Donation drive begins for Nguyen family

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Halton Regional Police officers that that her child was still inside the residence in a back bedroom on the top floor. This information was immediately passed on to arriving firefighters.

The boy was rescued from the building by a pair of firefighters who encountered thick smoke in the second storey of the home.

"There was zero visibility on the second floor and heavy black smoke had already banked all the way down to the first floor," said Assistant Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Morrison.

"They had to go by a sense of feel as they were searching through the floor and they were able to find the child on a mattress in a bedroom at the back of the house. Other firefighters prevented the fire from spreading that would have cut off their access out of the building because there was heavy fire on the main floor that was starting to encroach on the stairs."

Halton EMS responders provided treatment on the scene before the boy was taken to Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto via ORNGE air ambulance, which had responded quickly to the call, landing at the southeast corner of Hwy. 7 and Tan-

The boy was said to be covered in black soot and suffering from smoke inhalation, but conscious and breathing. His condition was downgraded from critical on Tuesday evening.

Halton Regional Police reported Wednesday morning he was in stable condition and being treated for severe smoke inhalation.

"It's one of those things that you train for, but you hope that you never have to do it," added Mor-

"Their training paid off and it kicked in. We're just happy the child was able to get out of the house safely."

The boy's father and four-year-old sister were not at home at the time of the blaze.

Damage is estimated at \$225,000.

An additional pumper was requested as the fire extended from the kitchen into the roof area at the back of the home. By 3 p.m. the fire was under control. Staff members from all three HHFD stations



Three-year-old Josiah Nguyen was airlifted by **ORNGE** to SickKids hospital.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

responded to the call. Three pumper trucks and a rescue vehicle were utilized.

The Ontario Fire Marshal was still on scene Wednesday and had called in experts to sift through the debris to determine the cause of the fire, which is believed to have started in the family

The Red Cross is assisting the family in seeking temporary accommodation and there's been a huge outpouring of support for the Nguyens.

Fire Chief Brent Marshall commented he is touched by the generosity of neighbours and the entire community who have reached out to support this family.

Anyone who'd like to donate cash, clothing or other essentials can drop those items off at the Acton Fire Station on Churchill Rd. or at the HHFD Headquarters at 10 Sideroad and Eighth Line. McKenzie-Smith Bennett School is also collecting items for the family.

Fire Chief & Town of Halton Hills CAO Brent Marshall commented he is touched by the generosity of neighbours and the entire community who have reached out to support this family.

Jason Fournier of the Acton Fire Fighters' Association said members will be collecting donations in their boots and hats on Saturday afternoon along the route of the Acton Santa Claus Parade. Donations of clothing and other essentials can be dropped off at one of the fire trucks that will be at the parade.



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