



MINNESOTA HELPS

North Minneapolis Recovery Fund



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
May 2012





Natural disasters happen in a flash leaving devastating destruction in their wake. It can take years to rebuild what takes mere minutes to destroy. And so it was on Sunday, May 22, 2011, when a tornado touched down in North Minneapolis destroying property and livelihoods, and traumatizing an already struggling neighborhood. What would follow – and what continues – is a story of hope and renewal, and the power of what can happen when neighbors come together in time of need. **Ultimately, the storm brought to light the profound resilience of the Northside.**

From Storm to Strength: A Community Comes Together

While disaster relief organizations moved swiftly to provide aid, the community got to work. Neighbors helped neighbors clear debris from their yards while individuals and businesses flocked to North Minneapolis with supplies and helping hands.

The scope of the damage soon became clear, and **within 24 hours of the tornado, The Minneapolis Foundation had activated its Minnesota Helps Fund**, which provides an easy way for our community to donate to a coordinated relief and recovery effort in the wake of a disaster.

In partnership with Greater Twin Cities United Way, we seeded the Minnesota Helps – North Minneapolis Recovery Fund with a \$200,000 challenge grant to spark more donations. We partnered with GiveMN.org to accept on-line contributions.

The strength, compassion and generosity of North Minneapolis residents and people throughout the Twin Cities showed that even a tornado cannot tear a community apart. Many offered kind words along with their contributions; among them was this message: *“I received financial support from Minnesota Helps after the 35W Bridge Collapse. They were tremendously supportive and accountable for every dollar given out. My time to pay it forward.”*

Many local businesses contributed and several held fundraisers or office collections. More than two dozen foundations contributed. Kids hosted lemonade stands and a group of teens recorded a song and put on a hip-hop concert. Everyone pitched in.

The Fund hit the million-dollar mark within a month and ultimately **raised and distributed \$1.7 million dollars** to help people and neighborhoods recover from the storm. An advisory committee made up of local foundations helped guide the distribution of funding.

With damages estimated at \$166 million and FEMA denying individual assistance to those impacted, this funding provided a lifeline for uninsured households looking for shelter, and a bridge for families working through their insurance companies to get repairs taken care of before the cold weather set in.

One hundred percent of the money raised has been distributed to help North Minneapolis residents get their lives back on track. To date, **more than 60,000 North Minneapolis residents** have been assisted thanks to the generosity of Minnesota Helps Fund contributors.

North Minneapolis Leads the Way

Donations supported emergency relief and met longer-term needs including food, housing, counseling, transportation, childcare, and more.

The close relationships The Minneapolis Foundation has with organizations on the Northside led to a powerful and thoughtful response, one that was directed by the neighborhoods affected. Our expertise in giving, community issues, and local nonprofits ensured services were delivered effectively, comprehensively, and transparently.

Over the summer, youth cleared debris from local parks and **200 homes** and helped **rebuild 147 houses and apartment buildings**. About **1,700 young people** participated in summer programs and received **6,500 meals**. More than two hundred kids went on field trips to give them a break from their damaged parks and neighborhoods.

Many children were traumatized by the tornado – either from witnessing it directly or from how it affected their families’ lives. Minnesota Helps supported counseling for kids and training for teachers and summer camp workers to spot distress in children and help them overcome fears.

Hundreds of individuals and families got help with home repairs, as well as legal assistance in mediating conflicts between tenants and landlords.

Legal help was also available to help people track down and get reimbursed by “storm chaser” contractors who accepted payment, but either didn’t do the work or did sub-par work.

Minority contractors, most from North Minneapolis, were trained and certified to participate in the recovery, providing an economic boon to the neighborhood.

Over a thousand individuals received clean clothes, food and water in the days following the tornado. Additional supplies were distributed to help clean their homes and meet basic needs including provision of new ID’s, access to food stamps, housing assistance, behavioral health, and other services.

More than **51,000 individuals** received food and cooking supplies through Second Harvest Food Bank, and Urban Homeworks **repaired nearly 300 homes** in the aftermath of the tornado.

With dozens of local agencies serving thousands of people each with various needs, the need for collaboration quickly became clear. The Northside Community Response Team (NCRT) formed to ensure all residents were assisted, efforts weren’t duplicated, and funding was used as effectively as possible.

The **20 participating agencies** were able to streamline the process, creating a hotline to connect people with a caseworker to get them the help they needed. This process **helped 1,233 households** get assistance.

Among them was a family who lost everything when the home they were renting was destroyed. After calling the hotline and getting connected with Jordan New Life HUB, the mother said, *“The HUB helped with big and little things. Because of them, I was not homeless, the kids still went to school, and I was able to continue my life.”*

Minnesota Helps distributed the funds through a fair and thoughtful process to agencies meeting individual, family, and neighborhoods needs resulting from the tornado. Below is a breakdown of how the funds were distributed to help those impacted by the tornado:

At a Glance

Number of people served by the Fund: **60,000+**

Number of properties damaged: **3,700**

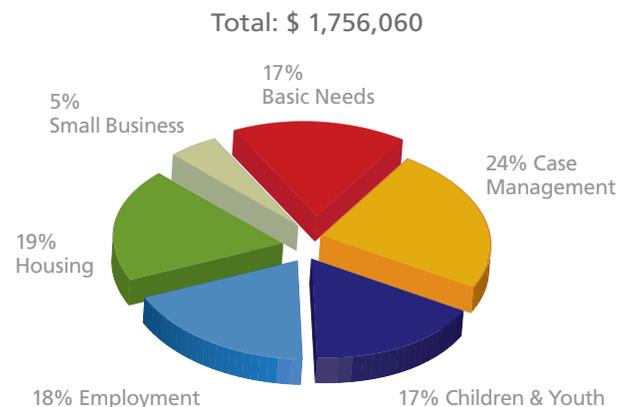
Donations: **\$1,756,060**

Distributions: **\$1,756,060**

Number of donations: **4,400+**

Organizations that provided services with support from the Fund: **36**

Distribution of Funds by Needs Met



Minnesota Helps - North Minneapolis Recovery Fund

List of Agencies Funded to Provide Aid

\$1,756,060 in funds have been provided
to assist North Minneapolis residents

BASIC NEEDS - \$296,284

EMERGE Community Development - \$19,834
MAD DADS – \$10,000
Minneapolis Department of Health and
Family Support - \$115,242
Northside Community Response Team - \$25,000
Operation Living Hope - \$5,000
Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) – \$35,000
Prayer Center – \$5,000
Project for Pride in Living (PPL) - \$5,000
Sabathani Community Center - \$35,000
Second Harvest Heartland - \$31,701
World Vision - \$9,507

CASE MANAGEMENT – \$428,250

Change, Inc. – \$12,500
ECHO Minnesota – \$25,000
Northside Community Response Team (NCRT) - \$370,750
Jordan New Life HUB - \$20,000

CHILDREN AND YOUTH – \$292,593

Asian Media Access - \$12,000
Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities - \$30,435
Family Partnership – \$21,600
Kwanzaa Community Church - \$35,000
Minneapolis Beacons Network - \$35,000
North Community YMCA - \$35,000
Northside Achievement Zone - \$35,000
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center - \$21,400
Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC) - \$35,000
Shiloh International Temple – \$25,908
YWCA of Minneapolis - \$6,250



Urban HomeWorks, a Minnesota Helps grantee

EMPLOYMENT - \$307,533

EMERGE Community Development - \$30,881
EMERGE, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board
on behalf of the NCRT - \$117,500
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - \$35,000
North Community Response Team - \$100,000
Tree Trust - \$24,152

HOUSING – \$339,400

Elim Transitional Housing - \$35,000
Heading Home Hennepin - \$100,000
Heading Home Hennepin - \$69,400
Minneapolis Urban League – \$25,000
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Inc. – \$50,000
Urban Homeworks - \$50,000
Urban Homeworks - \$10,000

SMALL BUSINESS - \$92,000

Catalyst Community Partners - \$22,000
Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON) - \$35,000
West Broadway Business and Area Coalition - \$35,000

Visit MinnesotaHelps.org for more information about these grants.



A Recovery Fund for the Community

Thanks to all of the generous individuals who gave time and money to help those affected by the tornado, and to the many organizations working together to rebuild this vibrant part of our community.

Some wounds will take more time to heal, but Minnesota Helps aided the community in restoring itself. Today, Northside residents and organizations are working to realize a new, stronger vision for their community. The Minneapolis Foundation will be there. We hope you will, too.

For more information about Minnesota Helps and its impact, please visit MinnesotaHelps.org



About The Minneapolis Foundation

The Minneapolis Foundation is here to help you make a difference in the community and on the causes you care about. We partner with thousands of individuals, families, and businesses who each make a lasting difference in their own unique way.

We offer services that make giving more convenient, tax-smart, and rewarding. We also provide information, advice, and meaningful connections to help you make a bigger impact.

Founded by local business leaders in 1915, we currently manage more than 1,000 charitable funds and more than \$600 million in assets. A board of trustees comprised of civic leaders provides direction and oversight.

Each year we award more than \$30 million in grants in accordance with our donors' wishes and to strengthen our community. We believe that when each of us does better, we *all* do better.

Minnesota Helps is one way we use the gifts entrusted to us address challenges facing our community. In 2007, our community supported survivors of the I-35W bridge collapse through the Fund.

Funding Partners

Greater Twin Cities
United Way



Best Buy Corporation
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation
CenturyTel, Inc.
Comcast
Communications Systems, Inc.
Cummins Foundation
Curtis L. Carlson Foundation
F. R. Bigelow Foundation
Faegre & Benson Foundation
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George Family Foundation
The Grotto Foundation
James R. Thorpe Foundation
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Lunds and Byerly's
McKnight Foundation
Minneapolis Jewish Federation
North Star Fund
Park Nicollet Foundation
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Wells Fargo Foundation