

Local men clear roads

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When Dale Kuhn of Minford got a call from Mark Gampp to help clear some roads for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, he started making calls to friends.

Kuhn, Gampp and seven friends volunteered to go to Mississippi, many using their own heavy equipment and trucks to help clear some of the roads littered with debris.

"Mark Gampp and Dale Kuhn came to our elders asking them to help finance the trip," said Serena Miller, of Minford. "The (Sunshine Church of Christ in Minford) paid for the gasoline. They expected to spend about \$7,500 to fill the gas tanker. That's what our church has done so far."

The men gathered all their resources, and within a day, they were organized and ready for the trip.

Besides their own equipment, Gampp's Inc. loaned the group a gas truck, Furman's Orchards loaned an equipment trailer, Arrick's Gas provided propane, Kroger Company gave some food, Bennett's Collision provided a camper and Strawser Inc. of Columbus, donated a large 50-ton equipment trailer, called a lowboy.

"Basically, a group of guys got together and we pooled all of our resources," said Jamie Veach of Veach Trucking. "I had a truck and access to a lowboy."

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The group ended up with a semi truck, two equipment trailers, a one-ton truck, three backhoes, generators, spare tires, a gas truck, a 30-foot camper, chain saws, 40-plus cases of bottled water and food.

"We were completely self sufficient," Kuhn said. "We didn't know if we could find anything or not. We went with the intention to get in there quick and open up roads so emergency personnel and people could get in and out. It wasn't for any glory."

Besides Kuhn, Gampp and Veach, others that made the trip were Mike Sissel of Sissel Logging, Scott Riser of Riser Construction, Derek Gampp and Travis Chamberlin of Gampp's Inc. on Ohio 140, and Mike Lemon. Kuhn is also in the construction business and owner of Kuhn Construction.

The first destination was Union, Miss., and on the way, the men received a phone call to go to Meridian, Miss. When they got to Meridian, the local sheriff and a church member met them and sent them to Laurel, Miss., with a military police escort.

They set up their equipment at a church. After they cleaned up that area, Kuhn and Mark Gampp went to Hattiesburg to the fire department to find out where they might be able to help next.