



Greater Twin Cities
United Way

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**More than \$430,000 in Grants Awarded to Assist
North Minneapolis Residents Affected by the Tornado**
*Funding distributed from the Minnesota Helps – North Minneapolis Recovery Fund,
which has raised \$1.3 million; additional contributions still needed*

www.MinnesotaHelps.org

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL, MN – June 23, 2011 – The Minneapolis Foundation and Greater Twin Cities United Way announced today that \$430,629 in grants from the donations and matching funds raised through the [Minnesota Helps - North Minneapolis Recovery Fund](#) will be given to 13 organizations assisting North Minneapolis residents affected by last month’s devastating tornado. The grants will help local agencies continue to meet the basic needs of individual neighborhood residents, provide trauma counseling and social services to children and youth affected by the tornado, connect residents with critical services and provide transportation and mental health support.

With today’s grants, a total of \$636,752 has now been awarded from the **North Minneapolis Recovery Fund**. Previous grants, totaling \$206,123, were distributed in early June for emergency relief services.

Today’s grant recipients include:

Housing

- Heading Home Hennepin

Basic Needs

- EMERGE Community Development
- Second Harvest Heartland
- Project for Pride in Living
- World Vision

Employment

- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- Tree Trust

Small Business

- Northside Economic Opportunity Network

Children and Youth

- Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities
- Kwanzaa Community Church
- Minneapolis Beacons Network
- North Community YMCA
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center

(A list of all grants awarded to date, along with amounts and descriptions can be found [here](#).)

“These grants are a big boost to help our community recover from this devastating tornado,” according to Louis King, president and CEO of Summit Academy OIC and a core member of the Northside Recovery Response Team. “I appreciate that the foundations have been so responsive and are helping ensure a coordinated approach is in place to meet both immediate and long-term needs.”

About the Grants

These grants are the first to be awarded through an ongoing process by which nonprofits and public agencies providing services to North Minneapolis residents affected by the tornado are invited to request financial support from the Fund. Requests will be reviewed and grants awarded on a rolling basis. Visit MinnesotaHelps.org for updates.

One of the grant recipients, EMERGE Community Development, will use the funding to cover the costs of their rapid response efforts and allow them to continue providing services to residents in a coordinated way. EMERGE’s Rapid Response Call Center responded to more than 450 requests within four days and delivered food, water, clothing, household goods, medical and mental health services to residents. EMERGE vans made 400 trips door-to-door providing emergency transportation including rides to shelters, shower facilities, and food shelves. They’ve also helped displaced residents find housing.

Frank Forsberg, senior vice president of Community Impact, Greater Twin Cities United Way says, “Organizations serving youth were among our funding priorities. Imagine a child, having experienced the trauma of the tornado, not having a safe place to go during the summer months. Now, more than ever, these kids will not only need a place, but a place that provides multiple services, such as counseling or a hot meal.”

About the Recovery Effort

The Minnesota Helps - North Minneapolis Recovery Fund was established by The Minneapolis Foundation, Greater Twin Cities United Way, and GiveMN.org to meet the short – and long-term needs of individuals and families impacted by the tornado. 100 percent of the donations made to the fund will be used for the North Minneapolis relief and recovery effort. More than \$1.3 million has been raised so far from community donations and matching grants. To date, nearly 4,450 individuals and more than a dozen local corporations and foundations have contributed.

“This recovery effort continues to move forward thanks to our community coming together so quickly and in such a powerful way – both the people who have contributed time and money and the organizations working so closely together to make it all happen. We know this is just the beginning of a

long process and hope our community will sustain the momentum,” according to Karen Kelley-Ariwoola, Vice President of Community Philanthropy at The Minneapolis Foundation.

Donations Still Needed

The needs are significant: With damages estimated at \$166 million and several families still displaced, experts are predicting a three-year recovery period. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently denied relief for individuals affected by the storm. The public is still encouraged to contribute either through GiveMN.org or through The Minneapolis Foundation.

About The Minneapolis Foundation

The Minneapolis Foundation helps people support the community and causes they care about, and invests in efforts to ensure everyone in Minneapolis has the opportunity to thrive. Established in 1915, The Minneapolis Foundation manages more than \$600 million in assets, administers more than 1,100 charitable funds and distributes approximately \$36 million in grants each year. In addition, The Minneapolis Foundation works with other community leaders to improve the quality of life in our region and serve as a catalyst for constructive dialogue and action on critical issues.

About Greater Twin Cities United Way

Greater Twin Cities United Way addresses our community’s most critical issues by focusing on three key areas: Basic Needs, Education and Health. United Way attacks poverty on multiple, interconnected fronts to achieve lasting change – through 10 measurable goals – by collaborating with business, government and nonprofit organizations to create solutions and carry out our call to action to LIVE UNITED by encouraging everyone to give. Advocate. Volunteer. United Way serves people living in or near poverty in nine counties: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott and western Washington. Join the movement. LIVE UNITED. For more information visit www.unitedwaytwincities.org or call (612) 340-7400.