



day of unity
5.22.12 Joplin, MO

One
Year.



One
Community.



One
Direction.

Community Stories

There are many stories that tell the tale of Joplin and Duquesne's tornado recovery. Here is a look at some of our personal and community triumphs:

Amplify Gymnastics LLC

Amplify is located behind Home Depot. They were scheduled to open in June of 2011. The tornado wiped out the entire gym plus all of their equipment. The owners considered not rebuilding, but they were well insured and were also able to obtain an SBA loan.



They rebuilt, bigger than originally planned, and opened in March 2012. At last report they have more than 200 students.

Contact: Paul Comstedt, co-owner/gym manager Ph: 417-659-9200

Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce

The first member communication after the tornado was made at 6:52 pm on May 22, via social media. The Chamber's Facebook page has continued to be a valuable source of information for our Members as well as the public. Members and other business owners might have been without their computers or land-line telephones, but nearly all were able to maintain connectivity via cell phones thanks to mobile cell towers and numerous power charging stations.

Contact: Kirstie Smith, communications director Ph: 417-438-1738

Home Depot



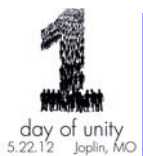
Home Depot was one of the very first to open a temporary store, a feat accomplished by May 27th. They have a very detailed disaster plan corporate-wide and when put to the test here in Joplin, it worked well. Their loyalty to the community and their willingness to put their employees in the field working on debris clearing has made them a local favorite now.

Contact: Steven Cope, store manager

Ph: 417-206-7510

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Community Stories (cont)



SNC Squared

SNC Squared is an IT management company. Their pre-tornado address was on 26th Street, just across from St. Mary's. They lost everything of course, BUT they were back up and running in John's garage within an amazing 24 hours after the storm. None of the company's customers lost any data and they were all back up and running within just a few short days. The bulk of John's customers are from the medical and dental community.



Contact: John Motazedji, owner

Ph: 417-622-0933

Life Preservers Grief Support at the Creative Cottage

Leach was at home in her rented duplex in Duquesne when the tornado hit. She ran to the only room without windows, the bathroom, and hunkered down to wait out the storm. The cabinet and the toilet were still standing when Leach emerged after the storm, but the bathtub was gone. Leach, always a renter, purchased an historic home at the end of September, and has recently renovated the second story to include a bed-and-breakfast for those coping with a life-altering event of their own. Community businesses joined her in furnishing and decorating the private suite to showcase the cooperative spirit found in Joplin throughout its recovery this past year.

Contact: Ann Leach, owner

Ph: 417-438-6808

Southtown Cleaners

Locally- owned cleaners on Main Street lost everything in the storm. They have rebuilt bigger than ever and have added employees. Brigitte utilized *Joplin Tomorrow* funds to assist with the expansion costs. *Joplin Tomorrow* was established by Former Senator Jack Danforth to assist companies in the disaster area who wanted to expand and add jobs.

Contact: Brigitte Pippin, owner

Ph: 417-781-6046

Edward Jones—Don Swanson

Located on Connecticut Avenue it one of the hardest hit areas, Don Swanson's office was brand new when the tornado ripped a neighboring fitness center to shreds. Don's office stood as a beacon of hope in the devastated landscape. While the office had sustained damage, remarkably, it was largely untouched and was able to help house other Edward Jones Advisors as soon as safely allowed by officials. The secret? Hurricane straps. Don had designed his new building with hurricane straps at the suggestion of his builder. This small step may have helped Don get open for business faster. The Joplin City Council did add to the commercial building code mandatory hurricane straps shortly after the storm.

Contact: Don Swanson, financial advisor

Ph: 417-781-2711

Community Stories (cont)



Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce

The Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce like many after the tornado found their office without electricity. Communication with the business community was vital at that time.

Early communications were sent from an iPad at a location that had electricity and internet connectivity. However, there was a key component missing from the iPad. A media list, a list of chamber members and a list of all the employers in the area. All this information was readily available in the chamber's computer system. A system that could not be accessed until late Thursday after the tornado. Since the tornado, the chamber has put several backup alternatives in place to ensure that access to critical information is still available in the event of a future major disaster.

Contact: Kirstie Smith, Communications Director

Ph: 417-438-1738

The "Volunteer House"

Eight people survived the tornado in the basement of the house at 2502 S. Joplin Ave. When they emerged all that was left of the 1920s bungalow were interior walls and some china in a cabinet. AmeriCorps teams cleared the yard of debris and the grateful owner, Tim Bartow, painted a heart-encircled message of hope for others to see: "Thank you volunteers. We love you. You are our heroes." He left furniture and a can of markers on a coffee table in the open living room; volunteers began scribbling messages of hope and inspiration on the doors, floors, walls and window frames. Soon, it became known as the "Volunteer House". Weather took its toll on the fragile structure and the thousands of scribbled personal messages, so in February 2012, with donated materials and labor, the house was shrink-wrapped to protect its message of hope and community, then moved to Schifferdecker Park where it waits to be incorporated in a future museum.

Contact: City of Joplin, Lynn Onstot

Ph: 417-438-2287

RWI Benefits, LLC

Immediately after the tornado, Robert Weaver was unsure what to do first. The tasks he had to do for his business alone were huge, and he still had to serve his customers who lost everything. Robert came to the chamber office needing a temporary location, furniture and help. Today Robert's business is doing very well at a new location.

Contact: Robert Weaver, owner

Ph: 417-624.2200

AdornAble, Inc.

Located in the hardest hit area of Main Street, this small business had nothing left to show for years of hard work growing their business and researching and implementing new services like digital screen printing to serve customer needs. Chris and Liliya Moos moved to a location still on Main Street. Today their business is "better than ever" and they are supporting Joplin's recovery efforts with original shirt designs.

Contact: Chris or Liliya Moos

Ph: 417-206-2300



Community Stories (cont)



Cupcakes by Liz

Making Joplin sweeter one cupcake at a time, Liz Easton was one of the very first to say that her business would rebuild bigger and better than before. The new bakery has a great new look and is opening any day.

Contact: Liz Easton

Ph: 918-542-0093

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Off The Track Coffee Company

Christine Caudwell owned a successful resale shop on Main Street before the tornado. When she lost everything, she took time to rethink her business opportunities and decided to open a completely new business on Main Street. The unique building—it looks like a streetcar—is a great site on Main Street.

Contact: Christine Cadwell

Ph: 417-624-1999

The Independent Living Center

The Independent Living Center in Joplin, joined by other disability organizations, teamed up with FEMA, Federal, state and local officials to serve as a resource for individuals with disabilities, access and other functional needs – ensuring that people with disabilities, seniors and those with low English proficiency had the same opportunity as others to access and understand disaster assistance.

Contact: Stephanie Brady

Ph: 417-659-8086

Con-way Truckload



Con-way Truckload whose headquarters is on the outskirts of Duquesne, suffered nearly \$2 billion in damages to the main office, outlying buildings and trucks and trailers parked on the lot. Con-way put numerous trailers throughout Joplin to be used to collect and disburse donated goods, and to store donations. Other carriers sent their trucks and trailers to Con-way filled with donated items to use for its employees and the community.

“Within 36 hours of the storm, we received, unsolicited, two 53-foot trailers full of relief goods from two of our closest competitors; Werner Enterprises and Heartland Express,” said Con-way Truckload President Herb Schmidt. “Along with the trailers came notes for us to keep the trailers as long as we needed and to distribute the relief goods wherever needed; and that Joplin was in their thoughts and prayers. Similar trailers full of relief goods and funds to assist our affected employees and the community continued to arrive from many other groups including customers, vendors, churches and our affiliate Con-way companies.”

Con-way Truckload’s parent company, Con-way, Inc., donated \$100,000 to community relief efforts and an additional \$100,000 to employees who suffered losses from the tornado.

Contact: Wendy Brunner-Lewis

Ph: 417-623-5229