



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

At the heart of community. Giving to the future.

Emergency Response Fund Report

May 31, 2011

BACKGROUND

In the wake of the April 27, 2011, tornadoes in the state of Alabama, the **Community Foundation's Emergency Response Fund is dedicated to the long term unmet needs of tornado survivors living in Jefferson, Blount, Walker and St. Clair counties.** The Emergency Response Fund will follow the unmet needs model that was developed by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation following the 1995 federal building bombing. The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham successfully followed the unmet needs model after the 1998 tornadoes in Oak Grove, AL, and again following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Your gift into the Fund will be used in partnership with a \$200,000 lead gift of from the Community Foundation to support individuals and families after their immediate needs have been met.

We are so grateful for your generosity and are looking forward to updating you as we work to provide support to those in need. Since the tornadoes struck in April, the Community Foundation has been at work with agencies throughout our region. Below are some key activities and statistics:

- The Emergency Response Fund has received 36 gifts totaling \$280,756.
- The Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC), with the United Way of Central Alabama as the lead agency, convened on May 13, 2011, and is meeting weekly to ensure the availability of professional case managers and to determine a process to transition from the current emergency phase to the long term unmet needs phase. Other members of the LTRC include the Salvation Army, Red Cross, City of Birmingham, mental health organizations, the local faith-based community and the Community Foundation.
- The current focus of the LTRC is to ensure FEMA registration by all tornado victims. This is critical not only for the support it provides to individuals, but because registration numbers will determine the extent of the long term FEMA support Alabama will receive.
- FEMA has committed two years of funding for professional case managers in all 43 counties affected by the storms. This is critical to the LTRC's work.
- The LTRC is in communication with FEMA and other first-responder agencies in order to determine when emergency resources will be fully expended, at which time the LTRC is expected to immediately begin case management and fund distribution.