

On behalf of the Stoughton Housing Authority (SHA), we want to thank everyone who has posted online to generously offer furniture to our displaced Rose Forte residents. We are happy to report that since the July 18th fire we have been able to assist everyone who requested our help obtaining replacement furnishings. Many Stoughton residents contacted us and the Council on Aging with donations of furniture, household appliances, and clothing. We assisted our residents by picking up donated furniture and moving it to their new locations or storage units. The phenomenal donation made by Bob's Discount Furniture of a \$500 gift card to every affected household greatly assisted in meeting this need.

At this time, we'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many people and agencies that came forward to offer their assistance. We simply cannot express our gratitude for the swift action of all the first responders especially the Stoughton Fire and Police Departments who extinguished the fire quickly and safely evacuated all residents from the building. Thank you Fire Chief Laracy and Police Chief McNamara who showed incredible leadership, remaining on scene until all residents were placed in temporary housing and the building was secured.

In the hours and weeks following the fire, the Town of Stoughton as a whole pulled together to provide a monumental network of support. We want to recognize, Janiece Bruce and her team from the Council on Aging who gave so much support and compassion to our residents and Town Manager, Robin Muksian-Grimm, who assisted us in finding hotels for our residents and temporary office space for the SHA. In addition, the multiple agencies who played a role in assessing and stabilizing our residents including Emergency Medical Services, Visiting Nurses, Veterans Services, Public Library, Animal Control Departments, and Town of Stoughton employees.

The American Red Cross' Disaster Recovery team arrived the morning of the fire bringing with them much needed financial assistance. Senator Walter Timility provided pizza and all three legislators, including Representative Louis Kafta and Representative William Galvin, continue to provide support to our residents. The Stoughton Redevelopment Authority, as well as Stoughton Stop & Shop, provided much needed gift cards. Old Colony Elder Services provided daily meals to residents who were temporarily placed in hotels as well as gift cards. The Hampton Inn went above and beyond providing free toiletries, food and meeting space for all of our residents.

Other agencies that also came forward to assist included Brockton's Department of Transitional Assistance, the Canton Animal Shelter, the Salvation Army, Immaculate Conception Church, and Bob's Mart & Liquor. We would also like to acknowledge the particularly generous monetary donations received from members of the community, which were of enormous assistance in providing targeted relief. In addition, the Town of Stoughton collected monetary donations to distribute to each resident.

In the days following the fire, housing authority staff was able to assist each resident in finding placement in temporary housing and they will each be offered the opportunity to return to their original apartment at Rose Forte when building renovations are completed. Our social service staff continues to work with residents following the fire to meet their emerging needs and to check on their wellbeing.

Work to mitigate the fire damage to the Rose Forte building continues and we appreciate the involvement of the building and plumbing inspectors and the fire department who are assisting us to navigate the necessary codes and permits required to get the building back in service. We are hoping to have all residents back in their units in the late spring of 2020.

The kindness and support of the Stoughton community, Town officials, and our Legislators have meant so much to our residents, the Board and employees of the Stoughton Housing Authority, we cannot thank you all enough. We are very fortunate to be part of the Town of Stoughton.

If you have any questions you will find fire updates posted on our website, which is stoughtonhousing.com, or you can call us at 781-344-6599.