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LOCAL UNITED WAY HELPS WITH PRATTVILE TORNADO RECOVERY

United Way of Central Alabama played a key role in establishing a special communications system for the Montgomery 2-1-1 Volunteer & Information Center assisting with the Prattville tornado disaster recovery.

The 2-1-1 Volunteer & Information Center of Montgomery wanted to establish a registration site in the Pratt Court Baptist Church near the heart of the destruction. The problem was the church had no internet access and only one telephone line. Information Technology Systems workers from United Way of Central Alabama, here in Birmingham, developed a communications system using wireless technology to connect workers at the church to their office in Montgomery. The Birmingham staff then drove to Huntsville Tuesday morning to implement the system.

The Montgomery 2-1-1 Volunteer & Information Center is playing a key role in the disaster recovery by registering volunteers working at the site. Police are not allowing anyone to enter the area unless they live in the affected area or are registered with the center.

So far, the center has registered over 600 volunteers. The Montgomery Call Center is also taking requests for help and faxing the special needs to the church location with the use of the new system.

There are 14, 2-1-1 call centers in Alabama working together with the help of United Ways of Alabama (UWAL). It is an easy to remember telephone number that, where available, connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities. The implementation of 2-1-1 is being spearheaded by United Ways and comprehensive and specialized information and referral agencies in states and local communities.