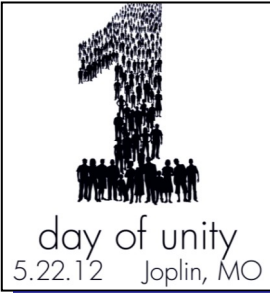


Education



One
Year.



One
Community.



One
Direction.

Joplin Schools

The tornado hit Joplin's public schools hard. It destroyed or damaged 10 of its 20 buildings. Completely destroyed were Joplin High School, Franklin Technology Center, East Middle School, Irving Elementary School, Emerson Elementary School and the old South Middle School, which was used as a transitional facility. One school staff member and seven students were killed.

There was still approximately one week of school left on May 22, but administrators ended the year early so staff and students could concentrate on rebuilding.

School employees located all their staff and students within a week of the tornado using social media, phone calls and personal visits. In order to maintain some sense of normalcy and to give kids a place to go while their parents worked in the debris field, Joplin summer school started on time with an extended summer session.



All Joplin schools reopened on time Aug. 17. The destroyed schools reopened in temporary structures in Joplin's Northpark Mall, a building in the Crossroads Industrial Park and in modular units placed on the remaining school properties.

Demolition of the destroyed buildings continues today. The new schools will be rebuilt within the next three years thanks in part to a \$62 million bond issue passed by Joplin voters in April, insurance proceeds, funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State of Missouri. The combined Irving and Emerson Elementary schools will be rebuilt on the former St. John's Mercy Hospital campus. St. John's Mercy is rebuilding at a location three miles south of its former site.

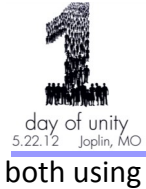
Joplin Area Catholic Schools

St. Mary's Elementary School and Church on 25th Street were destroyed, but classes resumed in a renovated warehouse on the campus of McAuley Catholic High School just three weeks after the school year was to start in August.

Thirty-five students' families were displaced when their homes were damaged or destroyed, and one student, her little brother and their father perished. Through donations 12 students received scholarships to continue their education at the school without financial worry.

McAuley High School served as a medical triage and call center immediately after the storm and as a shelter and distribution center in the following days. A week after the storm, Catholic Charities arrived and used the high school as its

Education (cont)



distribution center and offered case management services out of the classrooms.

St. Mary's Elementary School will be rebuilt, but for now the focus is on rebuilding St. Mary's Church. Currently the St. Mary's Church parishioners and St. Peter's Church parishioners are both using St. Peter's Church.

Missouri Southern State University

On April 28, 2011, Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) and the American Red Cross announced they would cooperate in disaster preparation using MSSU facilities. Just a few weeks later MSSU was called into action to assist state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations in this major natural disaster.

- ◆ The Leggett & Platt Athletic Center sheltered up to 400 displaced residents and their pets.
- ◆ The Health Sciences Building was used as a temporary medical clinic and dental care facility until St. John's re-established those services.
- ◆ Billingsly Student Center became the center of voluntary organization efforts managed by AmeriCorps. About 10,000 volunteers had registered by Memorial Day. The student center also served as barracks for President Obama's military advance group, a missing-persons call center and the D-MORT disaster morgue processing center for DNA analysis by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Missouri Department of Public Safety.
- ◆ Taylor Performing Arts Center and the Fine Arts Complex became the center of activity for FEMA and Gov. Jay Nixon's Community Resource meetings that pulled together state agencies and services to assist disaster victims.
- ◆ Residence halls were used to house hundreds of police, fire and rescue teams pouring into the area to assist.
- ◆ Taylor Auditorium served as the location for the memorial services hosted by Gov. Nixon and attended by President Obama.
- ◆ Through the summer, MSSU hosted events and services to support the ongoing recovery efforts: hearings held by the state legislature's House and Senate committees on Disaster Recovery; a Disaster Recovery Center for state and federal program information; the New York Says Thank You Foundation and the National 9-11 Flag; and the "I am Joplin" event heralding a new school year for the city's children.

MSSU, like many other organizations and businesses, was trying to account for its own employees and students. A faculty member and a student perished in the storm, as did an employee's spouse.

Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School

Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School did not escape the effects of the May 22 tornado. More than 15 Thomas Jefferson families lost their homes and/or businesses in the storm. Thankfully, the school did not lose any students or faculty, and no injuries were reported.

Because of the overwhelming community impact, Thomas Jefferson cut its school year short by one week to allow students and teachers to help with recovery activities. The Thomas Jefferson community, including students, parents, teachers and members of the alumni group, raised more than \$4,900 to assist families after the storm. Teachers worked together to gather school supplies, books and funds for other teachers at schools damaged by the storm.

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Education (cont)



Graduation for Thomas Jefferson’s Class of 2011 was moved forward one day to avoid conflicting with President Obama’s visit to Joplin.

In addition, Thomas Jefferson played host to volunteers from a St. Louis independent school—led by a former Thomas Jefferson faculty member—who camped in the school’s gym for a week while assisting with debris removal.

College Heights Christian School

While the school and church were outside the tornado’s path, some College Heights Christian School staff members and school families suffered loss or damage to homes or businesses. The night of the tornado, CHCS turned the school into an emergency shelter. The remaining week of classes was canceled and the facility was turned over to support tornado recovery. The gymnasium, classrooms, and hallways filled with donated items. Using their own supplies, school cafeteria staff worked with other volunteers to cook and provide meals for volunteers and survivors of the storm

Throughout the summer, CHCS continued to serve as one of the major distribution points for donated goods and as a command center for incoming volunteers from around the country.

Many faculty, staff, students and parents volunteered, not only in the CHCC distribution center or in the volunteer command center, but in many other places around the city, or on their own.

Crowder College

With the main campus 15 miles south of Joplin in Neosho and satellite campuses throughout southwest Missouri—including one in Webb City, seven miles north of Joplin—Crowder was in a strategic position to provide assistance:

- ◆ In the first month following the tornado staff and students logged over 1,300 volunteer hours.
- ◆ Set up donation trailers throughout McDonald and Newton counties collecting and delivering donated items.
- ◆ Housed in campus dorms over 300 disaster responders and volunteers including representatives of Health and Human Services and the Missouri Highway Patrol.
- ◆ Designated the Transport Training department’s “skid pad” as the staging site for FEMA housing.
- ◆ Ten staff members and 146 students were impacted by damaged or destroyed homes.
- ◆ Crowder College Foundation Office accepted donations for employees who were affected by the tornado. Close to \$10,000 was raised. A student fund was also established with an initial staff donation.
- ◆ Received a \$15,000 USA Funds grant for students. Assistance was used for tuition, fees, books, room and board/housing and food, or other education-related expenses. Funds were available for the 2010-2011 or 2011-2012 academic years.

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