

Thanking the Volunteers, Organizations & Companies Across Mississippi

Mississippi has been ravaged by severe weather within the past month, causing an estimated \$30,091,962 in damages. Thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail and straight-line winds have affected almost every area of the state. Hundreds of individuals and families have been displaced and their lives have been disrupted by the destruction.

After surveying the damaged areas, we immediately made a request for Federal Assistance to help Mississippi's people, businesses and local governments in the disaster areas that had emergency funding needs. Mississippians were in need of immediate assistance. MEMA officials responded quickly to our people's needs, and we began to repair and recover, and local and federal official joined in to help.

Rebuilding, cleanup and healing continues in these counties. Volunteers are still taking hours and hours of personal time, and using vacation leave to give assistance to their friends, neighbors and family members during the aftermath. They are helping other Mississippians until the job is completed and communities, homes and lives are rebuilt.

The people of Mississippi have proven, once again, that they are resilient and ready to lend a helping hand to their neighbors. The assistance the victims of these storms received by their neighbors and fellow Mississippians is truly heartwarming.

The affected areas have received so many donations of clothing, furniture and supplies, available at the disaster recovery centers, that there is not enough room to store the excess donations. Mississippians were more than willing to give of their possession and their personal time to aid victims.

The storms in Mississippi have gained national media attention. Mississippian's willingness to give and help one another have shown people and communities pulling together for each other. This is the kind of behavior we have come to expect and appreciate from Mississippians.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) was on site each time to begin giving immediate disaster relief. They responded quickly to the needs of all citizens, getting damage assessments and providing our people with the assistance they need to rebuild their lives, homes and communities.

We are unable to avoid Mother Nature's wrath, but we have ways to better prepare ourselves for these disasters. NOAA weather radios are the best advanced warning systems for 24-hour notification in your home. Also preparing a plan of action for you and your family during and after a disaster will help save time in confusion during the crisis.

We are thankful for the numerous volunteers, organizations and companies that have helped rebuild homes and communities. We are grateful for their continuous efforts during these difficult times.