



Press Release
For Immediate Release

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**UNITED WAY ANNOUNCES AVAILABLE IN-KIND GOODS AND
AWARDS FIRST ROUND OF FUNDING FOR TORNADO RELIEF**

Pensacola, Fla. – March 4, 2016

Escambia County and Gulf Coast citizens worked together to help generate resources for neighbors impacted by the EF3 tornados that devastated the area in February. In addition to thousands of in-kind donations, local citizens have generously donated or pledged over \$309,000 to support recovery. The first round of a special grant application process has concluded, and United Way of Escambia County Board Members awarded eight local nonprofits funding to help affected citizens in Escambia County. Funding Awards are as follows:

The American Red Cross Award= \$22,857

Funding Awarded is to provide individual financial assistance given after the 3.4 award date to families affected by Century and Pensacola.

Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies (BRACE) Award=\$28,571

Funding Awarded is to purchase supplies and materials that will be used by volunteer laborers helping homeowners recover.

Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida Award= \$24,000

Funding Awarded is for direct assistance for the client, payable to vendors in the form of payments for past due mortgage, past due rent, first month's rent, rental deposits, home repairs, hotel/motel, utility services, prescription, food, and counseling services. 30% of the award or \$7,200 is to fund part of the cost required to cover additional case management support of survivors.

Escambia County Healthy Start Award= \$586

Funding Awarded is for capacity required in the form of additional staffing needed to disburse in-kind goods (baby supplies) that United Way will provide to Healthy Start for client's who have assessed damage.

Legal Services of North Florida Award= \$5,000

Funding Awarded for capacity required in the form of legal support being rendered to county residents who need help resolve financial and housing stability issues caused by the tornados.

The Salvation Army Award= \$928

Funding Awarded is for the extended hours needed to feed and shelter residents affected by the tornados.

United Ministries Award= \$9,857

Funding Awarded is to provide financial assistance with rent, repairs, mortgages and utilities payable directly to the vendor.

211 Northwest Florida Award= \$19,286

Funding Awarded to provide financial assistance in the form of rental deposits, first month's rent, utility deposits and insurance deductibles payable directly to the vendor.

The total amount disbursed during the first round is \$111,085.71.

The eight local nonprofit organizations selected provide direct aid to the families who were impacted by the Northern Escambia and Pensacola area tornados. Each organization that receives funding will sign a contract stating that they acknowledge their willingness to provide weekly and quarterly reports on how the funds are used.

The application process is split into three separate rounds. United Way hopes to make close to \$100,000 of collected funding available for each round. The first round of applications closed March 1 at 5 p.m. The second round applications closed on March 6 at 5 p.m., and the deadline for the third round applications is to be determined. Funding not disbursed during these three rounds, or donations that are collected after the third round concludes, will be open for a fourth application at a later time. United Way will announce that date once it is set and will keep the community informed of where and how their donations support local families who most need assistance.

If your nonprofit organization provides direct assistance to disaster victims and you think United Way is unaware of how you are helping, please contact United Way's Partnership Manager, Stephanie Crandall, at stephanie@unitedwayescambia.org. United Way will make sure you have access to donations being collected and that it does not duplicate services with our community's limited resources.

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