

City of Joplin

When the EF-5 tornado devastated one-third of Joplin, Missouri on May 22, 2011, the world changed for our community.

More than 7,500 homes and 530+ businesses were damaged or destroyed. Public and parochial schools were flattened, and 28 churches were damaged or destroyed. Our citizens were hurting. The storm took 161 lives from our community, and injured more than 1,000 people.



We faced a tragedy like none other. But just as our ancestors did more than 135 years ago, we pulled our community together and faced our future. We've seen more than 130,000 volunteers come to our aid, and experienced the work and resources that our partners at the State of Missouri and our federal government bring to heal and assist the hurting. And through the Miracle of the Human Spirit, the City of Joplin is moving forward and recovering.

- ◆ A resilient staff of more than 400 city employees worked on teams of recovery with each other and the many partners within our community. Through this effort, one-year later, the statistics tell an impressive story of recovery:
- ◆ The City Activated the Emergency Operation Center at 4:30 p.m. on May 22 with partial staffing. EOC went to full staffing immediately after the tornado struck at 5:41 p.m. , and remained open 24/7 for one week. It then moved to a 12-hour day operation for the next three weeks.
- ◆ Public Works crews cleared at least a single lane in all arterial and collector streets within nine hours of the storm to allow for the passage of emergency vehicles.
- ◆ The City assisted residents with debris removal operations through the Expedited Debris Removal (EDR) initiative. EDR was a new initiative approved by President Obama on May 31.
- ◆ Crews removed more than 3 million cubic yards of debris from the devastated area.
- ◆ Health professionals administered more than 17,000 tetanus vaccinations to those working to clean up the City.

One
Year.

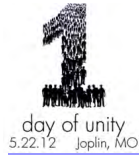


One
Community.

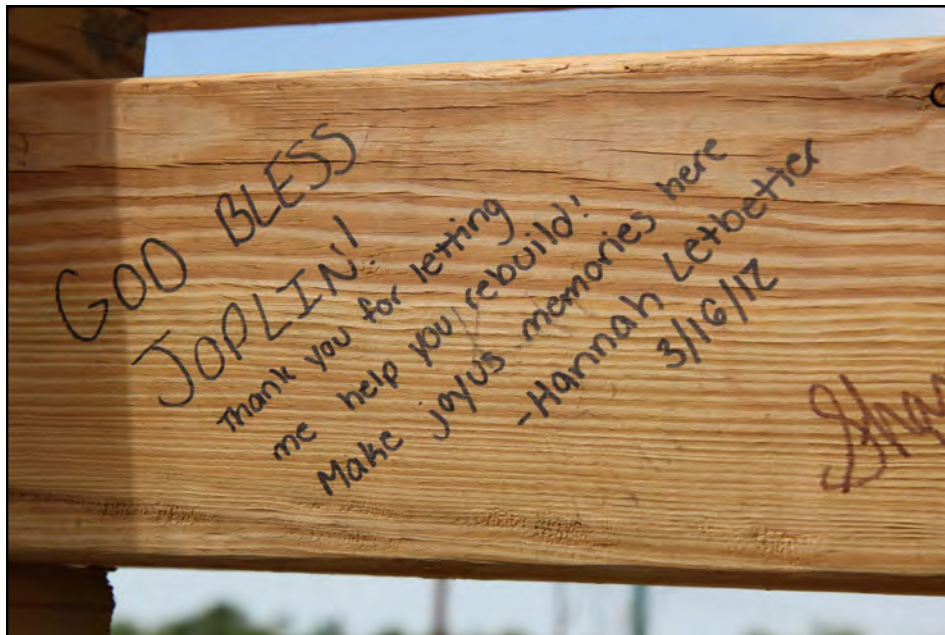


One
Direction.

City of Joplin (cont)



- ◆ 1,308 pets were displaced due to the tornado. 529 of these pets were returned to their owners. The remaining pets found homes through an “Adopt-a-Thon” sponsored by American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and Joplin Humane Society.



Today our story is different.

- ◆ As of May 22, 2012, residential building permits have been issued for more than 66 percent of the dwellings lost in the storm.
- ◆ More than 40 percent of citizens living in temporary housing provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have moved out and into longer-term or permanent residences.

- ◆ Residential home sales in Joplin surpassed 1,100, and more than 700 vacant land and/or lots in the city have been sold.
- ◆ The business community is recovering. More than 80 percent of the businesses affected have reopened.
- ◆ 21 NEW businesses have opened in Joplin.
- ◆ Schools have completed a full academic year in temporary locations. Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new schools were held on the one-year anniversary.
- ◆ The faith-based community is recovering. Churches are rebuilding, with all congregations continuing to hold services in repaired or temporary buildings. No churches have closed.
- ◆ Citizens and community leaders have joined together to help develop a long-term plan for Joplin’s recovery and future development. To do this, a grass-roots effort known as the Citizens Advisory Recovery Team (CART) was established. The CART Implementation Team’s Next Steps Report received unanimous ratification by Joplin City Council, Joplin Board of Education, Duquesne Board of Aldermen, and the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce.
- ◆ The Joplin City Council passed an ordinance allowing overlay districts in its planning and zoning regulations, which offers mixed-use multi-function neighborhoods that citizens requested.
- ◆ Through the CART process, initial contract negotiations with a master developer continue in an effort to bring private-sector investments to our community as the disaster area is redeveloped.
- ◆ The City purchased two tracts of land to relocate Fire Stations #2 and #4. These new locations will enable the Fire Department to better protect all areas of the City.

City of Joplin (cont)



- ◆ The City received a record-setting amount of eligible donated resources that helped offset City costs. The \$17.7 million of donated resources is the largest amount recorded in the history of Missouri and in FEMA Region VII. At time of reconciliation of records, City had 102,000 volunteers with 610,300 service hours along with donated goods and services valued at over \$8.5 million, and 12,000+ hours of donated equipment use.
- ◆ More than 130,000 volunteers, including those registered through AmeriCorps and from other organizations, have provided 810,476 hours of service since May 22, 2011. That's equivalent to just over 92 years' worth of service at a 24/7 pace since the tornado.



With heartfelt thanks....

The amazing amount of work that has been completed within the past 12 months is a tribute to the team that has come together including our citizens, the faith-based community, the multiple resources from the State of Missouri, the federal government and our elected officials, the business community, the news media and the thousands of volunteers from all over the world, our country, and our neighborhoods of southwest Missouri.

We thank you for all of the support and resources you brought to Joplin and Duquesne. This year represents a unified effort in our recovery. As we move into the future we look forward to strengthening the ties that have pulled us together through this challenging year.