

# How to help after Middle Tennessee tornadoes

**Angele Latham and Evan Mealins**

Nashville Tennessean  
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

## Volunteer efforts

### Clarksville

The City of Clarksville created a hotline for people willing to volunteer with debris clean-up.

To volunteer with tornado recovery efforts, call 931-245-2988, city of Clarksville Communications Director Jimmy Settle said Sunday at a news conference at Northeast High School in Clarksville. A shelter is also set up at the high school and Mosaic Church for displaced residents.

“One thing I love about this city — when there’s a need, we rally around that need, and we had neighbor helping neighbor,” Clarksville Mayor Joe Pitts said of crews and volunteers that helped through the night.

### Nashville

Hands On Nashville, a local organization that regularly assists in debris removal, food distribution and more following disasters, added several volunteer opportunities to its website Monday.

Spanish speakers can sign up to assist in communicating with tornado survivors at this link. The group will contact those who sign up when help is needed, which may include canvassing neighborhoods hit by the storms and providing translation support at distribution sites.

Mercy Chefs is also asking for volunteers to help prep and package meals for those around the Nashville community on select days from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning tomorrow until Jan. 3, 2024. Those interested can sign up at this link.

Updates on upcoming volunteer efforts through the organization can be found on Hands On Nashville’s social media accounts.

### Springfield

As of 12:30 p.m. Monday, a few spots remain for volunteers to help distribute water in Robertson County with the United Way of Greater Nashville. Those interested can sign up at this link, and volunteers should wear warm clothing and be prepared to stand for long periods of time.



**Tanner Watkins, a game technician at Big Play in Hendersonville, looks through sections of the building reduced to rubble.** ANDY HUMBLER/THE TENNESSEAN

- trash bags
- hammers
- tarps
- eye protective glasses
- portable heaters
- rakes
- nails
- wheel barrels
- shovels
- bottled water
- bottled Gatorade
- individual snacks

Those in need can pick up things, including food, blankets, clothing and cleaning supplies, from Miss Lucille’s Cafe, 2231 Madison St., Suite L, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

More information is available on the Hendersonville Area Chamber of Commerce’s Facebook page.

## Monetary donations

The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and United Way created relief funds to assist those impacted by the Dec. 9 tornadoes, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County and its Office of Emergency Management.

The two organizations are also supporting recovery efforts in Cheatham, Dickson, Montgomery, Robertson and Sumner Counties through the Tennessee Emergency Response Fund.

The funds raised by both organizations provide “critical support to nonprofit and faith-based partners actively working to address survivors’ needs,” and “address urgent needs such as financial assistance, food and nutrition, temporary housing, debris clean-up and animal sheltering.”

Additionally, the Salvation Army announced Sunday that it is preparing to respond to areas affected across Middle Tennessee.

“Currently, we are assessing areas that have been hit and will begin snack and hydration service alongside emotional and spiritual care later today in the Madison and Clarksville communities,” a statement read.

The Salvation Army accepts monetary donations for disaster response, which can be made at <https://helpsalvationarmy.org/> or by calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY.

## Blood drives

Blood Assurance, a nonprofit regional blood center serving health care facilities in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky and North Carolina, reported that the company had to ship extra blood, platelet and plasma units to several Middle Tennessee hospitals treating patients with storm-related injuries Saturday night.

Find your nearest location at <https://donor.bloodassurance.org/donor/schedules/zip>.

## Supply donations

YAIPak Outreach, a community organization located at 1255 Paradise Hill Road in Clarksville, announced that its warehouse is open to receive donations. A full list of drop-off sites is available on its Facebook page.

“We know our county has been hit hard,” an earlier statement from the organization said. “Our hearts are with all who have suffered damage.”

As of Monday morning, the organization’s disaster team is asking for any donations of:

- Paper towels
- Household cleaning supplies
- Hygiene items
- Duct tape
- Flashlights
- Portable lights
- Work gloves
- Small generators
- Plywood
- Hammers & Nails
- Rope

In Hendersonville, the local chamber of commerce and United Way are collecting items. The groups ask for donations to be dropped off at the chamber’s event space at 300 Indian Lake Blvd., Suite D160, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and at Birdie Bros across the street in Suite E180 from 5 p.m. to midnight.

They are asking for the following items:

- work gloves
- paper towels
- flashlights, lanterns, batteries