

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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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 \$350,000 in grants to help with unmet tornado recovery needs**

The Advisory Committee for the Bama Rising Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham is awarding \$350,000 to repair, rebuild and furnish homes in devastated communities. This is the second round of grants from this Advised Fund, established with more than \$2 million in proceeds from a June 2011 benefit concert organized and headlined by the band ALABAMA.

Grants are coordinated with Long-Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs) established across Alabama, using a case management system to meet long-term needs across Alabama. Current grant awards include:

- **HERO (Hale Empowerment and Revitalization Organization), \$75,000** to support construction of volunteer-built homes in Hale, Marengo, and Sumter counties.
- **Walker Area Community Foundation, \$75,000** to provide roofing materials to support volunteer teams repairing homes in Walker County.
- **Upper Sand Mountain Parish** (for the Jackson/DeKalb LTRC), **\$60,000** to help in completing construction on homes destroyed or damaged by the tornadoes, with labor done by volunteers.
- **United Way of Marshall County**, on behalf of the Marshall County Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC), **\$65,000** to rebuild and provide furniture and appliances for homes damaged or destroyed by the tornadoes.
- **Greater Birmingham Habitat for Humanity, \$75,000** for home repairs and rebuilding and support of low-income individuals and families in Jefferson County in their transition to home ownership.

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 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 through grants, leveraging donor giving to meet community needs and working with other organizations to collaborate and bring resources together. The Community Foundation has experience in distributing donations in previous disasters, including tornadoes in 1998 and 2002 and following the evacuation of survivors of Hurricane Katrina survivors to the Birmingham area in 2005. **For more information**, contact Emily Jones Rushing at 205-327-3806 or 873-0942 or erushing@foundationbirmingham.org or go to 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.