



MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jennifer Wright, United Way of Greater Nashville
615.780.2452; jennifer.wright@unitedwaygn.org

Lori Shinton, Hands On Nashville
931-249-9950; lori@hon.org

Misty Ratcliff, Salvation Army–Nashville Area Command
Misty.Ratcliff@uss.salvationarmy.org

Amy Atkinson, on behalf of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Nashville
615.305.8118; amy@amyacomunications.com

City of Nashville & Davidson County Join Nonprofit Organizations to Provide Response and Recovery Efforts for Historic Downtown Area

With a new year comes new hope.

December 31, 2020, Nashville, Tenn. – The [Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Office of Emergency Management](#), and Nashville/Davidson County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) are working together to provide immediate assistance to individuals impacted by the tragedy on Friday, December 25 in downtown Nashville.

With the city's focus of quickly identifying businesses, employees of those affected businesses, and residents who lived in the damaged historic downtown structures, members of the VOAD have been identified based on their areas of expertise to assist in moving the recovery efforts downtown forward. This group of local nonprofits has been working closely since the incident to organize and mobilize resources and assistance by individuals and families affected.

Available resources include:

January 1st Food and Essentials Drive-Thru Event for Survivors

- **1:00 p.m., Community Resource Center, 218 Omohundro Place**
The [Community Resource Center](#), in partnership with [Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee](#), will be providing essential kits for survivors that will include food, hygiene products and diapers for those in need. The food boxes and essential kits will be available to pick-up during a “Nashville Strong” drive-thru event on Friday, January 1, 2021 at 1:00 pm at the Community Resource Center, located at 218 Omohundro Place, Nashville, TN 37210.
- [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) will also be on site for emotional and spiritual care providing purposeful listening to survivors overcoming challenges related to disaster recovery.

Additional Resources Available for Survivors

- **Nashville Strong Assistance Fund**
Catholic Charities will provide assistance to those who live or work in the explosion perimeter area in the historic downtown area, through a specially funded program that will begin Monday, January 4. An online application for assistance will be go live on Friday afternoon, January 1.

The application can be accessed from the following web site: nashvillestrong2021.org. Those who are unable to access the online application can call 615-352-8591.

- **hubNashville**
For assistance from Metro Nashville Davidson County Government, affected individuals should visit hub.nashville.gov, use the hubNashville 311 app or call 311.
- **Food Assistance**
Individuals in need of emergency food assistance can text 'FEEDS' to 797979 or visit www.secondharvestmidtn.org/get-help to access Second Harvest's Find Food tool to locate the nearest food distribution, including Emergency Food Box sites in Davidson County. For additional assistance, individuals can call 211.
- **Cash Assistance**
A limited supply of gift cards, provided by Salvation Army - Nashville Area Command, will be available for immediate cash assistance for those affected. Individuals can receive more information by texting the word 'STRONG' to 484848.
- **Housing and Immediate Needs**
The American Red Cross of Tennessee is providing assistance for those displaced from their home, apartment or townhouse. Those needing assistance should contact the Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS to help with their immediate needs, which may include food, shelter, clothing, health and mental health services, community referrals and recovery assistance.
- **Assistance for Spanish Speakers**
Spanish speakers impacted can call Conexión Americas at 615-270-9252 for assistance beginning on Monday, January 4, 2021.
- **Resource and Referral Line**
Individuals in need of assistance can contact United Way of Greater Nashville's 24-hour resource and referral line for help by dialing 211 or visiting 211.org.

Note: To qualify for financial assistance, survivors will need to provide proof of employment or residency in the direct impacted area.

How Community Members Can Help

Donate

- **United Way of Greater Nashville** is partnering with Mayor John Cooper's office to accept gifts to its Restore the Dream Fund which will provide long-term disaster recovery support to nonprofits for the survivors. People who wish to donate may visit www.unitedwaygreaternashville.org or text RESTORE20 to 41444.
- **The Salvation Army – Nashville Area Command** believes "we are stronger together" and is assisting survivors with urgent needs of food, transportation, and healthcare through Kroger Gift Cards, UBER Rides and UBER Eats. Gifts can be made in support of this disaster response at www.salvationarmynashville.org.
- **Catholic Charities, Diocese of Nashville** provides a range of services that help clients through crises and toward self-sufficiency. Services include emergency financial assistance, counseling, job training, housing stability, hunger relief, and more. Gifts in support of their disaster relief efforts can be made at www.cctenn.org.
- **The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee's Nashville Neighbors Fund**, established in partnership with WTVF-NewsChannel5, is accepting gifts to provide services to both the immediate and long-term needs of survivors affected by the Christmas Day tragedy.

- **Community Resource Center of Nashville** will be actively engaged with long-term recovery efforts to provide basic essentials, clothing, household goods, and is [collecting items](#) to assist with debris removal, clean up and first responder needs.

Volunteer

- **Hands On Nashville** is recruiting volunteers to help with disaster relief and recovery efforts, including cleanup and distribution of essential items to survivors and first responders. Visit hon.org to register as a volunteer or find a disaster-relief project.

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About the Nashville/Davidson County VOAD

The Nashville/Davidson County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) provides the framework for successful preparation and activation of nonprofits and private companies to provide essential augmentations for local government's capacity and available resources during a disaster. The VOAD is a purposeful mechanism that scales up during crisis, strengthens area-wide disaster coordination, and enhances preparedness by sharing information and engaging in joint training.

The current VOAD steering committee includes:

- American Red Cross of Tennessee
- Catholic Charities of Tennessee
- Community Resource Center
- The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
- Conexión Americas
- Hands on Nashville
- The Housing Fund
- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Nashville Humane Association
- Salvation Army – Nashville Area Command
- Neighbor to Neighbor
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
- United Methodist Committee on Relief – Tennessee Conference
- United Way of Greater Nashville
- Urban League of Middle Tennessee