



An insight into the #NashvilleStrong Mantra

# on location

current issues >>>

## By Brooks-Ann Crowder

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## Creating a Sense of Community

*How some are making a year of darkness light again.*

*Through the efforts of Combined Metals staff at the Bellwood Location, a fundraiser for a city in need began. Read on to see how they helped and what you can do to help as well!*

March 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2020 wreaked havoc on many middle Tennessee families and businesses. Tornadoes ravaged the community, killed dozens, and left hundreds more displaced and in need. Then later in March, the Corona virus shut down the country killing and hospitalizing thousands. In Nashville, as in other cities, businesses found themselves closed and without customers. It finally seemed the year was coming to a close and we were ready. Then on

Christmas Day a downtown bombing rocked the city, sending the community reeling again. Once lines of communication were established days later, the damage to the city was evident. Again, many Nashvillians lost everything and businesses that had survived all the hardships thus far were destroyed. When speaking with Maria Amado, Board President of the Community Resource Center (CRC) in Nashville, she estimates 1,500 plus people to be effected by this Christmas Day nightmare due to the loss of jobs, homes and businesses. There are at least seven buildings that will need to be completely removed as a result of the blast damage. The CRC is still supporting residents affected by the tornadoes and has now

stepped up to assist with the bomb victims as well. They provide housing, appliances, clothing, food and hygiene items to those in need. In addition they supply these items to over 300 other non-profits as well. Combined Metals' Bellwood Staff saw the need in Nashville and wanted to help. They raised hundreds of dollars on their own time and out of their own pockets to help. This money was used to provide much needed metal cutting saws to first



responders who are cleaning up the debris downtown. Also, 217 hygiene products were donated to the CRC.

Everyone has seen the hashtag #NashvilleStrong. It is a sentiment created by locals with the core principle being how resilient Nashville has become. It stands for so much more than that now; such as, how we help each other, how we're all in this together, and how we care for the needs of our community. To Chicago's CMC Bellwood team, THANK YOU for helping us be #NashvilleStrong from afar.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating to the CRC please visit: <http://crcnashville.org/>