

Hello St. David's Family,

I wanted to let you know about a devastating incident in our neighbourhood two nights ago. A terrible fire engulfed the Hillcrest Apartment Building on Simms St. Thankfully nobody was hurt but all the families have been displaced and the building is totally destroyed. In total, 23 children under the age of 13 (including 11 under 7) and their parents (9 women and 8 men) have been affected.

Fundraiser: A fundraiser to help the families get back on their feet is being coordinated by Connections for Seniors. Donations can be made through their website: <https://www.connectionsforseniors.ca/> Click "Make a Donation" and enter "Fire Survivors" in the comment field. *All donors will receive a tax receipt.*

Donations of clothing, toiletries, blankets, grocery store gift cards, non-perishable food, diapers, toys, etc. can be dropped off to 6 Patrick Street (Connections for Seniors building). Regarding sizing – there are four 12-13 yr old girls, three 10-11 yr old boys, multiple 5-7 yr old girls and boys, two toddlers under 2 yrs old, and the rest of the little ones are 2-4 yrs old.

Adopt-a-Family: Most of the families are new Canadians who came to Newfoundland as refugees in the past 1-3 years and have made their homes in our community. I am friends with several of them and help them with things like practicing English, registering their kids for sports, job hunting, resume prep, looking for apartments, shopping for school supplies, making a run to the grocery store, understanding their mail, etc. I was wondering if there may be others in the church community who would be interested in doing the same.

With gratitude, Sarah Bassler