



THE VOICE of REASON

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TWO HANDS WORKING HUMANISM IN ACTION

If you've watched the news over the last month, you couldn't miss the killer tornados that moved through our state. Although Moore, OK was the most devastated with the highest loss of life and property, many other Oklahoma towns and communities were impacted by the storms, some totally devastated.

On Sunday evening (5/19/13) an EF4, and the strongest storm of the multiple tornadoes of the day, resulted in significant damage, especially west of the town of Shawnee where two people were killed and about 30-40 homes were totally destroyed. On Monday afternoon (5/20/13), an EF5 tornado ripped through Moore, OK and destroyed many parts of the town including homes and several schools. The death toll rose up to 91 at one point as the disorder of a huge swath of the town destroyed caused chaos and double counting, eventually coming back down to a sobering 24 deaths.

The first thought you have when you see something like this is "How can I help?". During any tragedy like this we all want to do something to help each other. Many people don't know what to do and feel helpless and that feeling can be horrible. But help, we did.



A group of nearly fifty people from all over the state of Oklahoma organized under the direction of FreeOK (Oklahoma Freethought Convention - freeok.org) With all of the national attention being focused on Moore, and the incredible traffic that causes, we headed out to Shawnee to help. Among the group from ACT were Buddhists, Christians and atheists, friends all; working to do some good. The mobile home park in Bethel Acres was nearly completely destroyed as it suffered a direct hit from the EF4 tornado just six days prior.

We assisted in the debris removal of three properties. The owner of one property insisted of a group photo to remember who helped her. Many of us would not have otherwise agreed, preferring instead to continue working. It was hard to see an end in sight as pulverized trees, washers, cars entire houses laid in pieces all about. There were some good moments when our group helped find birth certificates, pictures and high school diplomas in the debris, among other important items.

We showed that volunteering by simply doing something to help is the human thing to do.



SOME OF THE FREEOK SPEAKERS

Dale McGowan is co-author of Parenting Beyond Belief and Raising Freethinkers, and author of Atheism for Dummies (coming in March 2013). He teaches nonreligious parenting workshops across North America and is founding executive director of Foundation Beyond Belief, a humanist charitable organization. In 2008, Dale was named Harvard Humanist of the Year. Dale will be speaking from 11:00-11:45am.

Emily R. Boyer is a sexual and reproductive health activist from Wichita, Kansas. She has channeled her passion for evidence based education into a career of promoting and providing comprehensive sexual health education that is medically accurate, sex positive, and judgment free. Emily will be speaking from 1:30-2:15pm.

Zack Kopplin is a science advocate from Louisiana. He's been fighting Louisiana's creationism law with the support of 78 Nobel laureates and has exposed hundreds of schools in voucher programs that teach creationism. His work has been covered nationally including on MSNBC and internationally in the Guardian and Vogue. Zack will be speaking from 2:30-3:15pm.

Other speakers include journalist and radio DJ Jamila Bey, Sean Faircloth from the Dawkins Foundation, Seth Andrews from The Thinking Atheist, and physicist, cosmologist and author Lawrence Krauss. Authors will be signing copies of their books. FreeOK 2013 will be held at the Cox Convention Center on June 22 from 9:00am to 6:00pm. Tickets are available online at www.freeok.org. Childcare is available, but spaces are limited, so sign up early.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Pride

June 1, 3:00-11:00pm
621 E. 4th St, Downtown

Official Meeting

June 2, 1:00pm
Hardesty Library

DWA - Kilkenny's

June 7, 7:30pm
1314 E. 15th, Cherry Street

Day Center for the Homeless

June 7, 5:00pm
415 W. Archer, Downtown

Adopt A Highway

June 15, 5:00pm

DWA - TBD

June 15, 7:30pm

Social Dinner

June 19, 7:00pm
Bankok Thai

FreeOK 2013

June 22, 9:00am
Cox Convention Center
Oklahoma City, OKC

Camp Quest OK

June 22

Day Center for the Homeless

June 29, 5:00pm
415 W. Archer, Downtown

Holy Rollers Bowling

June 30, 7:00pm
Sheridan Lanes

BE SURE AND KEEP YOUR
EYE ON MEETUP AND THE
FACEBOOK EVENTS PAGES
FOR MORE INFORMATION

24 UNITS AND COUNTING

On Tuesday, May 7, ACT members turned out for our annual National Day of Reason Blood Drive held at All Souls Unitarian Church. For the last few years we have been working with the Oklahoma Blood Institute. OBI keeps the blood we donate in our state and in our communities where we know we are helping our neighbors. This year we donated 24 units, exceeding our goal of 20.

The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science recently put out a call to host blood drives in various cities as part of their "OUT for Blood" campaign, and ACT has been in contact with them to take part. RDFRS is looking at summer 2014 for this event. In the meantime several members have expressed interest in doing 2 blood drives per year, so we have been talking to OBI to consider a fall donation date as well. Too bad common sense is not blood borne. We could infect the whole state!

FEEDING THE NEEDY

Once again this year the Atheist Community of Tulsa will provide healthy hot meals for many of our city's homeless. Last year we served nearly one thousand of our less fortunate neighbors. You have the opportunity to help out. A commercial kitchen has been donated and some volunteers have signed up (though we can always use more hands). All we need now is the food.

On May 10 we launched our online ACT Day Center for the Homeless Food Fundraiser. Each meal feeds approximately 125 people and costs around \$250-300. As of this writing, we are 20 days into our 30 day event, and just under 1/3 of the way to our \$1000 goal. If every member of ACT put \$20 in the bucket, we'll have far more than that. There is no minimum donation. If what you can afford is \$1, then you can donate \$1 and know that you did all you could to help out. If you can do more, then, well, let's just say we hope you'll do the best you can.

Cut and paste this link into your browser: <http://actok.org/fundraisers/tdc-meal-program-2013/>

ACTUALLY, WOLF....



AOK Member Rebecca Vitsmun was interviewed live on CNN by Wof Blitzer, where she uttered her now famous words, "I... I'm actually an atheist". This story has been mentioned in CNN's Belief Blog, bloviated about by Rush Limbaugh and even spawned its own Modern World comic. Rebecca's home was one of the more than 13,000 destroyed on May 20th by the tornado. To help her get back on her feet, FreeOK has created "Actually..." tees, and will be selling them both online and at FreeOK. When ordering, you may choose to have your tee shipped or have it waiting for you at the convention on June 22nd. To date, over 800 shirts have been sold worldwide. <http://freeok.org/tickets/actually-tees/>

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General Questions:

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Please visit the Atheist Community of Tulsa on:

Facebook
Meetup
www.actok.org

Other website for this issue:

<http://actok.org/community/community-service/tulsa-day-center-for-the-homeless/>
www.freeok.org
www.campquest.org/locations/oklahoma