

Support sought for fire ravaged family

(KAIR)--The family who lost their child, as well as all of their belongings in an Atchison apartment fire earlier this month, is seeing support from the Salvation Army of Atchison County.

According to a release from Coordinator Kim Bottoroff , the agency will be accepting donations on the family's behalf "as they are currently staying in a hotel room and don't have anywhere to store things."

The release notes that what's needed are such items as women's clothing, size 8 1/2-9 jeans as well as large shirts. Men's shorts, size large, and 2XL sized shirts, are also on the list of needs, as well as little girl sizes 7/8 or 8/10 as well as size 6 or 6/7.

Hygiene products, pillows, blankets, bedding, kitchen items, household items, as well as other necessities are also needed by the family.

The donations are being accepted at the Salvation Army Office, located at 926 Commercial Street, in Atchison.

The fire occurred on the late morning of May 6 in an apartment at the Massasoit Court apartment complex. leaving a man inside at the time hospitalized in Kansas City, and a toddler-aged child dead. The death of the child, according to autopsy results shared with MSC News by Atchison Fire Chief Patrick Weishaar, "was from inhalation of smoke and hot gas from the fire."

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by Atchison Fire and Police Department investigators, as well as those from the State Fire Marshal's Office, but "early reports revealed the fire started in the bedroom near where the victim was found," with Weishaar saying that while "there was no physical evidence at the scene of what may have caused the fire...some equipment was retrieved from the scene by investigators for examination."

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