

Roxbury

43° | traffic | transit

Change a battery. Change a bulb.



Change your life.

BatteriesPlus.

Own a franchise! >

1.866.217.7451
BatteriesPlus.com/Franchising

home news events discussions search

< Back to front page

Text size - +

ROXBURY

Two months after massive Roxbury fire, 18 families still without permanent homes

Posted by Matt Rocheleau December 8, 2011 01:50 PM

Print | Comments ()

Share 0 Tweet 1



(Aram Boghosian / Globe file)

A mid-October fire displaced two dozen Roxbury families, including 18 that remain in temporary housing.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Donations are still being sought to aid two dozen families forced from their Roxbury homes after a six-alarm fire ravaged an apartment complex in mid-October, according to the nonprofit development company that owns the

Connect to Roxbury



Connect to Your Town Roxbury on Facebook

Like

You like **Your Town Roxbury**. · Admin



Follow @YourRoxbury on Twitter

Follow

Click here to follow Your Town Roxbury on Twitter.

ADVERTISEMENT



Brighton: Bad News for Your Insurer

If you drive less than 25 miles/day, this will help you.

ROXBURY REAL ESTATE »

67

Homes for sale

20

Rentals available

0

Open houses this week

0

New listings this week

CAMP GUIDE »

A camp for every kid!

Adventure, sports, theater, music, arts or technology—find the perfect camp for your child at boston.com/campguide.



badly damaged property.

Since the fire displaced tenants that range in age from young children to elderly, nonprofit housing developer Urban Edge, which owns the apartment complex in partnership with Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation, has been assisting the [24 affected families](#) with relief and relocation and has established the Wardman Emergency Fire Relief Fund.

Six of those families have been able to return home. And while the other 18 affected families are no longer living out of hotels, they remain in temporary housing, where all but a few of the families are expected to remain through the holidays and year's end. A dozen families will require "a much longer-term solution," Urban Edge's president and CEO Chrystal Kornegay said.

"We still need to find permanent housing," she said by phone yesterday. "It's not easy to find affordable permanent housing in this city."

She said the relief fund has raised around \$18,000 to date, but that pales in comparison to the more than \$100,000 already spent on temporarily housing families in hotels underwritten by Urban Edge. Money has also been spent to provide families other basic necessities.

The relief fund has no set goal it hopes to reach because the total cost of aiding the fire victims remains unknown. Kornegay said she expects it will total in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"If we can get to even \$100,000 in donations, that would be great," she said. "We think there will be some more money coming in around the holidays."

More than 75 residents were displaced, including around one dozen who were injured, when a Medford man allegedly set off an early morning explosion on [Oct. 17](#) in what authorities believe was a suicide attempt. The explosion tore through buildings in the Wardman Apartments complex and ignited one of the most destructive fires in recent city history.

While heroic rescue efforts helped prevent fatalities, the affected families are in need of assistance, according to Urban Edge.

"There have also been many thoughtful gifts of clothing and other household items that will assist the families in need. At this time the most important objective is to raise funds to cover expenses already incurred and yet to come," the nonprofit developer said in a statement last month. "The donors' care and concern for the Wardman victims define our understanding of family and community."

The fire required immediate demolition of five units in the section of the building where 12 families lived. The other seven units have not been demolished but are uninhabitable, according to Kornegay. The future of that 12-unit section of the building remains uncertain, she said.

ADVERTISEMENT

AdChoices 

Roxbury Headlines »

- [Ga. agency says 25 more counties 'camera ready'](#) (3 days ago)
- [Chick-fil-A calls Northeastern cancellation 'hasty'](#) (4 days ago)
- [Full statements: Chick-fil-A in response to Northeastern cancellation](#) (4 days ago)
- [Roxbury 1st-graders joyed by private performance for Obama](#) (4 days ago)



Local advertising by PaperG

Also From Roxbury

COMMUNITY



Famous figures from Roxbury

NIGHTLIFE



“The courageous and gracious responses of the residents in alerting and aiding their neighbors at the complex along with the heroic work of the firefighters prevented loss of life from a blaze that could have been deadly,” Urban Edge said in a statement.

The nonprofit thanked first responders, victims, their families and friends for supporting one another, and “for facing this catastrophe with dignity and resolve.” Urban Edge also thanked property manager WinnResidential and two sister housing developments, the Academy Homes I Tenants’ Council and the Theroch Apartments Tenants Association.

Donations to the Wardman Emergency Fire Relief Fund, which are tax-deductible, can be made by visiting Urban Edge’s website, www.urbanedge.org <http://www.urbanedge.org/>, or by mailing a check to: Urban Edge at 1542 Columbus Ave., Roxbury, MA 02119. Checks should note “Fire Relief.”

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

--

For the latest Roxbury updates:

Follow [@roxburyupdate](#) on Twitter, [here](#).

And connect via Facebook by clicking the “Like” button on the top right hand corner of the Roxbury homepage, [here](#).



(Aram Boghosian / Globe file)

Six-year-old Xavier Lara was carried by a police officer after being dropped from a window into the arms of a firefighter, during a mid-October fire that displaced two dozen Roxbury families.

Diamond in the rough

SOUTH END-ROXBURY LINE



Residents face identity crisis

EATING LOCALLY



On the street where you live

 Roxbury On Twitter »

Community Servings' farmers market shuts down - via [@JPGazette](#) - <http://t.co/CP5QC1Cv> 1 day ago

J.P. Licks to unveil non-dairy ice cream this spring, including hemp-based line on 4/20 - <http://t.co/4mOyL6Dd> 1 day ago

Joey starting to poke out of mother's pouch at Franklin Park Zoo; 1st new face in exhibit since 2005 [@zoonewengland](#) - <http://t.co/KPtPbjbl> 1 day ago

Ministers plan protest of bank's effort to foreclose on historic Roxbury church - <http://t.co/z2ZbNmxw> 1 day ago

[Follow other Boston.com Tweets](#) | [What is Twitter?](#)

   1

f Share 0

◀ Previous entry

Next entry ▶

MORE FROM BOSTON.COM

Star witness: Other students viewed Rutgers webcam *(National news)*

Chick-fil-A calls Northeastern cancellation 'hasty' *(Your Town)*

Rask injured, won't make road trip *(Bruins Blog)*

Toddler found alive in Indiana field after storms *(National news)*

Quincy makes "Best Places to Live" list *(Your Town)*

MORE FROM THE WEB

4 risky places to swipe your debit card *(Bankrate.com)*

9 Must Have Status Symbols that Say "I'm Rich" *(The Fiscal Times)*

The Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains *(Away.com)*

Why You Should Cover Your Gray Hair at Home *(HaircolorForWomen.com)*

A Must-See Mansion in Minnesota: Glensheen *(Reader's Digest)*

[Sponsored links]



READER COMMENTS »

View reader comments () » Comment on this story »

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Events](#) | [Schools](#) | [Sports](#) | [Discussions](#) | [Marketplace](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Contact Boston.com](#) | [Contact The Boston Globe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Your Ad Choices](#) | [Help](#) | [Advertise](#) | © 2012 NY Times Co.

ONE KINGS LANE
stylish home decor, furniture & gifts

SAVE UP TO 70%

JOIN: free membership ▶

