

DISASTER NEWS NETWORK
TENNESSEE FLOODING LONG-TERM RESPONSE APPEAL
June 14, 2010
Appeal Amount: \$5,000.00

When the Cumberland River bordering Nashville peaked at 12 feet above the flood stage on May 4, it was the highest crest in 70 years. Although floods hit communities in 45 counties, Davidson County, the home of Nashville, received most of the media attention.

Some 28,000 families in western Tennessee alone were impacted – at least 15 percent of them are expected to need long-term help. But with so much of the national media attention focused on the Gulf oil spill, and the City of Nashville's tourism office suggesting the city is well on its way to recovery, both financial donations and volunteers are fading.

"Clarksville, Centerville, Jackson, Brownsville, are some other areas hard hit," said Bonnie and Rick Wiersma, Regional Managers at the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), "but that is not exclusive. So much of the state has been affected."

During the days of flooding, West Tennessee also suffered a tornado and two windstorms "With the added destruction, the loss to the agricultural industry is so far about \$1.3 billion. The impact on farming alone will be astronomical," said Bill Carr of the Memphis Conference of The United Methodist Church. "Everyone will feel the damage done to the farms; farmers are really hurt severely, and this a major concern for the long run. Many farmlands are covered in sand and debris."

Disaster News Network (DNN) provides onsite and telephone coverage that connects otherwise unnoticed survivors with the groups that help them. DNN coverage provides an important conduit for people who want to donate money and volunteer labor – for as long as the need exists.

RESPONSE DESCRIPTION

Disaster News Network usually issues a rapid response appeal for coverage in the days following a disaster, but with the size of this disaster and the relative lack of ongoing coverage DNN is issuing this appeal to support coverage during in the coming months.

Disaster News Network will lift up the needs of survivors following this disaster. DNN is planning on-location coverage that will be supplemented by telephone interviews particularly in the less publicized towns and counties impacted by this disaster.

DNN coverage will concentrate not only on physical recovery but also on emotional hardship – and interfaith and community response. DNN reporters will also focus on the needs of elderly people, children, disabled persons and other populations for which recovery may pose a special challenge.

Exclusive photographs of the disaster response efforts will be posted in DNN's photo gallery and available for appeal sponsors.

DISASTER COVERAGE APPEAL FOR \$5,000.00

Financial assistance is needed to support travel and staff expenses for Disaster News Network's long-term coverage of recovery efforts of the May 2010 Tennessee Flooding.

Contributions may be sent to: Village Life Company: Disaster News Network, P O Box 1746, Ellicott City, MD 21041 or via ACH transfer (ask for banking information).

For updates on disaster news and volunteer opportunities, visit the DNN Web site at www.disasternews.net. For other information, call Jim Skillington at (443) 393-3330.