



Georgetown resident Lisa McPherson is collecting much-needed items for the victims of Sunday's Brampton townhouse fire that has left nearly 100 people homeless and claimed the life of a 10-year-old boy. Bags and bags of donations that have come in fill her living room and will be delivered to the families.
Photo by Lisa Tallyn

Local woman collects donations for homeless Brampton fire victims

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

A Georgetown resident is collecting clothing, household items and toys for the victims of Sunday's fire that ripped through a Brampton townhouse complex on Ardglen Dr. killing a 10-year-old boy and leaving approximately 100 people homeless.

After hearing of the blaze Lisa McPherson, who grew up in Brampton, decided she wanted to help and put out the call on Facebook and Twitter for donations of items for the families who have been forced out of their homes.

Within a day, her living room was jammed full of donations from area residents, and others. McPherson plans to continue collecting items for the families.

"Everybody is just stepping up," said McPherson, adding Peel Police officers have volunteered to deliver the donations.

Anyone interested in making a donation is asked to contact McPherson at mcperson74@bell.net.

The Brampton Guardian, sister paper to The Independent & Free Press is joining efforts to raise funds for the victims of the fire. The newspaper has launched a campaign online at <http://bit.ly/1xDsf8y> and waived the campaign fees— which means 100 per cent of donated funds will help the victims.

"Brampton has opened its heart to these families, and at The Brampton Guardian we're proud to play some small role in the

community's response to this tragedy," said Dana Robbins, vice-president and regional publisher for Metroland South. "We urge all of our neighbours to contribute what they are able to assist these families in their time of greatest need."

All proceeds will be directed toward Regeneration for the Nicolas/Ardglen Trust.

The outpouring of support from the community has been overwhelming, with donations of clothes, blankets and household items pouring in.

Organizers say that now, cash donations and gift cards are priorities in fundraising efforts, to help the family of Nicolas Gabriel, the boy who died in the blaze, and the residents of Ardglen Drive who lost everything.

"We are doing this because we are a member of the community, and we want to help and hopefully this will generate some much needed funds for the families in need," said Brampton Guardian editor-in-chief Patricia Loneragan.

The Regeneration campaign for the Nicolas/Ardglen Trust will fund funeral expenses for Nicolas, and the remaining donations will help Ardglen residents re-establish their lives.

"This fire has been devastating for our community," said Robbins. "Every one of us can imagine ourselves in similar circumstances, and immediately appreciate how heartbroken and overwhelmed these families must feel."

Visit <http://bit.ly/1xDsf8y> to make a donation or learn more.

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