



The Responder

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Website Edition

Responding to Missouri Tornadoes

Mary Young, MO NOVA Coordinator Thanks Arkansas

On the late afternoon of April 2nd an F3 tornado hit the community of Caruthersville, Missouri devastating over 60% of the town as well as outlying areas. The local Red Cross chapter requested the MO NOVA CRT team to respond. The MO NOVA CRT team was already responding in central Missouri to 13 tornadoes from mid-March and turned to their AR-CRT neighbors to help. The Craighead County Team supported the response by sending in five teams in the aftermath of the destruction. The Craighead teams were as-

signed to work door to door in the hardest hit areas of the community, work in the multi-agency center, the Red Cross center and FEMA Disaster Recovery Center. A major challenge they faced was that the tornado left few structures without damage, so service centers could not be geographically located in one area. Working with victims supplying support and information was paramount to reducing stress and frustration. The Craighead team was stellar in their companioning, compassion and in solving problems by finding (or

creating) solutions. They had over 1500 contacts between the five teams. Later they were followed by teams from Colorado and Iowa. MO NOVA CRT extends a tremendous thank you to AR-CRT and the Craighead Team for responding to the call for help in the community of Caruthersville.

*Submitted by
Mary Young, Coordinator
Missouri NOVA CRT*

*Basic CRT
Advanced CRT
Certified CRT Responder
Certified NOVA CRT Trainer
NOVA Board of Directors*

"Everyone on the AR-CRT team worked well together and we feel like we were able to benefit and help several individuals and their families."

*Teressa Jackson
Craighead County Crisis Response Team*