



## LETTER FROM THE NORTH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

# Devastating tornado brings to light local resources for disaster preparedness, relief

As all of us prepare to begin our summers, my thoughts and prayers go out to those in Oklahoma who are rebuilding their lives after a devastating tornado struck just days before the Memorial Day holiday.

Natural disasters hit with an uncanny frequency. At North Township, we respond to whatever nature dishes out – whether that is floods, fires, tornadoes even ice storms. Here are just a few examples:

- **Flood relief:** We helped residents secure FEMA and other assistance following flood damage in 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- **Tornado relief:** A tornado knocked out hundreds of trees and destroyed property throughout the township in 2008.
- **Water boil:** We provided bottled water when City of East Chicago lost water service because of a water main break.

It was these types of disasters that prompted us to create an innovative partnership designed to collect donations, provide faster response times and coordinate relief efforts.

Our mission at North Township is to be vigilant in preparing for what we can never plan for and coordinate with other agencies to relieve suffering during such tragic times.

Today, we have in place a website dedicated to disaster relief. North Township Recovers – [www.norhttownship.recovers.org](http://www.norhttownship.recovers.org) – is a community-powered resource where residents can volunteer, donate or request aid. As additional government agencies and organizations come on board, we hope to cultivate the most rapid response team to help citizens when they need it most.

**FRANK J. MRVAN**  
North Township Trustee