

Summer Classics, HPBA join forces to help tornado victims

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On April 27, 2011, devastating tornadoes ripped through the state of Alabama, taking lives, injuring many others, and destroying homes.

Immediately, people all over the country responded, offering what they could to help those who had been impacted. While people needed everything from batteries to Sharpies in order to mark what was left of their belongings, it was a request for grills and charcoal that prompted Harold Hudson, Summer Classics' vice president of sales and marketing, to reach out to his friends at the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association.

"Two days after the tragic tornado, I was driving back to work from lunch and I heard representatives from the Red Cross on the radio making an appeal for charcoal grills, charcoal, fire starters and related accessories," said Hudson. "Summer Classics is a member of the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association (HPBA) and I serve on the board of directors. I instantly knew I could help with my friends in the industry. The response was overwhelming and the members of the HPBA showed their real concern for the people in the great state of Alabama."

Several organizations donated supplies that totaled more than 350 grills, 5,000 bags of charcoal and hundreds of boxes of igniters and fire starters. The products were delivered to Summer Classics' distribution center, and employees took part in delivering the supplies to those that had been affected by the storms. Though the recovery continues, the victims are closer to getting back on their feet because of the generosity of others.

The people of Alabama are greatly appreciative of the generous donations of grills and supplies made by the following companies:

- + Big Green Egg
- + Charbroil
- + Duraflame
- + Fireplace Editions
- + Forrest Paint Company
- + Georgia Hearth Sales and Distributing
- + Grill Dome
- + Joseph Enterprises
- + Kamado Joe
- + Little Griddle Innovations
- + Mainline Heating and Supply
- + Northline Express

- +Northwestern Fuels
- + Patio One
- + Tarantin Tank and Equipment
- + The Companion Group
- + The Outdoor GreatRoom Company
- + Weber-Stephens Products

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