Pickens and Sumter counties), through a grant to the Community Foundation of West Alabama.
- **\$100,000** to support rebuilding, repairing and furnishing homes with the assistance of volunteer labor, through a grant to United Way of East Central Alabama. Families were identified with pressing needs, including the elderly, single parents and families with special needs children, as part of a recent community assessment through the Calhoun County Long-Term Recovery Committee.
- **\$15,000** to rebuild homes through a grant to Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County, working with the Morgan County Long-Term Recovery Committee.

"It 's absolutely wonderful that the people have responded so rapidly and we can give back to the people that have lost so much. I love my home state, and most of all I love the spirit and determination of its people," said Randy Owen of the band ALABAMA.

"Long Term Recovery Committees across the state are working to leverage grants from the Bama Rising Fund and other tornado recovery funds of the Community Foundation, using donated labor and materials whenever possible to serve as many families as possible," said Gus Heard-Hughes, Director of Initiatives for the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham.

**Background:** The Bama Rising Fund was established as an Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. Grants are made through an Advisory Committee which includes representatives of the band ALABAMA, concert promoters and the Community Foundation. The Bama Rising benefit concert, organized by the band ALABAMA and held on June 14, 2011, raised \$2.1 million for the Fund through ticket sales and the donation of in-kind services, talent and dollars by promoters, artists and sponsors. Grants totaling \$250,000 were awarded in July, \$350,000 in September and \$340,000 in November 2011.

**About the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham:**

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham is the oldest and largest community foundation in Alabama, dedicated to driving positive change, leveraging gifts from donors and improving the life of the Birmingham region. As of November 4, 2011, The Community Foundation has received gifts of \$3.26 million into all tornado recovery funds, including Bama Rising, and awarded grants totaling \$1.36 million to support long-term tornado recovery needs of individuals, families and communities in the

Birmingham region and across the state. **For more information**, contact Emily Jones Rushing at 205-327-3806 or 873-0942 or [erushing@foundationbirmingham.org](mailto:erushing@foundationbirmingham.org) or go to [www.foundationbirmingham.org](http://www.foundationbirmingham.org).

**About ALABAMA (the group):**

With a career to date that has resulted in 21 Gold, Platinum and multi-Platinum albums, 42 number one singles and over 73 million records sold, ALABAMA has received over 150 industry awards including 8 country music "Entertainer of the Year" honors, 2 Grammys, 2 People's Choice Awards and their very own star on the "Hollywood Walk of Fame." The band most recently received the Academy of Country Music's Pioneer Award in 2003 and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2005. Members Randy Owen, Teddy Gentry and Jeff Cook all hail from Ft. Payne, Alabama, and have enjoyed more than 30 years of unprecedented success. **For more information, contact** Gaines Sturdivant at Red Light Management in Charlottesville, Va., at 434-245-4900 or [gaines@redlightmanagement.com](mailto:gaines@redlightmanagement.com).