

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Organization:

Greene County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

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Community Groups Come Together After Flooding

Representatives from Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Greene County Emergency Management Agency have gathered together local agencies, churches and other community organizations to address the needs and issues facing those affected by the flooding which occurred December 18th. Greg Leathers, Greene Co. EMA Director, briefed the organizations on the situation following flooding that affected dozens of homes and families across Greene County. The United Way, Community Action Southwest, Salvation Army, Greene Co. Human Services, Catholic Charities, United Methodist Church, Greater Waynesburg Christian Outreach, Lions Club, and others were among those present.

The group will work together to coordinate assisting those with damage to homes and personal belongings.

There is no need for additional donations of clothing or personal items at this time because items are already available through these organizations. Housing and basic needs are the priorities for the response. Of the gravest concern is that furnaces and hot water tanks have been damaged and need to be replaced so that families can safely be in their own homes. Many households do not have the extra funds to handle those expenses, especially at this time of year.

Since funds are currently the biggest need, the decision was made to set up one fund to collect financial donations. First United Methodist Church (112 N. Richhill St., Waynesburg, PA 15370) will serve as the fiscal agent. Checks should be made out to "First UMC Waynesburg" with a notation on the check for "Greene County Flood Fund." 100% of the funds gathered will be used directly for this flood response in Greene County.

Everyone is encouraged to both examine their property and basements thoroughly and to check on their neighbors. Moisture from floodwater can create additional damage, mold, and health hazards if left untreated. Trained volunteers are also being offered to individuals who would like assistance with cleanup and mold remediation. Christy Orndorff, United Methodist District Disaster Response Coordinator, will serve as the volunteer contact. She can be reached at 724-627-6805.

The coalition of churches, agencies, and organizations will continue to meet together to most effectively use resources and support affected individuals. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at Waynesburg First United Methodist Church.