

A FAITHFUL RESPONSE FROM AREA CHURCHES THROUGH LOVE In the Name of Christ

Hundreds of volunteers mobilized to support the victims of the Southview Apartment Fire

Most of this article was a part of the Summer, 2016 Love INC Newsletter

When the fire at Southview Place Apartments occurred on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 no one envisioned the magnitude of this problem. The 131 residents were displaced and inconvenienced, yet patient and hopeful. Of those, fourteen lived in the Red Cross Shelter for eight days or more...quite uncomfortable for seniors with medical issues. *Love INC volunteers were there* to provide clothes and rides, teamwork and compassion.

When these residents were informed on Tuesday, April 19 that they would not be permitted to move back to their apartments, 131 Littleton neighbors became homeless. Additionally, they were instructed to move all of their belongings out within 2-9 days! *Love INC volunteers were there* to pack and move, providing friendship, a listening ear, and manual labor, trucks, and storage units!



Now that the news reports about this fire have ended, there are still many residents that don't have a place to live permanently, and are now removed from their support network. There are numerous "small crises" in process. *Love INC volunteers are still working* with residents to provide ongoing support during this time of transition. They still need help finding housing, moving their belongings from storage, and unpacking.

Love INC volunteers helped their neighbors in numerous ways by:

- 🕊 Delivering a second set of clothes (purchased new, according to the residents' wishes for size/style)
- 🕊 Doing laundry and driving to appointments
- 🕊 Walking alongside those in the shelter by visiting with them and attending update meetings
- 🕊 Conducting intakes of 36 residents in order to best identify emerging needs
- 🕊 Organizing the move out of 36 complete apartments, and assisted with another 25-30

Fire Response by the Numbers:

- 🕊 **33** churches sent volunteers to assist in various capacities throughout this disaster
- 🕊 More than **300** shifts of volunteers spent more than **1000** hours packing and moving
- 🕊 Dozens more volunteers spent more than **350** hours planning and organizing the relief efforts
- 🕊 Love INC dedicated an estimated **\$21,195** in relief (\$15,205 actual and \$5990 in-kind)

Love INC of Littleton can be reached for further information at info@loveinclittleton.org or 303-798-0037.



At the Red Cross Shelter



Love INC meeting with clients



Volunteers at the move-out

Love Stories from the Southview Place Fire

"Thank you to the Love INC Volunteer who did my laundry. She made me feel like I was someone important."

"Look at this new outfit that was bought especially for me. I've never had such a nice outfit in my life."

"Love INC volunteers were like angels sent from above. If it weren't for you, there would have been nobody."

"If it wasn't for Love INC's assistance packing, moving and arranging storage, I would have been forced to leave all my things behind."

"You all have given me so much...please take these things to help others in need. You have made this tragedy tolerable with your outpouring of love and just being there."

"I was blessed by my opportunity to offer presence and support to fire victims. One resident expressed her awe, amazement and appreciation for everyone who was there for her and others in this time of great need."

"I had the honor of helping a lovely couple move out of their Southview Place apartment. They were the epitome of poise and gratefulness. I could see Christ's light shining right through them."

Volunteer Highlight:

Barb Rudolf & Kelly Sushinski

Their mission:

Organize hundreds of volunteers, in a secure operation, to pack up and move out dozens of displaced seniors who don't have plans to move or a place for their things... and begin in 36 hours!



Barb and Kelly provided excellent leadership and teamwork as they supported the pack-up and move-out of SouthviewPlace residents. They organized the efforts of caring volunteers from Love INC, the LDS Church, Knights of Columbus and Boy Scouts, working seven 10-12 hour days in a row! This involved a creating a wall-full of move requests, ongoing phone calls to clients, coaching volunteers, and tending to the make-shift community center that the operation became. Barb and Kelly deployed volunteers into the building to simply get a feel for the overall operations, see who might like extra packing help and identify where counseling support was needed. They created a safe and meaningful environment for both volunteers and residents. And they achieved, through the volunteer service of so many, what most thought could not be done... The move-out ended on schedule.

Now that these intense efforts are over, Barb has transitioned to helping arrange the one-by-one move requests from residents who have found their next home. Kelly is hard at work organizing the 2016 Empty Bowl.

Thank you Barb and Kelly!