

NEWS

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

WEAKLEY COUNTY LONG TERM RECOVERY GROUP UPDATE

DRESDEN, Tenn. – WCLTRG partnered with the Cascade Relief Team, the Community Foundation of Western Kentucky, and the American Red Cross to provide applications for tornado shelters to individuals residing in FEMA-recognized counties eligible for individual assistance from the December 2021 tornados. Eight tornado shelter installations in Weakley County are the result of this partnership.

As of December 10, 2023, the WCLTRG Allocations Committee has facilitated the payment of \$648,964 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, Tennessee-Western Kentucky United Methodists Conference, and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. These organizations provided an additional \$200,920 in immediate financial assistance to survivors prior to the creation of the WCLTRG in addition to distributing food, toiletries, appliances, and clothing.

Auto	\$15,982
Construction	\$343,142
Furniture/Appliances	\$86,425
Home Repairs	\$129,165
Household	\$1,104
Housing	\$21,545
Personal Care	\$1,880
Services	\$32,107
Storage	\$900

Supplies	\$16,715
Total distributed through WCLTRG	\$648,964
Total distributed by funders prior to WCLTRG formation	\$200,920
Total distributed to survivors by the funders	\$849,883

Several funding partners had time restrictions for use of funds in fulfilling requests. To use the maximum amount of funding most effectively, the WCLTRG utilized Lutheran Disaster Relief, the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, and American Red Cross grant funds in fulfilling case management requests. These funds had to be used by October 31, 2023, due to federal regulations, and would not be available for use after that date. The WCLTRG will now rely on the remaining funding organizations that did not have a time limit for use of funds to complete case management.

Case management for Weakley County long-term recovery is provided by the Tennessee-Western Kentucky United Methodist Church (TWKUMC) Disaster Recovery - UMCOR partner. Visit <https://twkumc.org/disaster-recovery/> to learn more about this organization which serves December 2021 tornado survivors in Lake, Gibson, Obion, and Weakley counties in Tennessee as well as Graves and Hickman counties in Kentucky. The following case management update was provided by TWKUMC on December 7, 2023:

Open Cases	24
Closed Cases	131
Awaiting Assignment to Case Manager	0
Construction projects initiated	12
Construction projects completed	11
Construction projects in progress	6

The Northwest Tennessee Development District and West Tennessee Legal Services invite the community to their joint event, “Before the Storm,” a free community discussion at the Martin Library Event Center on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Attendees will learn the basics of home insurance, the insurance claim process, and legal services available

after the storm. Registration is required. Register at wtls.org or by calling West Tennessee Legal Services at their toll-free number 1(800) 372-8346.

Weakley County Emergency Management Agency provides a free local weather alert text service. Text “Weakley911” to the number 888777 from your cell phone to enroll. Local weather alerts are also posted on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WeakleyCoEMA>.

If you are a survivor with unmet needs, please contact the Disaster Recovery Connection at (615) 270-9255. The Tornado Recovery Center is now open by appointment only. Please visit www.rebuildweakley.com and <https://www.facebook.com/WCLTRG> for more information regarding disaster recovery in Weakley County.