

**UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
OWENSBORO-DAVISS COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY:**

In the early hours of Sunday, September 27, 2015, the Red Cross received a phone call that there was an apartment fire in Owensboro. We quickly dispatched one of the Disaster Action Teams to the scene to assess the needs of clients and the first responders. In total, 27 units were destroyed and it quickly became clear we needed to open a shelter. Within three hours of notification, the Red Cross in partnership with Emergency Management opened a shelter, ensured transit of any clients needing assistance, and provided canteen response for the first responders. The population affected by this disaster had nothing. They didn't have any resources or means to get back on their feet. There were 21 people staying in the shelter and many others came to the shelter location to get hot meals and other resources we were able to provide. In total, there were 26 cases for 42 people receiving an average of \$225 per family to allow them to purchase new clothing. Additionally, 14 families needed assistance with the replacement of medications and medical equipment the Red Cross was able to provide. All families were offered Disaster Mental Health and recovery casework. All families were also given local agency referrals to help get other items needed such as furniture and household goods. In the end, every single family had a place to go within 72 hours of the event allowing us to close the shelter in just three days. Financial assistance was given to each family to help them get back on their feet within days. As one of the shelter staff said, "I will never forget one of the girls in the shelter giving me a hug as she left for her new home saying, "Thank you so much for helping me!""

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 the **American Red Cross** can:

- Provide 20 blankets to people who have lost everything in the face of fire or other disaster

