



Storms Cause Damage to Drumm Farm Campus

A violent early-morning storm on May 2, 2008, left the Drumm Farm campus bruised and battered in its wake. Hurricane-strength winds ripped 100-year-old trees from the ground and damaged buildings. Thankfully, no children or staff members were injured.

During the night, the children and House Parents sought shelter in the safety of their house basements. They were shaken but unharmed.

“The house alarm went off and we all ran out of our rooms into the hall to see what was happening,” said Jasimine, age 10. “Good thing for the alarms because a few seconds after Kendra walked out of her room the window blew in and glass landed all over her bed.” By sunrise, the extent of the damage was evident. Dozens of trees had been uprooted, blocking campus roads and damaging structures. Portions of the gymnasium roof, the building that earlier in the evening hosted the 79th Anniversary Benefit Dinner: “Planting the Seeds of Hope,” were ripped off by the strong winds and scattered across campus. Damage estimates for the gym will be well over \$100,000.

As news coverage began reporting the storm damage across Independence, many volunteers arrived to offer help and lend a hand to the massive clean-up efforts. Board of Trustee members and their families showed up with chainsaws as community volunteers began patch work on the roofs and windows. Clean up efforts lasted throughout the month of May.

Lost trees were the most heartbreaking result of the storm. “We were devastated to see so many of our beautiful trees taken out by the storm. They’re a piece of Drumm’s history. Children have climbed those trees, played around the bases, and used them for a shady escape for years,” said Drumm Trustee Kathy Killip. “We hope our friends in the community will help us begin ‘planting the seeds of hope’ by directing donations to replace trees.”

[Click Here to “Plant the Seeds of Hope” at Drumm Farm!](#)