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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TWIN CITIES-BASED BRIDGING GEARS UP TO SUPPORT
NORTH MINNEAPOLIS TORNADO VICTIMS**

BLOOMINGTON, MINN., May 26, 2011 – [Bridging](http://www.bridging.org), a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides furniture and household goods to families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness and poverty, is preparing to serve the recent tornado victims of north Minneapolis. To gear up for the increase in demand for goods from those who lost their belongings, Bridging is calling all Twin Cities’ residents to donate new or quality, gently used furniture and household goods to its Bloomington and Roseville locations. Financial gifts to help Bridging support disaster victims can also be made online at www.bridging.org.

“Bridging is facing a high demand for donated items,” said Sara Sternberger, Executive Director of Bridging. “To support those whose lives have been devastated by the recent tornado, many more items are needed now and in the months to come.”

New or quality, gently used furniture and household good donations are accepted at Bridging’s locations in Bloomington (201 West 87th Street, Bloomington, Minn., 55420) and Roseville (1633 Terrace Drive, Roseville, Minn., 55113). Donation pickups are also available (fees start at \$75) and can be scheduled online at www.bridging.org. View Bridging’s accepted donation items at www.bridging.org.

Bridging collaborates with over 130 social service agencies and nonprofit organizations to support families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. To be eligible for services, tornado victims must be referred to Bridging by a current Bridging referral agency. A list of current referral agencies is available online at www.bridging.org.

The majority of Bridging's clients experience chronic poverty or homelessness. However, to fulfill the organization's mission, Bridging also serves individuals who have experienced natural disasters. Extraordinary events such as these can force a once financially stable household into poverty or homelessness, or even force a household that faced poverty or homelessness into even more unstable conditions.

To learn more about Bridging, please visit www.bridging.org.

ABOUT BRIDGING

Bridging's mission is to provide families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness and poverty with a one-time gift of quality furniture and household goods to stabilize and improve lives while effectively using community resources. Since 1987, Bridging has fulfilled this mission with 57,000 households. Every year, Bridging serves nearly 5,000 households (over 13,000 individuals) from the Twin Cities at its locations in Bloomington and Roseville. By accepting quality, gently used furniture and household good donations from families, individuals and businesses, Bridging also supports the community by keeping 110,000 items out of landfills annually. To learn more about Bridging visit www.bridging.org.

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Note to Editors: Contact Heidi Schwitzer at 952.460.3750 or heidi.schwitzer@bridging.org for interviews, tours, photography and other requests.