

News Release

Communication Services

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Arapahoe County Foundation fund for Displaced Seniors established

Donate to victims from The Windermere Apartments Fire

LITTLETON, CO --- A <u>fund</u> has been established through the Arapahoe County Foundation to assist victims of The Windermere Apartments fire that occurred on November 17, in the 5800 block of S. Windermere St. More than 160 senior citizens were displaced by the fire and are in need, the crisis is far from over and most of the current housing solutions are temporary.

Residents were informed today that their leases will be terminated and they will not be able to return to their apartments due to fire, smoke and other damages and health risks. Additionally, some of the residents will also not be able to retrieve any of their belongings due to the damage as well. . Several of these seniors impacted by this fire were also displaced in the April 2016 fire, and thus lack the financial resources to cope with this disaster.

Arapahoe County Commissioners have designated grant funding to assist with security deposits and other rental requirements for eligible residents and set up the assistance fund to accept community donations.

Arapahoe County Community Resources and Human Services staff are also working to locate housing options.

"We're calling upon the community to help raise funds for the victims of the fire. In April of 2016, when the same apartment complex caught on fire, our generous community raised more than \$18,000," said Board of County Commissioners Board Chair, Jeff Baker. "More victims are in need this time. Help us raise additional funds to support victims of the fire, through needs such as utility deposits, security deposits, moving expenses, initial supplies of food and other basic necessities."

If you wish to contribute to the The Windermere Apartments Fire Victims fundthrough the Arapahoe County Foundation, please visit http://bit.ly/WindermereFireFund or you can mail a check payable to "Arapahoe County Foundation" to 5334 S. Prince St., Littleton, CO 80120. Please include "The Winderemere Apartment Fire Victims" on the memo line of your check.

The Foundation is a Colorado non-profit corporation organized as a 501(c)(3) and donors will receive a donation acknowledgement letter for tax purposes. All funding raised will be used exclusively to support the victims of the fire, through needs such as utility deposits, security deposits, moving expenses, initial supplies of food and necessities and other needs.

A resource center located at the Life Center, 5804 S. Datura St. in Littleton is open this week on Tuesday from 1-4 p.m., Wednesday from 9 a.m.-Noon and Thursday 9 a.m.-Noon to assist victims and their families.. More dates will be added as needed.

Landlords are encouraged to contact the resource center through Arapahoe County Community Resources if they have affordable units available at 303-738-8040. Citizens can also contact Community Resources with questions or for more information.

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