

Am forwarding this to you as requested

Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2011

Subject: Assistance for schools in Alabama

I am a member of Alpha Chapter of Beta State at Montgomery, Alabama. Since retiring seven years ago, I received training to serve as a volunteer with the American Red Cross. Whenever a hurricane, tornado or any other disaster strikes anywhere in the USA, I travel to assist people through the American Red Cross's mass feeding plan. I arrived home today, Friday, May 13th, about 6:30 p.m. from a 12 day trip with the American Red Cross to assist people in northwest Alabama who suffered from the effects of the April 27th tornadoes. Fifty-three tornadoes tore an 80 mile path of destruction through Alabama resulting in loss of over 300 lives. I worked with 19 other ARC volunteers serving hot food, water and snacks at Hackleburg, Russelville and Phil Campbell, AL. The food was purchased by the ARC, but the Southern Baptists prepared the hot food for delivery by the ARC. There were nine ARC emergency response vehicles used for delivery of the lunch and dinner meals. We also delivered bottled water, cookies and chips.

The devastation at Phil Campbell and Hackleburg is terrible and shocking with many homes, schools and businesses completely destroyed. There is very little to salvage. The school children at Hackleburg are having to meet inside two churches that were not completely destroyed. The high school at Phil Campbell is gone, but the elementary school at Phil Campbell escaped damages except for a few shingles. I visited with the principal of that school. There was one faculty member and two students from that elementary school who lost their lives. The children are now back in school all day which is providing some structure and routine after such a terrible ordeal.

I obtained more information from the principal at the elementary school at Hackleburg. Both the high school and the elementary school were destroyed. Students from the high school and from the elementary school are now having classes in small Sunday school rooms at two different churches that escaped destruction. The principal at Hackleburg told me that donations are needed for everything to be replaced. There is no place to store supplies now, and it is uncertain if there will be any such storage space in the near future. Probably portable, temporary buildings will be brought in to house students for both schools in the fall. It may be several years before either school can be rebuilt. Because so many businesses were destroyed, there may not be ways for people to earn a living and to continue to live there even if FEMA brings in trailers for families to line in temporarily.

I am trying to get some funds to purchase kits from the American Red Cross called Masters of Disasters to provide to the elementary school principals, teachers, and guidance counselors at Phil Campbell and Hackleburg. These kits cost \$38.40 each.

They contain a DVD with videos and a CD which has lesson plans for use by science and health teachers, school nurses and guidance counselors in grades K-8. The materials deal with the topics of Facing Fear, In the Aftermath, Tornadoes, Lightning, Earthquakes, Wildland Fires, Floods, Fire Protection and Safety, Hurricanes and Being Disaster Safe. I have demonstrated these materials at meetings of K-8 science and health teachers, school nurses and guidance counselors within the central AL area. The materials are closely related to the curriculum provided in the AL Course of Study for Science and Health.

The materials for use by the guidance counselors are desperately needed now. I talked with the principals at the elementary schools at Hackleburg and at Phil Campbell, and each of them would like to have these kits. If any of our Delta Kappa Gamma members would like to donate toward the purchase of these Masters of Disaster kits, I would be happy to order them and see that they reach these schools soon.

It is so important that the children and students at Phil Campbell and Hackleburg receive this resource material for immediate use before the school year is completed. These youth are traumatized by the terrible experiences that they have had from the April 27th tornadoes. Checks should be made out to the Central AL Chapter of the American Red Cross in the amount of \$30.80. In the "For" position, write "For Masters of Disaster Kits." Any such purchases from the American Red Cross for gifts for these school children would be tax deductible.

Listed below is a spreadsheet containing data listing the names and locations of public schools in AL that were damaged by the tornadoes April 27th. This document is available on the AL State Dept. of Education web site at: <http://www.alsde.edu>

Local Education Agency	School	Assessment
Cullman County	Hanceville Elementary School	Major Damage
Cullman County	Hanceville High School	Major Damage
Dekalb County	Plainview School	Major Damage
Franklin County	Phil Campbell	Major Damage
Jasper City	Walker High School	Major Roof Damage
Marion County	Hackleburg High School	Massive Damage
Marion County	Hackleburg Elementary School	Massive Damage
Pell City	Duran Junior High	Major Roof Damage
Pell City	Pell City High School	Major Roof Damage
St. Clair County	Moody Elementary	Major Roof Damage
St. Clair County	Ragland School	Major Roof Damage
St. Clair County	Odenville School	Major Roof Damage
Tuscaloosa City	Alberta Elementary School	Massive Damage
Tuscaloosa City	University Place Elementary School	Massive Damage
Tuscaloosa County	Holt Elementary	Massive Damage

This is simply a preliminary listing of schools that experienced significant damage due to the tornados that were in the state yesterday. Numerous schools have had some minor issues, but

we feel these are the most critical. District staff members are in the process of completing a closer assessment and we will apprise you of any updated information that we may receive later in the day. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Dr. Craig Pouncey, 334-242-9755 office or 334-868-9038 cell

The assessment given as "massive damage" indicates that the school has been destroyed completely. Five schools in AL were completely destroyed. Because I spent time May 2nd through May 13th with the American Red Cross at Phil Campbell and at Hackleburg, I can verify that the high school and the elementary school at Hackleburg were completely destroyed as well as the high school at Phil Campbell. There are two schools in the city of Tuscaloosa and one in Tuscaloosa County that were completely destroyed.

We need to let Delta Kappa Gamma members throughout the USA know about these destroyed schools so that they can help too. The schools cannot accept material items now. There is no place to sort, store, or distribute materials now or in the near future. Instead financial contributions need to be sent to the city or county school system with the designation of the checks signifying that the donations are for the schools affected by the tornadoes.

If any Delta Kappa Gamma members wish to send donations to help the schools at Hackleburg, this may be done by sending checks to : Marion County Board of Education, 188 Winchester Drive, Hamilton, AL 35570. Make the checks out to: "Hackleburg Schools." If anyone has a preference on which school (either the high school or the elementary school) the donation to be designated, please indicate it on the memo line of the check. A person can also pay by credit card on line by going to www.mcbe.net

Although there is an Emergency Fund available through International Headquarters at Austin, this money is given to Delta Kappa Gamma members who have suffered losses. I am asking for help to individual schools within Alabama where tornadoes caused so much damage to public schools on April 27th.

Loyally,

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