

# One Year Later: Tornado Recovery Impact Report

On May 16, 2025, a devastating EF3 tornado struck St. Louis, with the majority of damage concentrated in North St. Louis City. Within three days, the St. Louis Community Foundation launched the St. Louis Disaster Relief Fund to support organizations providing immediate, intermediate, and long-term recovery efforts. The fund was designed to provide critical gap funding alongside other public and community recovery initiatives. Additionally, the Gateway Early Childhood Alliance Fund was utilized to assist early childhood centers impacted by the tornado, and the Regional Response Fund supported critical infrastructure for volunteer groups.

## \$1.13M

Distributed across 24 organizations

Supporting shelter & housing, moving & storage, and food insecurity

### Community-Led Recovery:

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the fund has distributed **\$1.13 Million to 24 organizations addressing urgent community needs across three primary focus areas: shelter and housing, moving and storage assistance, and food insecurity.** To ensure nonprofit partners could prioritize response and recovery efforts, reporting requirements were intentionally streamlined during the grantmaking process.

**While this report highlights available data and stories of impact, the full measure of recovery lives in the people served, neighborhoods supported, and partnerships strengthened across St. Louis.**

## 57,809

INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

## 3,430

STUDENTS SUPPORTED

## 49,342

MEALS DISTRIBUTED

## 42

HOMES REPAIRED

### Funded Organizations:

314Oasis	Mission: St. Louis
4theVille	Penrose Neighborhood Community Association
Academy-Sherman Park Neighborhood Association	Peter & Paul Community Services
Action St. Louis	Salvation Army
Adelaide Informal Collective	St. Louis Area Food Bank
American Red Cross	St. Louis City Senior Fund
Better Family Life	St. Louis Education Fund
Confluence Academies	St. Paul AME Church
Dream Builders 4 Equity	STL Recovery
Invest STL	Urban League
KingsVille Corporation	United Way
KIPP: St. Louis	
LovetheLOU	

## Recovery in Action

Recovery cannot be measured by numbers alone.

These stories reflect the resilience, compassion, and collaboration that carried St. Louis forward after the storm.

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For **42 consecutive days**, we provided two hot meals daily—lunch and dinner—to approximately 150 families per day, totaling **over 12,600 meals served during the initial response period.**

This grant didn't just fund meals. It sustained a movement. It allowed us to remain present, consistent, and compassionate in the face of chaos. It turned a garden into a hub of healing, a parking lot into a place of refuge, and a team of volunteers into a family of responders. The ripple effects of this support will be felt for years to come. ~ *Academy Sherman Park*

Thanks to the generous support provided by this funding, we were able to secure temporary housing for Ms. Brock, ensuring she had a safe and stable environment during this difficult time. With your help, repairs to her home are now underway. While she has not yet been able to return, **this progress brings her closer to reclaiming the place that holds deep family and cultural significance.** The grant is making it possible for Ms. Brock to move from crisis toward restoration—providing hope, dignity, and the promise of home. ~ *Mission: St. Louis*



*"St. Paul Family Friday" - a weekly community site providing resources to those affected by the tornado.*

We were able to mobilize critical services—including emergency items, meals, transportation, and emotional support—for individuals and families displaced by the storm. Through our partnership, critical aid was delivered to **more than 13,000 individuals across heavily impacted neighborhoods**

(ZIP codes 63112–63115). ~ *St. Paul AME Church*



*Education and community leaders gather to discuss continued recovery efforts supporting students and families impacted by the tornado.*

SLPS social workers were stationed on site and supported through stipends provided by the Fund, ensuring families had trusted points of contact.

As a result of these coordinated efforts, **approximately 3,100 students were identified as impacted, and roughly 85% returned to SLPS classrooms.**

*~ St. Louis Education Fund*

## Navigating Student Displacement

Immediately following the tornado, the Center for Education Leadership mobilized funds to support nonprofits organizing on-the-ground responses. For this recovery effort, there was a focus on supporting youth in the region by coordinating with Confluence Academies, KIPP St. Louis, and St. Louis Public Schools.

Confluence Academies and KIPP St. Louis mobilized outreach and case management staff to identify and locate displaced families. Individuals leveraged canvassing and phone banking alongside GIS mapping based on student files to locate over 1,000 students and conduct preliminary needs assessments and service referrals whether or not students were still enrolled in their districts.

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As we moved from emergency response to sustained recovery, we further collaborated with the St. Louis Community Foundation, which provided a list of **394 families affected by the storms**. Through this grant, we offered stipends to five Mental Health Professionals who conducted direct outreach to each family on that list throughout July. Collectively, they logged **more than 400 outreach attempts**—calls, texts, and emails—to check in on families, connect them to resources, and assess ongoing needs.

*~ KIPP St. Louis*



*A volunteer works with Dream Builders 4 Equity to board up homes after the tornado.*

*Recovery is still unfolding across St. Louis, but so is the strength of this community. Thank you to every donor, nonprofit partner, volunteer, and neighbor who helped support families and communities impacted by the May 16 tornado.*

*Together, we continue the work of recovery.*