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Market Common Recovery and How You Can Help

On Monday, January 21, a fast-moving fire engulfed a block of Market Street in Lawrence, destroying three Habitat for Humanity homes and many neighboring properties. Two Lawrence families, who, along with scores of Habitat volunteers, had put hundreds of hours of work into the houses, had expected to be moving into their new homes within weeks.

Since then, the outpouring of support from local corporations, community organizations, faith-based organizations, volunteers, and others has been inspiring and overwhelming. Although the loss is devastating to the families, and to the volunteers and supporters, we are inspired that so many of these groups and individuals will join together to help our Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate with both the immediate and the long-range goals.

Our Immediate Need:

Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity's immediate goal is to accommodate the two families that suffered the loss of their future homes. Both families remain in their cramped apartments. The board, staff, and building committee of Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity are committed to accelerating the completion of a duplex house on Gale Street in Lawrence. In order to quickly move these families into this duplex, we need help. We need professional labor, donations, and the continued commitment of our regular volunteers. It is estimated that \$20,000 per home (\$40,000 total) will help us to complete this duplex home in less than two months. The major needs are:

- ⇒ Kitchen cabinets and counters (2 needed at \$3000 each)
- ⇒ Kitchen plumbing fixtures, sinks and faucets (2 needed at \$300 each)
- ⇒ Bathroom vanities and counters (4 needed at \$300 each)
- ⇒ Bathroom toilets, sinks and faucets (4 needed at \$400 each)
- ⇒ Installation of carpet (2 at \$2000 each)
- ⇒ Installation of vinyl flooring (2 at \$4000 each)

⇒ Tankless hot water heaters (2 at \$800 each)

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Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity also lost a large quantity of tools (electric and hand) and supplies that were stored in the basements of the destroyed homes. Tools and supplies we need to replace are:

- ⇒ 2 steel job boxes
- ⇒ 1 table saw
- ⇒ 2 circular saws
- ⇒ 1 reciprocating saw
- ⇒ 3 cordless drills
- ⇒ 2 miter saws (12" and 10")
- ⇒ 1 13/8 USR Drill
- ⇒ 1 1/2" VSR Drill
- ⇒ 3 Jig Saws
- ⇒ Nail aprons
- ⇒ Hammers
- ⇒ Work gloves
- ⇒ Safety glasses
- ⇒ Hearing protection
- ⇒ First aid kits
- ⇒ Stepladders
- ⇒ Kerosene heaters

Donations of any size are needed to help pay labor costs for electricians, plumbers, and other professionals that are needed.

Our Future Need:

Our longer term goal is to work vigorously toward designing, planning, and implementing the recovery process at the Market Street site. The affiliate is committed to rebuilding the Market Street site as soon as possible. Large groups of volunteers will be needed when we are able to clean up the site and when rebuilding starts.

Please join with us in prayer, to thank God that there were but minor injuries and to ask God to provide everyone involved with the wisdom, strength, and resources to rise to the challenges that this situation presents. We are thankful for everyone's support.

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Should you be able to and want to help, please direct your contributions, **marked for Market Common Recovery**, to:

Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity
60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

About Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity

Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International: a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Habitat seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat has built more than 250,000 homes for more than 1 million people worldwide.

The Merrimack Valley affiliate was founded in 1985 and has built or renovated 57 homes since then. It issues no-interest mortgages to people who make between \$22,500 and \$45,000 annually, and then uses the mortgage payments to build new houses for others. Even with donated supplies and volunteer labor, it costs \$96,000 to build one Habitat house in the greater Lawrence area. Anyone wishing to volunteer or contribute may contact us at 60 Island Street, Lawrence, MA 01840, or 978-681-8858, or on the Web at www.merrimackvalleyhabitat.org.

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