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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Alabama Tornado Recovery Fund receives first major gift:**

**\$100,000 from Medical Properties Trust**

*New fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham supports long-term needs across the state through 10 local community foundations*

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham has announced the first major gift to the Alabama Tornado Recovery Fund, which was established on April 29 in collaboration with 10 Alabama community foundations and is housed at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. Medical Properties Trust, a real estate investment trust headquartered in Birmingham, has donated \$100,000 toward meeting long-term needs in all the communities impacted by the April 27 tornadoes

"A gift of this size provides such a boost to our state and serves as an inspiration to others," said Community Foundation president Kate Nielsen. "Ed Aldag and the other leaders of Medical Properties Trust show their understanding of the long-term needs associated with a disaster of this magnitude. We look forward to deploying their gift effectively in cooperation with our fellow community foundations across Alabama."

Edward K. Aldag, Jr., chairman, president and CEO of Medical Properties Trust, said, "The devastation from last week's tornadoes was unlike any that we had ever seen, and some of our employees experienced it first hand – through damage to their homes, or their family's complete loss of everything."

"There has been an incredible outpouring of support to meet immediate needs," Aldag noted, "but we wanted to think longer term – to help people get back on their feet. The Community Foundation's new Alabama Tornado Recovery Fund enables us to make a difference in communities all across the state."

Housing the Alabama Tornado Recovery Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham follows a model used by community foundations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The 10 community foundations serving the affected areas are:

Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham  
Black Belt Community Foundation  
Central Alabama Community Foundation  
Community Foundation of Greater Decatur  
Community Foundation of East Alabama  
Community Foundation of Huntsville/Madison County  
Limestone Area Community Foundation  
Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama  
Walker Area Community Foundation

Community Foundation of West Alabama

“We are fortunate to be in position to make this leading contribution, and we hope many other companies will follow our lead with major gifts of their own,” Aldag said, whose company invests in hospital real estate across the nation. “It is critical that other businesses contribute to make this community strong again.”

For gifts on line, choose this option from the DONATE NOW button on the Community Foundation website at [www.foundationbirmingham.org](http://www.foundationbirmingham.org)

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