Osage / Washington County Long-Term-Recovery Committee December 18, 2025

After a devastating event like our EF4 tornado, we were overwhelmed with what to do next. ROAD came in with answers and a step-by-step process - along with several face-to-face visits. The human touch is amazing, and there are certain things that can't be done over the phone or via email.

ROAD empowered us (locals) with information, next steps, and continuing consultation that enabled us to form "feet" to our long-term recovery group. But their next most valuable asset is their network with other charity organizations (like Convoy of Hope, United Methodists, etc.). ROAD was the glue that kept us all together.

We had no clue what we were doing or getting ourselves into. All we knew was that our town needed help from outside sources, and we immediately saw the benefit of ROAD to make that happen. They helped us form our "Osage & Washington Counties Long-Term-Recovery Committee" with bylaws and officers, and gave us tips for a 501(c)3 tax-exempt registration. We became a legit non-profit organization.

And then there are countless times Luke and Cindy travelled to Barnsdall as boots-on-the-ground to help us navigate meetings, assess damages, and host other non-profits for damage repairs. They took the weight off us by being the buffer between the survivors and repair volunteers. They made sure every volunteer was vetted, insured, and had the correct paperwork and schedules. This was amazing.

With ROAD's expertise, we were (together) able to achieve in 6 months what would have taken us years by ourselves. We would have made so many mistakes by omission of knowledge alone. The shellshock of a community catastrophe is no joke. Everyone is blind and paralyzed (symbolically speaking, of course). ROAD came in as friends, held our hands (literally in some cases), and helped us get our grounding; to stand; to walk. Now it feels like we're running towards a future of recovery.

I fully endorse ROAD as the perfect consultants to help communities rebound after a natural disaster (like a tornado, flood, or fire). They're legit and came at just the right time!!! I remember in our early meetings, right after the tornado in May and June ('24), having so many questions. When Luke Pratt came in, he was calm, reassuring, and had the patience of Job to answer all our questions and, most importantly, told us what to do *next*.

Jason Byers, Pastor
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LTR Co-Chair