**NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 22, 2022

Contact: Alisha Melton, Weakley County Long Term Recovery Group Co-Chair

**WEAKLEY COUNTY LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP UPDATE**

DRESDEN, Tenn. – The Weakley County Long Term Recovery Group (WCLTRG) has hired a Program Coordinator to serve in a full-time role overseeing the work of the group. Funding for the position comes from a Red Cross grant totaling $171,850 for use through June 30, 2023, to fund a WCLTRG Program Coordinator, a WCLTRG Construction Manager, lease storage space for donations, and expand the capacity for assistance. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) employs a construction manager who will assist the WCLTRG with construction estimates until the WCLTRG Construction Manager is hired.

As of October 22, WCLTRG Allocations Committee has facilitated the payment of $100,640 to meet the needs of survivors in case management since its inception. Funding has been provided by Dresden Church of Christ, Dresden Elks Lodge, Dresden First Baptist Church, Dresden Rotary Club, Greenfield Church of Christ, Lebanon Church of Christ, and the Weakley County Baptist Association. These organizations provided $200,920 in assistance to survivors prior to the creation of the WCLTRG in addition to food, toiletries, appliances, and clothing.

 The following case management update was provided by UMCOR on October 22, 2022:

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| Homeowners with Repair and/or Rebuild Needs | 15 |
| Renters with Relocation and/or Housing to be Determined | 15 |
| Closed Cases | 62 |
| Awaiting Assignment to Case Manager | 25 |
| Open Cases | 43 |

WCLTRG has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross to host an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer over the next year. The WCLTRG Program Coordinator will serve as the supervisor for the VISTA position which will be funded by the American Red Cross.

WCLTRG is planning a commemoration event for December 10, 2022, with Mike Carroll, chair of the Survivor Advocacy Committee, as the lead. More details will be forthcoming.

The 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 two case managers. Walk-ins are welcome or you can contact the center by calling (731) 699-7913.

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