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# Keeping chin up

June 8, 2008

Saginaw News

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BRIAN MANZULLO  
THE SAGINAW NEWS

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Anthony A. Kanuszewski bore little resemblance to a man whose house a severe thunderstorm ravaged the night before.

The 56-year-old Saginaw resident kept his spirits up and his video camera rolling Saturday afternoon, taping the damage at his home at 1756 Stanley while the slew of workers and volunteers helped remove debris and tree limbs from the house and the yard.

After all, it's not the worst thing that's happened to his family in the past year.

Kanuszewski sidestepped the scattered twigs and leaves with bare feet, making sure to get everybody on camera. "Look at all the

PLEASE SEE HOUSE, BACK PAGE ▶

helping hands we have here," he said.

Kanuszewski's home suffered the brunt of a "wind tunnel" storm that blew through Saginaw at approximately 6:15 p.m. Friday. A tree adjacent to his house smashed through the roof, causing major damage to several rooms and leaving debris scattered on the floors.

Help from friends and others around the neighborhood came as early as 8 a.m. Saturday, Kanuszewski said. His son, Zach, 21, said he called some friends for more help.

"Nobody has had any food yet," Anthony Kanuszewski said Saturday afternoon. "Nobody is worrying about food right now. Everybody's just worried about cleaning this place up."

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## A state of shock

To Anthony Kanuszewski, Friday's inclement weather looked like "just a little windy storm" five blocks from his house.

He was on the road at about 6:15 p.m. when he received a phone call from Zach, who lives next to him at 1752 Stanley.

"He said, 'Dad, you've got to get home now. There are trees through your house,'" Anthony Kanuszewski said. "I thought he was kidding me."

He arrived home to find a tree smashed through the center of his roof. The impact broke pipes inside the house, destroyed a bathroom and caved in several ceilings. One tree limb broke through the roof above family friend Gabrielle Millar's bedroom, filling it with debris.

Millar's car, a 2008 Pontiac G6, which she received as a graduation present, was down to its tires after a tree across Grout smashed through it.

"I don't even know what happened," said Zach Kanuszewski. "It was just nuts."

The storm tore the gutters and broke the porch at Zach's house, but caused no damage inside. The damage to the house next door, however, left Anthony and his wife, Joanna Kanuszewski, awake until 6 a.m. Saturday morning, without power, wondering what to do.

"We wanted to stay in the house rather than stay in a motel," he said. "We didn't want anybody breaking into the house. We just have to take things a day at a time."

"An insurance adjuster is coming Monday, and the fire department said we're supposed to get power back Monday, so we'll figure out everything then."

## 'I'm not leaving my son'

Anthony Kanuszewski said the last thing he wants to do is move. His house was valued at \$86,000 prior to the storm.

"If I have to rebuild, I will," he said. "I'm not leaving my son (Zach)."

Zach Kanuszewski was involved in a car crash in August that left him disabled, Anthony Kanuszewski said. He considered adding on to his house to better aid Zach, but thought giving Zach the house at 1752 Stanley was a better option.

The house cost \$37,000.

"I assume he's going to be living there for the rest of his life," he said.

Kanuszewski said he is leafing through his insurance policy this weekend to make sure his house is covered before an adjuster comes to the house Monday.

The aid from friends and

neighbors, meanwhile, is lifting Kanuszewski's head during a troubled, confusing time.

"I have a tear here and a tear here," he said, pointing to each of his eyes, "But they haven't fallen yet. I'm not sure what to do, but I'm taking it day by day."

Keeping a smile on his face, Kanuszewski took a dip in the backyard pool. ♦

Brian Manzullo is a staff writer for The Saginaw News. You may reach him at 776-9724.