



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Muni to Provide Relief for Joplin, MO Victims

Springfield, IL – June 15, 2011 – The Springfield Municipal Opera (The Muni) has teamed up with Meriss Logistics and Whalen Trucking to provide relief for the Joplin, MO tornado victims. Beginning Wednesday, June 15th and continuing through Sunday, June 19th, patrons of The Muni are encouraged to bring items to donate when attending the final run of Muni's current production, *Big River*. According to the Red Cross, victims of the Joplin tornado are getting enough food, bedding and clothing at this time. Currently the need for these victims is deodorant, shampoo and other personal hygiene items.

According to Muni Board of Managers President, Dennis O'Brien, volunteers will begin accepting items at 6:30pm for two hours prior to the beginning of *Big River* at 8:30pm. A large semi-trailer, provided by Whalen Trucking, has been parked at the Muni site, located at 815 East Lake Shore Drive, to collect all of the donations. The goal is to fill the semi, which will then be driven to Joplin for delivery, as coordinated by Meriss Logistics.

About The Muni

The Springfield Municipal Opera (The Muni) is a not-for-profit theatrical organization that has become a Springfield tradition, providing the best of Broadway to enthusiastic audiences for more than 50 years. Entertaining 40,000+ each year at its lakeside, outdoor amphitheater, The Muni is one of the largest all-volunteer community theatre organizations in the nation. For more information on The Muni, please visit www.TheMuni.org.

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