



For Immediate Release

May 23, 2011

United Ways of Missouri Encouraging People to Help the Community of Joplin, Missouri in Wake of Deadly Tornado

(Kansas City, MO)---In the wake of the devastating tornado that has leveled part of Joplin, Missouri, people throughout the nation are asking "How can I help?" While many may want to jump in their cars and physically drive down to deliver supplies and help with the clean-up, state disaster officials are encouraging people to not add to the chaotic situation as the search and rescue and storm clean-up continue. Instead, United Way is encouraging people to consider making cash donations to the American Red Cross at 211 W. Armour Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64111 or by going online at www.kcredcross.org to provide immediate emergency relief.

In disasters of this type, the long-term recovery becomes a significant issue. That is where United Ways of Missouri will be focusing its efforts, supporting programs designed to help with long-term recovery including housing, job creation, health issues and other programs aimed at reestablishing some sense of normalcy in a community that will be faced with rebuilding both structures and lives. People interested in giving to United Way's long-term relief effort are encouraged to send checks made payable to **United Way**, noting that their donation is for "**Joplin Relief Efforts**" on the memo line. Those checks should be sent to:

Joplin Relief Effort
c/o United Way of Greater Kansas City
1080 Washington St.
Kansas City, MO 64105

United Ways throughout Missouri will be coordinating efforts with the United Way of Southwest Missouri, located in Joplin. Of course, all of the money donated to this relief and recovery effort will go to help the people affected by the tornado with no administrative fees withheld.

People wishing to volunteer or those with questions are encouraged to call United Way 2-1-1 for additional information. The number to call is 2-1-1 on most phones or you can call (816) 474-5112 or (800) 320-5764. United Way 2-1-1 call specialists are working with the State of Missouri, State Emergency Management Agency to determine immediate and continuing needs related to the disaster. United Way is receiving hourly updates from state emergency management officials communicating the best way for people to help with recovery efforts.

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For additional information, contact:

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