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### Blessings Triumph

The EF-5 tornado that destroyed Greensburg on May 4th, 2007, brought more blessings than it took away. It brought new buildings, taught people not to take things for granted, and brought many people closer together. The town was great before the tornado. It was a strong community, where almost all necessities could be taken care of in town. There was a theatre, a grocery store, a gas station, a school, parks, a swimming pool, school sports teams, city buildings, a post office, an airport, tire shops, a car dealership, many houses and people, and the list just goes on and on. Although the town was fine the way it was, there could've been more, and it could've been better. Nobody even thought to do or change any of these things because there was no problem with how things were. When the tornado hit, we had no choice, and we took action to put them in place. The rebuilding of the town brought many new things. Some of these things were the same as they were before, yet better. Environmentally friendly and bigger buildings replaced the so-called perfect old small town.

Even though the tornado destroyed almost all the buildings in town, new buildings are being built. We are building a new school, my family is going to build a new house, and new city buildings are being built. Having a new school will draw attention to Greensburg from our league, the state, and maybe even the country. Secondly, my family is building a new house. It will be nice to live in town and to have a closet. New city buildings are also being built. They will be very green and environmentally friendly. People who work for the city should enjoy their new buildings. All these new buildings are reasons why the tornado brought more blessings than it took away.

The tornado also taught people not to take things for granted. Things like buildings, family, and friends. Before the tornado, I may have thought that my house could have this or that, or it just wasn't good enough. I also may have wanted it to be in a different spot in town. Now, after the tornado, I know that it was wrong to take that for granted. I now live 20 miles out of town and would much rather still be living in my old house. Next, some people may have had problems with their family, or just didn't think much about family being important. The tornado could've taken that family away. These people may realize now that it would be much different without their family, and that they might have taken that for granted. Also, friends could have been taken for granted. Friends could have been killed in the tornado. For me, living in the country so far away, I don't get to hang out as much as I used to. Some other people may have taken that for granted as well. These are all examples on what the tornado taught us not to take for granted.

The last reason why the tornado brought more blessings than it took away is that it brought people closer together. It brought the community together, the county together, and the school system together. First, the tornado brought the community together. The night of the tornado, many people of Greensburg helped other people of Greensburg, whether they knew them or not. The tornado made the town a stronger community and closer together. Second, it brought the county together. After the tornado, Haviland and Mullinville helped by giving people places to stay and sending people to help transport victims and clean rubble, and their help continues even today. Last, the tornado brought the schools together. The schools of Kiowa County are planning on combining into one school, making new friendships and a stronger school system. These are all three more reasons why the tornado brought more blessings than it took away.

These are all reasons why the tornado brought more blessings than it took away. The now well-known town of Greensburg, Kansas, is a very environmentally friendly and strong community after going through a nightmare. Even though bad things may happen, great things can come out of it, no matter what the situation may seem to be.