



## COUNTY OF AMHERST



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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Amherst Disaster Recovery Group Closes Last Case**

The Amherst Disaster Recovery Group (ADRG) held its final meeting Wednesday, August 12, 2020 and closed its remaining cases. The ADRG was formed in response to a tornado that touched down in Amherst County on April 18, 2018 and impacted the Elon area of the County. It is comprised of various nonprofit organizations including multiple faith-based organizations. It was formed with the assistance and training of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

The ADRG is organized into committees that deal with various aspects of emergency response that includes such things as management of donated supplies, money and volunteer labor. Disaster recovery work was funded by donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations. Members of the Case Management Committee met with individuals to help them evaluate their needs and determine what it would take to return damaged property to its pre-tornado state. Case managers were assigned to families and became their liaison and advocate for assistance. The committee has successfully closed all thirty-one cases and all property has been restored or replaced.

With all cases closed and all resources distributed, the ADRG has decided to stand down for the time being and compile its lessons learned to be ready for the next disaster when it comes.

The ADRG would like to express a special thanks to: Juli and Joe Albert, Kim Albert, Brad Barth, Leigh Barth, Michelle Douthat, Larry Janow, Nancy Johnson, Nicky Palmer, and Alan Wood for serving as caseworkers; Barry Tucker, and Carmela Greer for the support and assistance they provided to the caseworkers; Virginia Department of Emergency Management for providing a training session on essential information for caseworkers; and The Salvation Army and Amherst County Habitat for Humanity for providing support and materials for many projects.

Due to the dedication of all the volunteers who have served in and with the ADRG, Amherst County is now better prepared to swiftly respond to emergency situations with processes, procedures and personnel in place. Should another emergency arise information can be found on the ADRG Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AmherstDRG/>

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