

**Mission:**

To assist the people of the Ohio Valley to recover from and restore their lives after any disaster in a timely manner.

# Ohio Valley LTRC

ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2012

**Partners:**

- Adventist Community Services
- All Saints Lutheran Church
- American Red Cross
- Brown County Department of Economic Development
- Brown County EMA
- Catholic Charities of South Western Ohio
- Church of Scientology
- Citizen Advocates
- Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Clermont County Department of Community & Economic Development
- Clermont County EMA
- Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board
- Clermont County Office of Public Information
- Clermont County Permit Central/ Building Inspection
- Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio
- Federal Home Loan Bank
- Grant Memorial United Methodist Church
- Jackson Area Ministries
- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Matthew 25 Ministries
- Ohio EMA
- Ohio Governor John Kasich's Office
- Ohio Senator Tom Niehaus
- Ohio VOAD
- Park National Bank
- People Working Corporately
- Presbyterian Churches Representative Jean Schmidt's Office
- River Valley Ecumenical Churches
- Saint Vincent de Paul
- Tri-State COAD
- Tri-State Habitat for Humanity
- Two Men and a Truck
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Churches
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- U.S. Senator Rob Portman's Office
- U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown's Office
- Village of Moscow

**LTRC Officers:**

- Chair: Jim Dinkel
- Vice-Chair: Beth Nevel
- Secretary: Pam Broughton
- Treasurer: Kathy Coulson

## The Ohio Valley LTRC



From Left to Right: Chris Kelson, Thalia Ghiglia, Bob Weaver, Dan Domis, Jennifer Bieger, Pam Broughton, Tammy Simendinger, Patty Peck, Lois Callahan, Beth Nevel, Mickey Hanselman, Linda Carter, Bev Hurlburt, Jim Dinkel, Sandy Keiser, and Tom Callahan

### The Role of the Community Advocate on the LTRC

During the initial meetings of the LTRC, it was clear that a critical group was missing from the table, the affected community. To address this gap the LTRC recruited respected members of the affected communities to be Community Advocates. Community Advocates are residents of the community who were not personally impacted by the disaster, have a genuine desire to help the survivors, and have the ability to be impartial. Throughout this process, the

Advocates have gained an understanding of the LTRC and its partner organizations and become the spokespeople to and for the community.

Our current Community Advocates are: Linda Carter, Mickey Hanselman, Terri Daugherty, Patty Peck, and Barb Davis.

These women have been a tremendous resource to the LTRC. They have provided innovative solutions to handling difficult

recovery issues, such as Replant Moscow, long-term storage of supplies until survivors could find permanent housing, and coordination of volunteers to clean up public spaces. The Advocates have been able to identify the unique needs of the community, develop a plan to address the need, and motivate others to join the effort.

We thank these wonderful women for the dedication and commitment to the LTRC.

# Are You Ready...Before and After the Disaster

The LTRC sponsored the Are you Ready Workshop on September 11, 2012. The event was a great opportunity for community residents, LTRC members, and presenters to come together and share good information on preparing for disasters and what to do in the aftermath.

The event focused on four topic areas:

**Disaster Preparedness.** Presenters from Washington Township Fire and Rescue and the American Red Cross provided information on building emergency supply kits and actions residents can take prior to the arrival of first responders.

**Purchasing Insurance and Negotiating with Insurance Adjusters.** Ron Johnson of Stewart-Johnson Insurance focused on what to look for in an insurance policy as well as the property owner's responsibility to mitigate further damage until insurance adjusters have made their assessments.

**Getting the Most Bang for Your Buck.** Mary Hurlburt of LifeSpan provided useful financial recovery tips such as what receipts to save and how to make smart choices when spending the monies received from insurance, U.S. Small Business Administration, State of Ohio Individual Assistance, etc.

**Choosing a Contractor.** EJ Early of the Ohio Attorney General's Office provided information on how to choose a contractor, the importance of getting multiple estimates, and items to look for in a contract.

Following a disaster, survivors are faced with many difficult decisions under less than ideal conditions. The LTRC and the session presenters promoted the importance of identifying a 'Disaster Buddy.' The role of the 'Disaster Buddy' is to assist the survi-

vor with making sound recovery decisions. The 'Disaster Buddy' should be someone who is out of the state or at least far enough away as to not be impacted by the same disaster. Prior to a disaster, this individual should be provided copies of your family emergency plan and other important documents.

Special thanks are extended the Village of Moscow for hosting the event and to the program presenters: Art Owens and his staff of the Washington Township Fire and Rescue Department, Stu Press and Billie Wolfe volunteers for the American Red Cross, Ron Johnson of Stewart-Johnson Insurance, Mary Hurlburt of Lifespan, and EJ Early of the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

## Preparedness Tip: Disaster Recovery

Recovering from a disaster is a gradual process that can take hours, days, months, and years. There are simple steps that survivors can take to lessen the physical, emotional, and financial strains of the recovery process.

### Prior to a disaster:

- Develop a family emergency plan;
- Build a disaster supply kit;
- Safeguard important documents by scanning/copying and sending them to an out of area contact for safe keeping.

### Following a disaster:

- Take ownership. Be proactive in your individual disaster recovery plan.
- Do not act immediately. Avoid signing any documents within the first 72 hours following a disaster.
- Use licensed contractors. Verify their identity and legitimacy by contacting the Ohio Attorney General's Office – Consumer Protection Division to determine if a contractor is registered within the state. It is highly recommended that you get at least three written estimates and to check the

Contractor's references before entering a contract. It is important to get proof of insurance (e.g. Liability and Worker's Compensation) and to get any guarantees in writing. Final payments should be paid by check and only made after the work has been completed.

- Safeguard personal information. Never give out social security numbers or credit card numbers. Federal, State and local programs will not ask for bank account or Social Security number unless you initiate the call.
- Maintain records on the federal, state, and local assistance that you receive (e.g. SBA, FEMA/Ohio Individual Assistance, LTRC assistance, gift cards, etc.). Keep receipts for all expenses incurred during the recovery process.
- Donate only to charities you know, or simply ask the person soliciting the donation for the exact name, address and phone number of the charity. Research the charity and then call the charity or nonprofit organization, to confirm that the person is an employee or volunteer.