

Red Cross comes to aid of storm victims

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Food and shelter provided in Saginaw



By Kristen Abraham

SAGINAW (WJRT) -- (06/09/08)--Mid-Michigan was trying to get back to some normalcy Monday night as some lights were slowly turned back on and yards are cleaned up.

To help with that recovery effort, the American Red Cross in Saginaw has set up a shelter to provide food and water to storm victims.

It's at St. John Lutheran Church on 915 Federal Avenue.

The Red Cross has been working around the clock since the storms hit to provide basic necessities for Saginaw County. Volunteers are ready to offer a helping hand.

"We've have had people coming in for food, water and looking for a place to stay," said volunteer Shirley Presley.

The weekend storms knocked out power to thousands in Saginaw County, forcing so many to knock on the door of the Red Cross.

"We served over 50 people for lunch," said volunteer Deb Kettling. "It's manageable right now. We had some people who had their houses cave in, so we set them up because they couldn't get in."

"We are doing all right, but it's been a long weekend," said Regina Lindsay, who lost power.

Etta Braddock and her two sons John and Blessin enjoyed a meal together at St. John's Lutheran Church, the shelter site.

"We've been without light since Friday," she said. "We are just in the dark, using candles."

High winds packed a strong punch, leaving behind a stunning scene, and the cleanup. In the midst of the recovery efforts, the Braddocks are taking it one day at time.

"I am patient to wait on it," Etta Braddock said.

Red Cross volunteers are ready to handle whatever the size of the need is. For Lindsay and her daughters, she appreciates their help.

"It's been a blessing to have them here," she said. "Thank God for the Red Cross."

Ice and bottled water are always needed. The shelter opens back up Tuesday morning for breakfast at 7 a.m.

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