

Help coming for ice storm victims



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(TULSA, Okla.) January 29 - Three quarters of a million dollars are now in the hands of dozens of Tulsa agencies.

That money will be going directly to help people still struggling from the ice storm. That announcement was made this morning.

The Tulsa Area United Way, the Tulsa Community Foundation and Bank of Oklahoma awarded \$750,000 to 48 non-profit agencies.

High winds are creating another potential danger: falling limbs.

But one homeowner got some good news today. These limbs can now be professionally removed.

“Oh, good thank you, thank you. Oh mercy,” says 93-year-old Australia Hopson.

For Hopson, getting word that these limbs can now be cut down and removed is what she calls a godsend.

“When some of my grandchildren come over I’m afraid for them to go in the back. Afraid a limb might hit them,” says Hopson.

When the storm hit, Australia did what she could.

“And that Sunday, I was pulling and tugging and trying to get out there,” she says.

But at 93 the downed limbs that littered her yard were too much for her to handle alone.

“There ain’t nothing I could do but say Lord, thank you for sparing me. That’s all I could say,” says Hopson.

Just like her helpful neighbors that cleared her lawn, more people have stepped up to help once again by raising \$750,000 through the United Way.

“It’s a wonderful thing that we could do this for these families that otherwise won’t be able to



have it taken care of," says Jennifer Barcus-Schafer with Rebuilding Together Tulsa.

Rebuilding Together Tulsa has hired a professional crew to remove these limbs, the last reminder of the storm.

The United Way CEO gives all the credit to Tulsans gave in a time of need.

"I think you use this initiative as an example of what our community can do as we come together, and i think we give ourselves an A+," says Mark Graham, CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way.

If you own your own home in Tulsa city limits and you still need help with storm repairs you can call Rebuilding Together Tulsa for assistance.

The number to call is 742-6241, extension 1.

Rebuilding Together Tulsa also needs plenty of volunteers. If you'd like to help click on [Links and Reminders](#).