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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

At the heart of community. Giving to the future.

Six months after tornadoes, Community Foundation recovery grants pass \$1 million mark

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham has made grants totaling \$1,019,913 for tornado recovery in 22 counties across Alabama, leveraging gifts from individuals, families, businesses and foundations, locally and across the nation, and fundraising efforts such as the Bama Rising benefit concert. In addition, during the first days after the April 27 tornadoes, \$237,000 in grants from Advised Funds of the Community Foundation went out to first-responders such as Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Within the first week after the disaster, the Community Foundation established the Alabama Tornado Recovery Fund for long-term unmet needs statewide, in cooperation with other community foundations. The Community Foundation also committed \$200,000 from Community Funds for long-term recovery efforts in the Birmingham region.

Overall, the tornado recovery funds of the Community Foundation have received gifts totaling \$3.26 million and awarded the following:

- \$332,790 in grants for long-term recovery within Birmingham region.
 - Building, repairing and/or furnishing homes for families in three counties
 - Supporting case management in the Birmingham region
 - Community planning/rebuilding (Pratt City)
- \$687,123 in grants for long-term recovery outside Birmingham region.
 - Building, repairing and/or furnishing homes for families in 19 counties
 - Supporting case management in 17 counties

These totals are based on work that has already been completed, is under way or is projected by the organizations receiving the grants. Some of this work also may be included in cases reported by the Central Alabama Long Term Recovery Committee, of which the Community Foundation is a member.

“Through our partnerships with community foundations, United Ways and Long Term Recovery Committees statewide, we know that needs are still great,” said Kate Nielsen, President of the Community Foundation. “Recovery is a long process, and the people of our state deserve continued support from all of us as they rebuild their lives and livelihoods.”

Gifts are still coming in to the tornado funds within the Community Foundation, with some donors focusing on needs in the Birmingham region through the Emergency Response Fund and some choosing to give for statewide needs through the Alabama Tornado Recovery Fund. Based on recovery efforts so far and including contributions by other funders, an average of \$5,000 is necessary for rebuilding, repairing or furnishing a home for one family.

“The range is typically from \$1,000 for furnishings to \$10,000 to complete a rebuilding project, often with volunteer labor and donated materials to stretch every dollar, as well as contributions from other funders around the table,” said Gus Heard-Hughes, Director of Initiatives for the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham.

“Community Foundation grants also support case managers who help individuals and families make plans for their future and for organizations that provide assistance in community planning efforts.”

Tornado recovery planning efforts also have led to partnerships among private foundations and community foundations to address other long-term needs.

- Jessie Ball Dupont Disaster Relief, Recovery and Rebuilding Fund and Annie E. Casey Foundation provided funding for a Tornado Response Team from Legal Services Alabama to assist individual storm survivors, unincorporated communities and municipalities in legal matters related to the disaster.
- Alabama Giving, the state's regional association of grantmakers; Jesse Ball Dupont Foundation; Housing Assistance Council, and Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises are partners in upcoming affordable housing efforts, starting with community workshops as early as December 2011.