

Metro Social Services *Tornado Relief*

*With destruction from storms in Goodlettsville,
MSS staff springs into action.*

April 7, 2006, is a day that many Tennesseans will never forget. A series of violent storms tore through Middle Tennessee that day, killing 12 people, injuring at least 167 people and damaging about 2,500 homes, businesses and farms.

The scene was devastating near the Metro Social Services relief site in Goodlettsville on April 20. In partnership with Baker's Chapel CME Church in the heart of one of the hardest-hit neighborhoods, MSS workers set up a tent relief site, welcoming anyone who needed their help.

"Many people who are arriving each day are in need of the most basic supplies, like food, hygiene products and medicine," explained Demitria Norman, director of Adult and Family Support Services at Metro Social Services. "They come here to receive immediate help, but we also offer a social worker who will be in touch with them for the weeks ahead as they recover from this ordeal."

After tending to victims' immediate needs, MSS helped them deal with the larger issues, such as receiving FEMA aid, temporary housing and help for home repairs.



Above: Tornadoes demolished many homes in the neighborhood surrounding Baker's Chapel CME Church.

Left: Danielle Mezera and Michelle Davis from Metro Social Services worked the relief tent.



Many homes were left without electricity, some without even a roof.

"The assistance from Metro Social Services has been tremendous over the past month," explained Kelan Motton, pastor of Baker's Chapel CME Church. "Their support has meant the world to our community as we try to recover from the storms."



Left: Joyce Chandler and Demitria Norman help customers with referrals; Middle: Michelle Davis talks with a family who came to the relief site; Right: Pastor Kelan Motton and Demitria Norman discuss the relief plan.

The social workers on site were from all areas of the Metro Social Services umbrella, including quality assurance, planning and coordination, homeless services, and intake and assessment. They provided counseling and needs assessment for those who were unsure of where to begin their recovery process.

The Metro Social Services relief site was open each Tuesday and Thursday from April 18 through May 25, 2006, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

“Though this is a devastating time, it is amazing to see the generosity from the community,” said Norman. “We have food and supply donations coming in every day. Neighbors just want to know how they can help.”

The best number to call to find out about services available through MSS and elsewhere in the Nashville community is (615) 862-6458. Phone numbers for other MSS agencies are below.

Administrative Offices
(615) 862-6400

Adult and Family Support Services
(615) 862-6432

Information and Referral Services
(615) 862-6458

Brief Counseling
(615) 862-6432

Adult Homemaker Program
(615) 862-6480

Senior Nutrition Services
(615) 880-2292

Burial Assistance
(615) 862-6458

Relative Caregiver Assistance
(615) 862-6432

Homeless Services Unit
(615) 880-2526

Planning and Coordination Unit
(615) 862-6494

Metro Social Services

25 Middleton Street
Nashville, TN 37210
Phone: (615) 862-6400
Fax: (615) 862-6404
www.nashville.gov/sservices

Gerri Robinson—Executive Director of Metro Social Services
Renee Pratt—Director of Administration
Dinah Gregory—Director of Planning and Coordination
Demitria Norman—Director of Adult and Family Support Services

Metro Social Services promotes quality living in our communities by linking people, information and resources. We respond to persons challenged by economic, social, physical or behavioral problems.