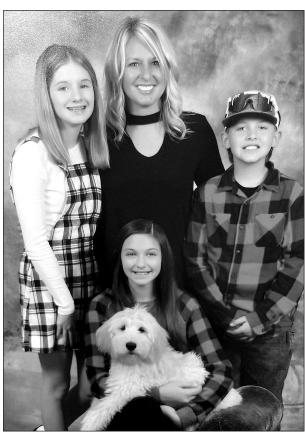
FIRE,

Nearby Mayfield, and the city of Dawson Springs, in the western part of the state, were also heavily impacted by a powerful EF-4 tornado.

"I have friends who play music where this lady lives," he said. "So I was familiar with the area."

Wilson and the Storm Alert Center sprang into



Janssen Lindsey and her family. (Storm Alert Center/ Facebook)

"The tornado went through that weekend," Wilson said, "and I was there in Dawson Springs Monday...and back in the area after that."

Wilson studied and researched what he called a devastating, "generational" tornado.

'You have the 1974 tornadoes, then the 2021 outbreak," he said. "Chances are we will hopefully never see another event like that again."

Back in Russell Springs at the Storm Alert Center headquarters, Wilson learned of Lindsey's misfortune.

action when Lindsev, who had been rebuilding her home, and was close to moving back in, lost the same home to a fire just over two weeks ago.

"Can you imagine that?" Wilson asked. "It's a horrible thing."

The local businessman is spearheading an effort to help "a neighbor...even if they're over 240 miles away."

"We learned a little bit about the family," Wilson said. "We saw they were contributing to the workforce...and really trying. It pulled at my heartstrings. We need to show some

compassion from our community."

Wilson cited a recent, local fundraising effort which netted over \$200,000 for tornado victims in Mayfield.

"We want to do it on a smaller scale," he said, "to know a particular person gets it."

"It's our goal, our project," Wilson said. "We want people to realize we are not only the weather resource for the area, but we're also a benevolent heart to those in times of

Wilson said he has been in contact with Lindsey

"We're going to go to western Kentucky and visit with them," he said, and hand over money collected through a benefit drive which runs through the

Wilson insists on

"through Facebook and on the telephone."

end of this month.

"transparency" for the fundraiser.



The remains of Janssen Lindsey's home after a December 10, 2021 tornado. (Facebook)

need. When there's bad weather, we will go into tornado-ravaged areas and offer help, we'll dig through debris, whatever we can to help. It's more than just a media outlet. With around 35 years of experience, and almost 23,000 people on Facebook...we've anchored ourselves in this locale. We'll be there for people in good times and bad, hopefully as the weather authority."

though people may be cash-strapped, and they can't afford a lot, I encourage people give \$5, \$10, \$1...just whatever they

Donations can be made to:

First National Bank **Janssen Lindsey Benefit 36 West Steve Wariner Russell Springs, KY**

"For accountability purposes, this is the only way to donate," Wilson said.

42642

Janssen Lindsey is humbled by, and appreciative of local efforts of assistance.

"I've definitely learned that life can change in a blink, and there is a silver lining in every bad situation," she said with optimism. "My 12 year-old daughter got baptized the week after the fire, praise the Lord!"

A hair stylist who also runs an excavating/septic business, Janssen recalled when tragedy struck...the first time.

"The night of the tornado I was watching the news, and I had already put my kids in the basement," she said. "I had gone outside to see how bad it was, and about that time. I saw it coming through the fields."

"Transformers were blowing up into huge fireballs," she recalled. "I ran to the basement and jumped on top off the kids. Everything sounded like it was shredding, and I remember pipes bursting and us getting soaked. Then the ceiling started to come in

on us."

— Continued from Page One

"We finally dug our way out," she said. "When we got outside, everything looked so different. It took us hours to go 15 minutes down the road to my mom's due to (downed) power lines, trees, etc.'

Not one to be deterred, Janssen began working to rebuild her home.

"We rebuilt it back. and liked maybe two weeks of moving in...and it caught fire," she said. "Something electrical per (an) investigation."

Ironically, she was at her mother's house when notified of the fire, and could see the smoke billowing nearby.

"They say God sends their strongest soldiers to fight battles, but I wasn't trying to go to war," Janssen said. The single mother wants

desperately to provide a home for her three children aged 10, 12, and 14. "I'm tired, very tired,"

she said. "But we know God was watching out for us both nights, and we praise Him in the storms.'

Literally...and figuratively.



After rebuilding from a recent tornado, Janssen Lindsey's home was destroyed by a fire just over two weeks ago. (Facebook)



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