

## 'It's awesome to see hearts of people'

### JC pitches in to help a neighbor city from a couple states away

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People at First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson City have been “stuffing the bus” since 11 p.m. Sunday.



Donations will benefit survivors of the Friday night tornadoes that ripped through parts of Kentucky, particularly Mayfield, a town of about 10,000 about 20 miles east of the Mississippi River.

Donations quickly came in and filled the church before the first truckload of items departed for the neighboring state at 4 a.m. Thursday, Pastor Angela Madden said.

“We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Mid-Missouri,” Madden said.

“There’s

also been a substantial amount of monetary donations. They’ve exceeded \$7,700.”

The church asked for donations of sealed 1-gallon jugs of water (because water treatment is unavailable in Mayfield right now), new blankets, gently used sleeping bags, diapers, wipes, formula, baby food and dry snacks.

The church also asked for new toys and games for children.

People have even brought in a few cots and tents.

Hayley Carter, an office administrator at Hitachi, and a colleague arrived early Thursday afternoon at the church with a carload of water, toys, sleeping bags and baby products.

Carter said people in human resources at the company wanted to help the church with its response. Staff put together a list and went shopping.

“We got a message this morning to get a little shopping spree going. So we went to Walmart and bought them out of all their gallon (size) water,” Carter said. “We just went crazy (buying items). We bought all their throw blankets and sleeping bags. We bought tons of wipes and over 50 packs of diapers.”

As items arrived at the church, church staff had to make a path through the sanctuary, Madden said.

She said she likes to be responsive. People have different ideas about what they can do and how they might play a role in responding to tragedies — and they're doing it.

Donation collections end at 8 a.m. today.

"We're excited by the response," Madden said. "It's awesome to see the hearts of the people."