

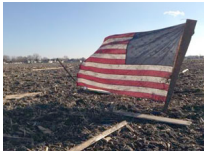
## Stewart part of community support for Illinois tornadoes

Written by Darci Tomky

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“When people are really coming together, it’s cool,” said Ella Stewart the day following severe storms that hit Illinois Sunday, Nov. 17.

Stewart was part of the clean-up efforts Monday near Washington, Ill., one of the hardest hit areas by the 80-plus tornadoes reported in the Midwest on Sunday.



**HHS alum Ella Stewart was part of a clean-up crew Monday, Nov. 18 following destructive tornadoes that hit just miles away from her college in Illinois. Her friend Belle Grober snapped this shot of an American flag amidst the debris in a field outside of Washington, Ill.**

Just seven miles from Stewart’s Eureka College in Eureka, Ill., she could see the intense damage caused by an EF-4 tornado. She said the mayor reported 250-500 homes were severely damaged or destroyed in the small town of 15,000 people.

“It’s quite chilly today,” said Stewart Monday, “but that hasn’t deterred volunteers from far and

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wide from coming to help pick up debris or volunteer at the shelters.”

“We are all super busy with finals and projects, but it’s not even a question that volunteering and helping out comes first,” she added.

Since they were not allowed into the actual damaged housing areas, Stewart said they piled debris from fields so it could be hauled away. “Picking up babies’ blankets and children’s broken toys today was kind of surreal,” said Stewart.

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