

Foundation looks to distribute donations

□ Rochelle Area Community Foundation has set up a temporary office at Hayden Real Estate location

BY KATIE PETERSON
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ROCHELLE — Hours after the tornado touched down in the Rochelle area, the Rochelle Area Community Foundation established a specific Disaster Relief Fund to help local residents who were impacted by the storm.

Since that fund was established on Friday, many donations have been made by not only individuals and organizations in the Rochelle region, but also by donors from other states and countries.

Kim Montgomery, RACF executive director, explained the foundation board knows it has homework to do and is looking into options for distribution of the donations. Board members have talked to other community foundations which have been through a similar situation and are getting advice on how to handle the donations.

“You can trust the the donations will be used locally.”

Kim Montgomery

As of right now, Montgomery explained the foundation would probably have a very simple application process with donations going to local organizations who are heavily involved in the disaster relief effort.

As with all funds to the foundation, donations are designated to a specific fund to

be distributed to local non-profit organizations.

“One hundred percent of the donations made to the foundation’s relief fund will go back into the community,”

stated Montgomery. “You can trust the donations will be used locally. We are trying to sort through ideas to meet the need in the best way.”

To help with the process of collecting, sorting and distributing donations, Hayden Real Estate has loaned office space to the foundation to set up a temporary office.

Monetary donations may be submitted online at ro-

chellefoundation.org, mailed to PO Box 74, Rochelle or dropped off at Hayden Real Estate or any local bank.

While the foundation only accepts monetary donations, Montgomery explained the group is working with local organizations to provide assistance. The Salvation Army has set up at the Methodist Church and is distributing supplies now. There is also a group set up in a warehouse at 105 south Main Street to collect and distribute donations.

The Rochelle Area Community Foundation has received many calls asking how to help and donate, Montgomery said she and board members are doing their best to return phone calls in a timely manner.

“We don’t know all the answers yet, but we are working through the process to get final answers,” explained board member Jim Tolan.

Foundation board members learned from Washington, Ill. and other towns impacted by natural disasters that money will be needed down the road. While organizations and businesses have immediately come to the assistance



The Rochelle Area Community Foundation has set up an office in Hayden Real Estate, 211 IL Highway 38, to help collect and organize donations to the foundation’s tornado relief fund. Board members Jim Tolan, Cal Jacobs and director Kim Montgomery met Monday afternoon in the office to set up and organize donations. (Photo by Katie Peterson)

of Rochelle and Fairdale, the individuals impacted will be cleaning through the rubble and working to establish a new sense of normal.

“Thank you so much for the donations, the outpouring of support for the residents impacted has been overwhelming,” said Montgomery.

With donations from the community as well as individu-

als and organizations from afar the foundation stated the following on its Facebook page:

“We have been blessed with an outpouring of financial support for our neighbors, family and friends who have been affected by the recent tornado. We have also received so many calls from people who want to help in one way or another. Many thanks to all who are so

caring of others in these challenging times.”

Once the initial donations to the relief fund have been distributed to local organizations to help residents pick up the pieces, the foundation is hoping to establish a fund to have a permanent endowed field of interest fund set up in case a disaster hits Rochelle again.