

The Hynes Family Firefighter Fund at the Community Foundation of Carroll County.

Saturday afternoon, May 21, 2016 - A fund has been established at the Community Foundation to assist the Hynes Family.

The Westminster Volunteer Fire Dept. is collecting money to help a member of the fire department and her family get back on their feet after a fire destroyed their home Friday night, May 20, 2016

The Westminster Volunteer Fire Dept. has partnered with the Community Foundation of Carroll County to help raise funds for the Hynes family. All donations to the Hynes Family Firefighter Fund at the Community Foundation of Carroll County are tax deductible.

Donations may be sent to  
Community Foundation of Carroll County  
% Hynes Family  
255 Clifton Boulevard  
Westminster Md. 21157

Be sure to note on your check that the donation is for the Hynes family

On Monday, May 23, 2016, a link will be set up on the Foundation's web site:  
[www.carrollcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.carrollcommunityfoundation.org) for electronic financial donations.

For more information, call the Community Foundation of Carroll County at 410-876-5505 or contact the Westminster Fire Dept. at 410-848-1800 Ext. 381 and leave a message if necessary.

The Mission of the Community Foundation of Carroll County is to maintain and enhance the quality of life in the community of Carroll County through philanthropic means. The Foundation will receive, invest, and distribute funds for charitable, cultural, and educational purposes for the benefit of the citizens of Carroll County.

Further evaluation is needed to determine precisely the Hynes family needs at the moment. Friends, neighbors, the first responder and firefighter community, and the American Red Cross has been very helpful with many of their immediate needs.

Financial donations for the Hynes family are not being accepted at the Westminster Fire Dept. Our partner, the Community Foundation of Carroll County is handling that for the department - to free-up the department to continue to respond to approximately 6,000 fire and EMS calls a year. .

Please do not drop off any donations at the Westminster Fire Dept. as the department is unable to store or manage any food, furniture, clothing, or housewares. The Hynes family is being helped with donations of food, furniture, clothing, or housewares by other partners in the community.

For those who have asked to also make a donation to the Westminster Volunteer Fire Department, visit our website at <http://www.westminstervfd.org/> or make a check payable to the Westminster Fire Engine and Hose Co. #1 and mail it to: 28 John Street, Westminster, MD 21157

On Friday evening, May 20, 2016 the home of the family of Hugh and Carla Hynes was destroyed by a tragic accidental fire due to a mechanical failure of their neighbor's air conditioning unit.

According to the Maryland State Fire Marshall's office, "Investigators determined a mechanical failure lead to the A/C unit exploding, causing the fire. Both the owner and the neighbor attempted to extinguish the fire with a garden hose to no avail. The fire spread rapidly upwards into the roof of the home causing extensive damage to the home and both adjoining units."

Over 80 firefighters from Carroll and Baltimore Co, and the Westminster Police Dept. responded with 20 pieces of equipment to a two-alarm fire in the 200 block of Gallatin Court, north of Westminster off Cranberry Rd. The first call came into the county emergency communications center at 9:39. A second alarm was quickly sounded at 9:55.

Three families were displaced and two townhouses were destroyed in the blaze, but the fire did not spread farther thanks to the prompt and well-coordinated response by firefighters. Fire was declared under control at 1024 pm, but wrap-up and clean-up operations lasted until approximately 3 am, Sat. morning

For more information or clarifications about this press release contact the Westminster Fire Dept. at 410-848-1800 Ext. 381 and leave a message if necessary or contact Westminster Fire Department Chaplain and PIO Kevin E. Dayhoff at [kdayhoff@westminstervfd.org](mailto:kdayhoff@westminstervfd.org)