

American Red Cross, Madison-Marshall County Chapter  
1101 Washington Street NW  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
www.redcross.org

Contact: Emily Buller  
Phone: (707) 481-1060  
ebuller@arcsm.org

### **Red Cross Emergency Aid Stations Provide Critical Supplies in North Alabama with the Help of Volunteers**

(Huntsville, AL), May 10, 2011- Turn the corner of rural Lockhart Road in Harvest, Ala., 150 miles from the destruction in Tuscaloosa, and you are met with scenes of utter devastation. Piles of debris, trees, and destroyed homes litter the blocks following the devastating tornado that struck here less than two weeks ago. An American flag blows in the wind amidst the rubble, marking the spot where a loved one was lost in the storm.

But in the middle of it all you'll find a Red Cross Emergency Aid Station where members of the Harvest Seventh Day Adventist Church work with Red Cross volunteers to provide relief and hope. There is a constant flurry of activity from local volunteers: sorting food, distributing rakes and shovels for clean-up, and unloading snacks and comfort kits from a Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle assigned to the neighborhood.

Near the curve of the road in Harvest is where a modest house used to stand, belonging to Susie, an older resident who owns the one set of clothing on her back. She had just put a load of laundry in the washing machine when her son called and told her he was on his way to get her, as a tornado was due to roar through.

Susie's son may just have saved her life: she returned home to find every possession destroyed, every wall of her home gone. Today, she enters the Red Cross Emergency Aid Station for a cool drink and a few personal items -- all made possible because of the generous donations by residents to the Tennessee Valley region. And the most amazing thing of all: Susie's spirits are high; she's thankful for her son's quick action and at the moment, a place to sit out of the heat of the afternoon.

Ten minutes away, in the neighborhood of Ford's Chapel, residents are also grappling with recovery. This time, houses scarcely touched by the tornado sits directly next to homes ripped away.

Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicles from all over the country drive up and down streets, ensuring that residents have access to hot food. Ask a resident if they need a meal and they'll say, "We're OK; we have our food and water now."

And already, tractors move debris and residents start to clean their yards. Fourteen days after the deadly storms hit here, the sentiment of resilience and a calm demeanor, perhaps born of a mixture of shock and past experience, is echoed by neighbors across northern Alabama.

#### **About the American Red Cross:**

*The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.*

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