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		Rent	

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	Sale

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# How 80,000 Volunteers Showed **Joplin That 'The World Cares'**

# **BY TODD C. FRANKEL**

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JOPLIN, Mo. — The volunteers started arriving at first light. Some lived nearby. Others drove through the night. No one summoned them. They just showed up. A massive tornado had hit Joplin hours earlier. The need for help was huge. At an impromptu staging area, they waited to be told what to do.

Bruce Bailey looked out at the crowd. He was director of the AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team, which was responsible for organizing the volunteer effort here. As the sun rose, he saw at least 500 people. By day's end, the number jumped to 3,000. He was stunned.

'We knew there would be people," Bailey recalled. "We had no idea there would be so many." That was just the beginning of the volunteer effort to help Joplin after the devastating May 22 tornado, which killed 161 people and leveled a large swath of this southwest Missouri town. More than 60,000 registered volunteers came to Joplin in the following months. An additional 20,000 people also were believed to have helped.

That's more than 80,000 volunteers passing through a city of just 50,000.

It was not just the tasks performed by volunteers that resonated with Joplin residents. It was what all those volunteers represented.

"It lets them know the world cares," Bailey said.

Residents — reeling from the disaster — saw a show of force, strangers offering to help in whatever small way they could, city streets filled with vehicles with out-of-state license plates. One man even paid his own way from Japan to volunteer for two weeks.

"It was amazing," said Michael Harris, a hairstylist at the Ritz Hair Salon, where the marquee out front last month still read "Thank you volunteers." "It was uplifting. It made you feel like it was going to be OK because all these people were here

Harris recalled meeting a volunteer nurse who gave him a tetanus shot, a common precaution taken after the tornado. He asked her where she was from. Kansas City, she said. It was only 150 miles away, but he still almost started crying.

Small moments like that happened all over town. Jerrod Hogan, vice president of an engineering company, was at a Walgreens near the hardesthit area. It was a night or two after the tornado. He had seen so much destruction he was becoming numb to it. He met a couple who said they were from Mississippi. He thought they must be stranded tourists. He asked what brought them to Joplin. They explained they were volunteers.

Recalling the meeting months later, Hogan choked up.

"That was the first time I realized we weren't by ourselves," he said.

Joplin's city manager, Mark Rohr, called the outpouring of support "the miracle of the human spirit." He first used the phrase at a ceremony one week after the tornado. He's been repeating it ever since.



EMILY RASINSKI/ST. LOUIS

Clare Holdinghaus, middle, AmeriCorps emergency response team corps member, supervises as Anna Bettger, left, and Jeremiah Chamberlin, plant a tree in front of a newly rebuilt home in Joplin, Missouri, on December 13, 2011. Bettger and Chamberlin are members of AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps.

"I've been pleasantly surprised," he said. In those first weeks, volunteers helped rescue crews pick through the rubble to look for survivors. Volunteers handed out sandwiches, water bottles and fruit to anyone in the tornado zone. They cut down broken trees. They picked through debris for salvageable items — the photo albums, jewelry and legal papers scattered by 200 mph winds. They carried bags of clothes, pots and pans, soaps and toothbrushes they had purchased themselves to hand out to residents who had lost everything.

Volunteers helped clear the roads. They patched roofs and boarded up broken windows. One volunteer was Roy Day.

He first made the seven-hour drive from his home in Blandinsville, Ill., towing his Bobcat loader, two weeks after the tornado. No one asked him. He just felt the need to help. The 41-year-old father of four has returned to Joplin at least 15 times. He travels mostly on weekends off from his concrete-pouring business.

He also recruited several west-central Illinois communities and churches to build a new house for a single mother with three children who lost her home in the tornado. They raised \$125,000. Already, the foundation has been poured, and the roof is on.

"Anywhere you go people say, 'Thank you,' " Day said. "You don't want the recognition, but they want to give it to you."

Along with individual volunteers like Day, AmeriCorps helped coordinate the efforts of more than 2,200 different groups, including the Salvation Army and United Way, plus faith-based organi-

## zations such as Convoy of Hope. Businesses, including doctor's offices and construction companies, sent volunteers, too.

The work was also behind the scenes. People were needed to sort through clothing donations and organize food pantries. They worked at laptops doing data entry. They helped register and hand out wristbands to new volunteers.

The average registered volunteer contributed 9 1/2 hours of free labor and spent 1 1/2 days in Joplin, AmeriCorps said. That helped ease the tornado's toll.

The scale of the damage was massive and expensive. Insurers were expected to pay out at least \$2 billion in damages from the tornado. State and federal agencies have pitched in millions of dollars to help Joplin regain its footing. Corporations and foundations have made millions in grants and donations, like the \$1.5 million the Lilly Endowment in Indianapolis recently awarded to the Joplin Recovery Fund.

But there are things that insurance and donations do not cover, that the emergency grants cannot pay for.

The AmeriCorps team operates on a mission of "see the need, meet the need," said operations co ordinator Quinn Gardner. Several months after the tornado, for example, clothing donations were no longer needed. Instead, the focus changed to rebuilding. The need is for building materials and skilled laborers.

The work of a sizable force of volunteers will continue for at least another year. AmeriCorps and its staff of five to eight plan to manage operations in Joplin through Christmas 2012.

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By THOMAS JOSEPH							
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TROOP T R I A L J U R O R S S U N L A P T E E TONER D

Factories, Builders Boos **Economy At End Of Year** 

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# Legal and Public Notices 1+3+4+5

Mobile Home **Annual Listing** 

The owner of each mobile home 1976 or older shall, starting January 1st thru the 1st day of February of each year, list the mobile home with the county Director of Equalization in the county where the mobile home is located. Any owner who fails to list his/her mobile home is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Lori Mackey Director of Equalization Yankton County

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. manufacturers ended 2011 with their best month of growth since the late spring. And the struggling construction industry spent more on projects for the third time in four months.

The data bolstered hopes that the economv is gaining momentum and helped Wall Street start 2012 with a bang.

Factories hired more workers in December. saw the most growth in new orders since April and ramped up production. U.S. builders spent more in November on singlefamily homes, apartments and remodeling projects.

The strong reports correspond with other positive signs for the economy. Consumer confidence is up, unemployment benefit applications have tumbled and the unemployment rate is at a three-and-a-halfyear low.

Economists caution that Europe's debt crisis will likely slow global growth in the first half of the year.

But on Tuesday, the outlook was mostly positive

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said its manufacturing index rose to 53.9 from 52.7 in November. Readings above 50 indicate expansion.

The Commerce Department said spending on construction projects rose 1.2 percent in November. The increase was the largest since a 2.2 percent rise in August.

The trend for the U.S. economy is most decidedly to the upside," said Dan Greenhaus, an analyst at brokerage firm BTIG LLC in New York.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 179.82 points, almost 1.5 percent, to close at 12,397.38. Broader indexes also climbed. Reports that manufacturing grew in China and India, two of the world's largest economies, also drove markets higher.

U.S manufacturing has expanded for more than two years. Factories were one of the first areas of the economy to start growing after the recession officially ended in June 2009. They faltered over the summer after Japan's March 11 earthquake disrupted auto and electronics supply chains.

The December ISM survey showed many factories have largely recovered from their slump earlier this year

Exports rose despite the trouble in Europe. Growth in new orders means output will likely increase in the coming months. And U.S. factories hired last month at the fastest pace since June, an optimistic sign ahead of Friday's important measure of job growth in December.

"All in all, an upbeat report," said Peter Newland, an economist at Barclays Capital, who noted that the stronger manufacturing activity should contribute to faster economic growth in the October-December quarter.

<ul> <li>11 Colorful bird</li> <li>12 Fare carrier</li> <li>13 Take testimony from</li> <li>14 Dueling weapon</li> <li>15 Wine spot</li> <li>17 Scottish lake</li> <li>20 Wrong</li> <li>23 "So that's it!"</li> <li>24 Car pioneer Ferdinand</li> <li>26 Ravine</li> </ul>	2 k 3 C 4 E 5 C 6 L d 7 F v 8 J 8 J 9 L C C 10 C 16 F	àlos arge 3e a pon Diffe ivel lanc Prep egg anu ign cog hop Cincl Playf pree	et ge rent y fol e ares ies ary per h ful es	1 k 1 2 2 2 2 3	<b>8</b> "F wind <b>9</b> Lit coc tic <b>1</b> Ve <b>2</b> So <b>1</b> Coc tic <b>5</b> He <b>1</b> Coc <b>5</b> Coc <b>5</b> He <b>1</b> Coc <b>5</b>	Pal J Yes Yes Pal J Yes Pal J Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	EC SE ster loey oosi- ge iid ed , en-	P I A C S T day " 35 36 37 38 40 40 41	G S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	DE OD nsw Irgle yce anyc tting It, a y ourt- om	N S A L /er es on g s s ous- ng
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### AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are al hints. Each day the code letters are different.

#### 1-4 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

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S V Z B N D S V R D G . — C G F B T N O D S <b>Yesterday's Cryptoquote:</b> LOVE THOU THE ROSE, YET LEAVE IT ON ITS STEM. — EDWARE G. BULWER-LYTTON

# **Embers Moved For Santa Before Conn. Fire BY JOHN CHRISTOFFERSEN**

Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Smoldering embers blamed for a Christmas morning house fire that killed three girls and their grandparents had been taken out of a fireplace so the children would not worry about Santa Claus coming down the chimney, two officials told The Associated Press Tuesday.

Two officials briefed on the investigation say the ashes were removed out of concerns for Santa. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the investigation is still under way.

Authorities say embers in a bag of discarded ashes started the blaze in Stamford that killed 10-year-old Lilly and 7-year-old twins Grace and Sarah Badger and their grandparents, Lomer and Pauline Johnson.

The girls' mother, Madonna Badger, escaped the fire along with a friend, Michael Borcina. Borcina and Badger were treated at a local hospital and released.

Fire officials have said Borcina is believed to have placed the ashes in or outside an entryway, near the trash.

A funeral service will be held Thursday in New York City for the girls.

The victims died of smoke inhalation. Lomer Johnson also suffered a blunt head and neck trauma, which resulted from a fall or being hit by an object.

One of the girls, found dead just inside a window, had been placed on a pile of books, apparently so Johnson could reach in and grab her after he jumped out. Instead, authorities say, he fell through the roof.

Stamford police are helping fire officials investigate the blaze. Police said Monday officials want to know if there were smoke alarms, the status of renovation work in the house and whether the contractor had permits.

The issue of permits could figure in

the investigation because the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection has said that neither Borcina nor his company, Tiberias Construction Inc., was registered to perform home improvement work in Connecticut.

Contractors are required to register with the state, though numerous building and other permits are issued by local officials.

The agency said it did not yet have enough information about what work may have been done or completed and would not comment on whether it will investigate.

Facebook messages have been left for Borcina. Repeated attempts to contact him by telephone since the fire have been unsuccessful.

Stamford authorities deemed the house unsafe following the fire and ordered it torn down the day after the fire.

Fire Chief Antonio Conte said the fire was Stamford's deadliest since a 1987 blaze that also killed five people.