Safety First...

• Spread the Word: Don’t put students in school hallways for tornado protection
  
• Go to Joplinschools.org
  – JET-14 On Demand
    • Joplin Schools Security Footage
AS PROMISED – SCHOOL STARTS ON TIME
May 22, 2011 Tornado Damage Assessment

• School Losses
  – Lost 7 students and 1 staff member
  – 3,000 students lived in the path of the storm
  – 4,200 students were without a school to attend
  – 9 schools hit...6 a total loss
    • Lost 260 classrooms

• City Losses
  • 8,000 homes damaged or destroyed
  • 400 businesses damaged or destroyed
  • 18,000 vehicles damaged or destroyed
  • 161 community members perished
Prior to the Storm

• First name relationships with
  – City leaders
  – Chamber leaders
  – Federal and State legislators/representatives

• Bright Futures initiative
  – Links business, social service agencies and faith-based partners to schools

• Communication strategies
  – Social media
  – Phone calling system
  – Website
  – Relations with media outlets
Immediate Response: People First

- Find 9,000 people
  - Social Media
  - Teacher Relationships with students/parents
  - Phone Calls
  - Media
  - Walking the neighborhoods

- Kick off summer events
  - Provided closure
  - Allowed kids to see their friends are alive

- Attending funerals
Short Term Response: May to August

- Established a clear goal
  - school WILL start on time
    - August 17....84 days
- Summer School
  - Extended through July
  - Provided transportation
- Temporary Facilities
  - Used media to share about temporary schools
  - Temporary Facilities NOT Temporary Education
- Taking care of adults
  - All admin and staff at schools most impacted were required to visit a counselor
Response: 2011-12 School Year

• Project Hope – Trauma Counselors
  – Partnership with Ozark Center – Freeman Health System
  – Counselors and Case Workers embedded in schools
  – Embraced the idea that everyone was impacted

• Winter Camp
  – 600 students enrolled

• Placed a “community building" and playground at the “FEMA village”
  – Community collaborative effort

• Mercy Community Dinners
  – Twice per month hosted at schools

• Sunshine Squad
Response: 2012-13 School Year

• Hope Counselors through a school grant
  – Counselors and Case Workers embedded in schools
  – Served 1,044 students
    • Still have needs at year 3 – lack funding

• All school counselors trained in Cognitive Behavior Therapy in Schools (CBITS)
Where Are We Now?

• 3,000+ students still in temporary schools
  – NOT a TEMPORARY EDUCATION

• Replacement schools under construction
  – Irving Elementary
  – Elementary at East/East Middle School
  – Joplin High School/Franklin Tech Center
Joplin Schools: Example of Resiliency

- Schools have relationships with the entire community
- Set Goals and Celebrated Frequently
  - Opening school
  - First football game
  - Holiday Supports
  - Ground breakings on one-year anniversary
- A point of community pride
- Our most important asset: An amazing staff