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CONTACT:

Scott Ferguson
WBC Opportunities
512-763-1400
FAX: 512-763-1411
sferguson@wbco.net
<http://www.wbco.net>

WBC Opportunities Receives Grant to Assist Leander Fire Victims

Leander, TX, 8.23.11 – WBC Opportunities has received a grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to assist the families recently left homeless from the devastating August 15 fire in Leander. The wildfire spread throughout the area, completely destroying 15 homes. The grant will be used to help qualified families with up to six months of rental assistance and help with utilities in their new living arrangements as they try and piece their lives back together from their devastating losses.

The grant was provided through TDHCA’s Community Services Block Grant Program – State Discretionary Fund and will make up to \$80,000 available to families impacted by this disaster. TDHCA is the state’s housing agency, administering a variety of state and federal programs through for-profit, nonprofit, and local government partnerships.

“One of the things that became clear to us as we coordinated the generosity of various nonprofits, businesses, churches, and individuals as well as the City of Leander and Williamson County, is that immediate needs such as clothing, food, and school supplies were being addressed. But it takes a long time to relocate into a new housing situation and begin to stabilize after a tragedy such as this,” stated David Stone of Austin Disaster Relief Network, the organization coordinating the private, nonprofit, and government response. “TDHCA and WBC Opportunities have stepped forward to address the longer transition needs to help these families get back on their feet.”

“As the community action agency serving the county, we maintain a strong relationship with local, state, and federal agencies as well as with the community at large to address critical issues facing the residents of our county,” commented Andrew Shell, Executive Director of WBC Opportunities. “With our history of being deeply involved in meeting community needs, partnering with TDHCA to help these families during this crisis was a natural mission fit for both our nonprofit and for TDHCA. We are happy to be able to serve in this way and have already begun working with these families to help them with housing and other needs.” Shell continued.

To inquire about additional ways to assist these families, contact WBC Opportunities at 512-763-1400 or Austin Disaster Relief Network at 512-638-5911 or donate online at wbco.net, adrntx.org, or leandertx.org.

About WBC Opportunities –WBC Opportunities is a private nonprofit charitable organization that has been serving the residents of Williamson and Burnet counties since 1966. WBC Opportunities manages 6 Senior Activity Centers, serves as the Meals-On-Wheels provider throughout Williamson and Burnet counties, operates 13 Head Start campuses, manages 2 affordable housing complexes, and runs Community Services Centers with utility assistance programs, homelessness prevention programs, and budget counseling throughout Williamson and Burnet counties.

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