

Making families whole again

❑ *Ogle County Long Term Range Committee ready to begin distributing funds for tornado victims*

ROCHELLE—The long term range committee is committed to making families whole again after the April 9 tornado, in the most responsible manner. Each family has now been contacted by a caseworker.

Caseworkers serve as advocates to the affected families. Caseworkers are assisting us from several organizations: Red Cross, St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, and St. Paul Church. The committee began with a total of 76 cases for the caseworkers.

After the initial call, 34 of those cases were marked inactive since those families did not have needs at this time. Even if a case has been marked inactive, it can be re-visited at any time. If for any reason a family feels they would be more comfortable with a different caseworker, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Long Term Recovery Committee.

The Rochelle Area Community Foundation has raised approximately \$300,000 in tornado relief funds. In order to be as fair as possible, the foundation will begin the first round of distributions once the initial casework assessments are complete—likely in late June. Once each needs assessment is complete, the requests for funds will be brought to the Funders Forum anonymously. Each family will be identified by a number. The LTRC will attempt to meet needs in other ways including through in-kind donations

of supplies, materials and labor and through other not-for-profit groups with resources.

Recovery funds

Recovery funds will be distributed for many different types of needs that are not covered by insurance including, but not limited to the following: insurance shortfall, car replacement, mental health counseling, livestock, farm equipment, household goods, insurance deductibles, child care, clothing, landscaping, lost wages, rental assistance and contracting structural engineers. In addition, the committee can assist with advocacy with insurance, benefits, contractors and service providers.

Several area organizations have offered volunteer assistance. If any family would like volunteers to assist in any remaining debris removal, cleanup, etc., please do not hesitate to ask. Bill Vanstone, a from the United Methodist Church's Hub Cluster is coordinating the volunteer effort. His phone number is 815-302-2333.

A support forum for affected families will begin June 17 at 7 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church. Childcare is provided at the monthly support group meetings.

The Long Term Recovery Office is located at 501 6th Avenue. The office is staffed Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The office phone number is 815-561-3052.



Many homes damaged during the April 9 tornado are in the process of being rebuilt, as pictured above on Friday at this home on Skare Court. At left, the home is pictured following the storm.