

May 5, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **West Kentucky Disaster Recovery Fund**

In response to the recent flooding in our area, the Community Foundation of West Kentucky has set up the West Kentucky Disaster Recovery Fund. This unrestricted fund will provide grants to nonprofit agencies, religious organizations and governmental entities that provide long-term disaster recovery assistance to the people of West Kentucky and Massac County, Illinois. 100% of the money received will be used to help our region recover.

The West Kentucky Disaster Recovery Fund is not meant to replace the efforts of first responders. We encourage giving to those groups providing immediate assistance like the Red Cross, United Way, Salvation Army, and others.

Recovery efforts after a natural disaster may take years. The Community Foundation will serve as a conduit to receive donations and disburse grants to aid long-term recovery. The Community Foundation will establish a volunteer advisory committee which will work with local leaders and experts to determine the areas of greatest need. The committee will analyze each disaster and decide the best use of available resources. The West Kentucky Disaster Recovery Fund will have the flexibility to grant to first responders proactively and then to other organizations through a grant application process. The advisory committee will encourage collaboration among organizations to remedy unmet needs. Grants from the Fund will be distributed to nonprofit organizations and government agencies, not to individuals. The Fund will only be used for provision of direct services to the people of West Kentucky and Massac County, Illinois. Direct services may include housing, food, household items, cleanup and other areas of need to be determined by the committee. Recipients of grants will be organizations that have established systems in place to assess needs and get help to disaster victims. Organizations who receive grants will be required to provide reports confirming the grants were used for their intended purpose.

The Community Foundation of West Kentucky will devote a page on their website for disaster recovery. This page will list the grants given from the fund as well as links to organizations providing direct services to people in need.

To make a donation to the West Kentucky Disaster Recovery Fund, send a check payable to the Community Foundation of West Kentucky, P. O. Box 7901, Paducah, KY 42002. Please note West Kentucky Disaster Recovery Fund in the memo section. The Community Foundation of West Kentucky is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are fully deductible under the limits of the law.

If you wish to make another type of donation or if you have questions, contact the Community Foundation of West Kentucky at (270) 442-8622 or toll free at (855) 442-8623. Our email address is [info@cfwestky.org](mailto:info@cfwestky.org).