**NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 26, 2023

Contact: Misti Pequignot, Weakley County Long Term Recovery Group Program Coordinator

**WEAKLEY COUNTY LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP UPDATE**

DRESDEN, Tenn. – The American Red Cross has announced a third phase of financial assistance to individuals and households impacted by the December 2021 tornadoes who are continuing to experience significant roadblocks to their recovery. Households who submit a form may be contacted by the American Red Cross to complete an application which will be reviewed for eligibility – households who meet eligibility criteria and are approved will receive a set assistance amount to support their ongoing recovery needs. Visit [redcross.org/2021tornadoes-help](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fredcross.org%2F2021tornadoes-help%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3rweyEugWxxLsK4k2T0HQNZX_DtAz2mBvw6FjRAZKnmLC9qqAh_4PrTFs&h=AT04CnSF80sVz_H4lLdnW4hpKjGoHwu1R--l0JUUlRxWK2ROh6xTgTKveUydxYtmPtnA3I-tFLMhJFC0bRnI4Oo_8oe9n1LY1reLhpIJ3R24SImbTASMAwE5r7tGHYVa68Kc&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT1HPJE-S21R8ssp-CpS2uk1IEICQkt4b3dOyDpMzcpWDlTxIxkV20kPAO1_l_D2CwIKsVUpn_b9QhsKDSBpGmGRmA5m5_Ldrg_mQRqL5jmoFeOTiXwxtyU_yMhxgl-6P79_zHxunRcS41bL6ejlRgBFkBizbdmiEej4l31yZ4R2K_PKX6g9lC5ROCwdXxURDTuHZ7yG8Plw) to determine your eligibility.

In honor of National Disaster Preparedness Month in September, Weakley County Long Term Recovery Group is partnering with Weakley County Emergency Management Agency and Northwest Tennessee Development District to host the Weakley County Community Disaster Preparedness Event. This family-friendly event will help Weakley County residents prepare for future disasters. The Weakley County Community Disaster Preparedness Event will take place September 9, 2023, at the Martin Recreational Complex in Martin, TN, from 10am – 12pm and will include representatives from local emergency services departments and their emergency vehicles, free weather radio distribution and programing, entertainment for children, and much more. Updated event information can be found on the Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/740289417898397>.

Individuals, businesses, and organizations are invited to serve as event sponsors, set up a vendor table, or volunteer at the Weakley County Community Disaster Preparedness Event. Please contact WCLTRG Program Coordinator, Misti Pequignot at [weakleypc@untedway.tn.org](mailto:weakleypc@untedway.tn.org) for details.

As of July 25, 2023, WCLTRG Allocations Committee has facilitated the payment of $332,147.89 to meet the needs of survivors in case management since its inception. Funding has been provided by Dresden Church of Christ, Dresden First Baptist Church, Dresden Rotary Club, Greenfield Church of Christ, Lebanon Church of Christ, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Weakley County Baptist Association, and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. These organizations provided an additional $200,920 in assistance to survivors prior to the creation of the WCLTRG in addition to food, toiletries, appliances, and clothing.

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| Auto | $11,077.65 |
| Construction | $71,455.89 |
| Furniture/Appliances | $70,805.95 |
| Home Repairs | $114,429.53 |
| Household | $900.63 |
| Housing | $19,445.00 |
| Services | $24,853.87 |
| Storage | $900.00 |
| Supplies | $16,714.23 |
| Personal Care | $1,565.14 |
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| **Total distributed through WCLTRG as of June 22, 2023** | **$332,147.89** |
| **Total distributed by funders prior to WCLTRG formation** | **$200,920.00** |
| **Total distributed to survivors by the funders** | **$533,067.89** |

The following case management update was provided by UMCOR on July 25, 2023:

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| --- | --- |
| Open Cases | 33 |
| Closed Cases | 120 |
| Awaiting Assignment to Case Manager | 0 |
| Repair and Rebuild projects in progress | 9 |

Volunteer groups from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and from the Kingswood United Methodist Church in the greater Chicago metropolitan area have contributed labor to construction projects on behalf of survivors. Over 800 hours of volunteer labor were provided by these two groups.

The Tornado Recovery Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to support survivors locally. The center is currently staffed by the Program Coordinator and two case managers. Walk-ins are welcome or you can contact the center by calling (731) 699-7913. Please visit [www.rebuildweakley.com](http://www.rebuildweakley.com) and <https://www.facebook.com/WCLTRG> for more information regarding disaster recovery in Weakley County.