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UNITED WAY COLLECTING SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES IMPACTED BY APARTMENT FIRE

JACKSON, Mich. - United Way of South Central Michigan (UWSCMI) has activated its Disaster Relief Fund to provide support to those affected by the March 12 apartment fire that left one person dead, several injured and 69 families displaced.

UWSCMI is collecting financial donations and serving as a collection center for items needed by apartment residents. The effort is in collaboration with City of Jackson officials, emergency response teams and nonprofits in Jackson County.

“The families affected by this fire lost so much in an instant,” said Bethany Stutzman, Senior Director of Community Impact. “We are grateful for the many partners stepping up so quickly to provide critical support. Together we’re making sure these families won’t face recovery alone.”

UWSCMI will collect items starting Saturday, March 14. Items can be dropped off at 536 N. Jackson St. each day through Thursday, March 19, noon to 4 p.m., or on Friday, March 20, from 9 a.m. to noon. Items needed include hygiene products, paper products, moving supplies, cleaning supplies, household basics, first-aid supplies and pet supplies. We are not able to accept donations of food, clothing, or furniture. For a full list, visit unitedforscmi.org/disaster-relief-fund.

To make a financial gift in support of the families, visit unitedforscmi.org/disaster-relief-fund. Funds raised will go toward current recovery efforts. Any remaining funds will be used applied to future emergencies.

Recognizing the scope and scale of community needs that emerge from many types of emergencies, UWSCMI created the Disaster Relief Fund to respond quickly with vital support. UWSCMI works closely with local partners to determine what is needed and how to deploy resources effectively.

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About UWSCMI

United Way of South Central Michigan brings together the people, ideas and resources to lead with our communities and create a flourishing, equitable life for all. We are committed to addressing the most pressing social issues locally and regionally; championing equity, diversity and inclusion by embedding equity and antiracism throughout our work; and engaging partners in our communities to drive lasting impact. We envision strong, caring communities where every person is valued, thriving and connected for the common good. Website: www.unitedforscmi.org.