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Community comes together to assist families affected by Mandan Apartment Fire

Mandan, N.D. – Community volunteers and businesses are providing assistance to displaced Sunset Bluffs apartment complex residents following yesterday's fire at its 31st St N location in Mandan.

Volunteers are currently sorting through donations at the Blackstone Hotel and as additional families arrive, they are currently in need of the following items:

1. Newborn and 2T boys clothing
2. Size medium women's tops
3. Size 14 & up women's size clothing
4. Women's undergarments
5. Pajamas
6. Baby food & formula
7. Girls clothing size 5-12
8. Bedding & towels
9. Kitty litter & kitty litter boxes (dish tubs work well too!)

Items can be brought to Blackstone Hotel on Old Red Trail. Also, additional volunteers are needed at the Blackstone Hotel to assist with managing the donations and getting them to apartment residents.

When residents report in at the hotel, they are completing a form to indicate their immediate needs.

Mandan's Be-A-Good-Neighbor program through the Mandan Progress Organization is accepting donations at https://squareup.com/store/mandan-independence-day-parade?fbclid=IwAR2OVCFsMvi0rpJDg3iZXZsEOQ9NqCWzu5_AaMm6zj67sQFbsLF-qwUA1cg and has been able to supply Walmart gift cards so displaced families can obtain essential items.

The American Red Cross is making contact with tenants of the apartment complex to meet additional needs as well as delivering their mail.

The Sunset Bluffs landlord has communicated with tenants and is working to place as many as possible in other available apartments within the Eagle Eye Management rental company. Many of the residents did not have renter's insurance, particularly those who had recently moved into the complex.

Among the displaced families are approximately 21 Mandan Public School students and the school district has chosen to provide their school supplies and cover their fees for the 2019-20 school year.

“There are many individuals and organizations that have stepped up in tremendous ways to assist these families,” said Morton County Emergency Manager Tom Doering. “The generosity of our community is greatly appreciated as we work together to meet the needs of those affected by this tragedy.”

Initially, a shelter was set up at the Mandan Middle School but it soon became a reception area only as Blackstone Hotel on Old Red Trail in Mandan offered to house the apartment tenants. The Comfort Inn also accepted some of the displaced families. The middle school is no longer being used as a shelter.

Once the Mandan Police Department has completed their investigation and it is deemed safe, we will provide notice that residents may return to collect belongings.

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