



Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter
*Serving the people of Allegan, Cass, Kalamazoo
and St. Joseph Counties*
5640 Venture Court, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
(269) 353-6180, (800) 382-6382 (269 area code only)

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

FIRE DESTROYS APARTMENTS at HIDDEN HILLS COMPLEX

KALAMAZOO, MI – March 13, 2009 – In an all too familiar scene, fire fighters battled a blaze at the Hidden Hills Apartment complex in Kalamazoo for many hours beginning late Thursday afternoon, March 12, 2009. Most residents fled their homes with only the clothes they were wearing as the fire spread quickly. The Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross responded to the fire and assisted 24 residents at the time of this release. Displaced residents were aided with food, clothing, disaster mental health, and disaster health services as needed. Western Michigan University is offering shelter for displaced students at Harrison-Stinson (Valley 3) Residence Hall on the main campus. The Red Cross is operating a service center at the Chapter facility, 5640 Venture Ct. in Kalamazoo. The service center will be open from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. today to assist Hidden Hills residents who have not yet been in touch with the Red Cross. Those needing assistance may contact the Red Cross at **any time by calling (269) 353-6180**.

The Red Cross can respond to fires and other disasters because of the dedicated and trained volunteers who are members of on-call Disaster Action Teams who deploy immediately when they are called by local emergency authorities. But without the generous donations of the citizens in our communities there would be no funds to assist clients or to train the volunteers who donate their time. The American Red Cross helps clients with emergency disaster related needs until other resources are able to help get them back on their feet. You can help the victims of house fires and other disasters in our area by making a financial gift to the Local Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. For more information on the American Red Cross you can visit the Chapter's website at www.greaterkzooredcross.org. For more information on the American Red Cross and its role in disaster response, visit its website at www.redcross.org.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply; teaches lifesaving skills; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization – not a government agency- and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission. For more information on the Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, please visit www.greaterkzooredcross.org.

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