

Memorial Health Care System

Contact: Brian Lazenby, (423) 495-4320

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2011

Memorial Associates Benefit from Storm Relief Aid

Chattanooga, TN – Memorial Health Care System and the local chapter of the American Red Cross are helping Memorial employees that lost their homes in the April 27 tornadoes. Memorial associates and physicians pitched in to raise about \$14,000 for associates whose homes were damaged in the storms. So far, 17 employees have received assistance.

The funding occurred through Memorial Foundation's Employee Assistance Fund which provides financial assistance to associates in need of help. A special fundraising drive occurred to boost the ability to support victims of the storms.

Meleisa Ware, a Memorial associate whose home was severely damaged in the storms, is grateful for the generosity and caring nature of her co-workers at Memorial.

“I want to thank everyone at Memorial from the bottom of our hearts for the most generous gift that they have given to our family,” she said. “Memorial Health care System truly has the most caring individuals who enjoy assisting others. I couldn’t have asked for better co-workers, friends, and neighbors in a time of crisis in our lives. We have been very blessed by people who have donated their time, money, clothing, and food to make our lives a little easier during this devastating time.”

The American Red Cross donated five Coleman coolers full of supplies to help five associates whose homes were destroyed.

Monica Hammond, a surgical instrument technician whose Ringgold home was severely damaged by the storms witnessed the roof and a wall ripped from her home, trees crashed through the house and her car demolished when it was picked up and hurled into the side of the house. She was one of five associates that received a cooler full of supplies from the Red Cross.

“This is priceless,” Monica said as she received her supplies. “The hospital has been amazing through this whole process. They have been so understanding and have done everything they can to help me and my family through this difficult time.”

Items in the coolers included a 12-pack of toilet paper, a family size container of laundry detergent, a box of tissues, family size shampoo and conditioner, a \$50 gift card from Publix, batteries, hand sanitizer, work gloves, sunscreen, toothbrushes, two tubes of toothpaste and two bars of soap.

Memorial Health Care System is a not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to the healing ministry of the Church. Founded by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and strengthened as part of Catholic Health Initiatives, it offers a continuum of care including preventative, primary and acute hospital care, as well as cancer and cardiac care, orthopedic and rehabilitation services. Memorial is a regional referral center of choice with 4,000 associates and more than 700 affiliated physicians providing health care throughout Southeast Tennessee and North Georgia. Memorial Health Care System is recognized as one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® by Thomson Reuters, the health care industry's leading source of information on hospital quality. To learn more, visit www.memorial.org.