

Tornado Relief and Recovery Fund Impact Report

(for the week of August 23, 2021)

Since the March 26th tornado, individuals and organizations in our community, and from around our state and nation, have responded with help for local Coweta citizens as they seek relief and recovery from this disaster. Local volunteers, churches, governments and charitable agencies have worked hard to carry out the needed response. The Coweta Community Foundation and its partners are proud to be a part of these efforts.

Since March 30th, CCF has received approximately \$615,000 for the purposes of Tornado Disaster Relief and Recovery from individual donors, and \$1.5 million from the June 26 "Where I Come From" concert. Funds disbursed so far toward relief and recovery grants for individuals and local 501(c)(3) agencies include:

\$150,000 was directed for the Hope Has No Deductible relief efforts program toward individual grants for tornado victims, including \$125,000 disbursed to over 250 households to help with homeowner, renter, and vehicle insurance deductible relief.

\$25,000 has been directed toward rent support for those seeking long-term housing. This program has been directed toward One Roof Ecumenical Outreach for ongoing administration (call 678-796-8840 for more information, or to request help).

\$250,000 was directed towards CCF's initial agency grant program, which has been awarded to 17 local 501(c)(3) agencies through 28 grants made so far to provide for ongoing relief efforts for Coweta citizens affected by the March 26th tornado.

Just over \$229,000 in total grant allocations went toward grants made to One Roof Ecumenical Outreach, Hope Global, St. Vincent de Paul, Newnan City Church, the Boys & Girls Club, Coweta STEM, the Newnan Theatre Company, Community Action for Improvement, Elevate Coweta Students, Family Patterns Matter, Foundation Church, I-58 Mission, Meals on Wheels of Coweta, RiverLife, Walk of Faith, Summit Family YMCA, and the Yeager Road Community Resource Center.

These grants provided ongoing funding for a wide range of local charitable efforts and programs to help tornado disaster victims and disaster recovery; including hotel accommodations and long-term housing solutions for dislocated disaster victims, youth programs for children affected by the tornado, food and family support programs, tree and root removal programs, and housing repair programs for affected homes.

Those seeking to inquire about available services through these programs and agencies should call Bridging the Gap (770-683-9110) for more information or to request case support.

As the Foundation's initial agency disaster grant program expired in July, and as more funding and additional resources have become available, the Foundation and local partners have expanded recovery programs. A long-term recovery program has been launched to support recovery and rebuilding through a 3-year effort. This includes an expanded agency grant program to support local agencies with awards up to \$25,000.

The initial grant awarded through this program in early August was to RiverLife. The grant will fund RiverLife's hosting of Weaverland Disaster Service (WDS), of the Weaverland Conference Mennonite Churches, which has offered to send groups of volunteers to complete rebuilding projects in our area; including demolition and debris removal, framing, roofing, window and door installation, siding, flooring, trim work, and painting. WDS will come to Coweta County November 1, 2021, through April 8, 2022. This effort is expected to provide a minimum of 16,800 skilled volunteer hours with an anticipated value of \$500,000 to \$700,000 of benefit to local disaster-affected residents. Additional grants were awarded to Newnan Housing Authority to assist with short term housing for 6 months and One Roof Ecumenical Outreach for hotel stays and rental assistance for individuals displaced due to the Tornado.

More grants of this type are expected to follow. The Foundation works with a community advisory committee and local partners to direct all long-term recovery and rebuilding plans and programs. The Foundation Board has directed all programs with the help of a community advisory committee made up of representatives from the City of Newnan, Coweta County, Coweta Schools, the local charitable community, and the local business community.

The Foundation continues to work with partners to establish a formal long-term disaster recovery structure for Newnan and Coweta County. As donations and in-kind contributions have become available through the successful June 26 "Where I Come From" country music benefit, featuring Alan Jackson and other artists, the Foundation will continue to follow the practice of directing funds for local tornado relief efforts through its community advisory board and local charitable partners. Donations directed as a result of the concert also include a \$500,000 in-kind material donation from Cornerstone Building Products which has been directed through Habitat International toward tornado disaster programs in Coweta County. Those materials will be utilized through a partnership with the Newnan-Coweta Habitat for Humanity organization to benefit the recovery of tornado disaster victims.

This effort is structured to fund programs that provide the largest impact for tornado recovery efforts, and to encourage matching grants and volunteer labors and services to benefit tornado-affected households. Funds, materials and labor — including those from the June 26th concert — will be directed to individual projects through a local "Allocations Table" composed of major donors and contributing organizations, overseen by a local recovery director. Those seeking to inquire about available services through these programs and partnering agencies should call Bridging the Gap (770-683-9110) for more information or to request case management support.

Last our Community Education Forums will come to an end on September 2, 2021. This coming week we will discuss SBA loans (8/26) and our final forum will discuss Next Steps (9/2). Our Facebook livestream has had more than 2,700 views and past videos can be viewed here ([insert https://www.cowetafoundation.org/long-term-disaster-recovery/](https://www.cowetafoundation.org/long-term-disaster-recovery/))

