

PRESS RELEASE

TO: ALL LOCAL MEDIA
FROM: TAWNI THOMSON, BISHOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
760-873-8405
DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015
SUBJECT: ROUND FIRE RELIEF EFFORTS FROM BISHOP CHAMBER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Bishop Chamber of Commerce, Tri-County Fairgrounds and Salvation Army continue to work cooperatively to assist those affected by the recent Round Fire. While the fire actually occurred in Mono County, residents and businesses of Bishop and Inyo County have been amazingly supportive of efforts to bring relief to our neighbors in Paradise and Swall Meadows.

We have come to understand that repairing damage done by the fire and restoring peoples' lives will take a long time. Victims will have different needs at different phases of rebuilding. People continue to ask "how can I help?" We hope this message addresses the most common questions.

Donations of clothing, bedding, toiletries, household items: The donation center at Patio Building, Tri-County Fair cannot accept any more of these items at this time. The community has been so very generous that there simply is no more room. If you were planning to donate clothing/bedding, we ask that you hold on to your donation and wait to hear in coming weeks if additional items are needed. Alternatively, you could donate the items to a local Thrift Store – all are operated by great non-profit organizations that continue to support people in need in our region.

The relief center at the Fairgrounds will be open daily 10-3pm for fire victims to pick up items. We encourage all fire victims to visit and re-visit the Patio Building as often as necessary.

Donations of gift cards: The gift card program has been very well received by fire victims. When choosing a gift card or gift certificate, please consider getting them from locally owned businesses. People have told us they really appreciate the cards from Joseph's Bi-Rite, Manor Market & the health food store. We know that clean up & repair supplies would also be appreciated; suggestions include High Country Lumber, Home Lumber or Manor True Value. We distributed several gift certificates for local restaurants and the victims have told us that they really appreciated being able to sit down for a meal and relax just a bit. Gift cards are being collected at the Bishop Chamber, Tri-County Fairgrounds and Salvation Army office.

Monetary contributions: Alta One Federal Credit Union in Bishop is accepting monetary donations. The Bishop Chamber of Commerce is the temporary custodian of the account and once an organization is selected by residents of Swall and Paradise, the funds will be transferred for distribution. The Bishop Chamber and Alta One are only collecting the funds; not making any payments out of the account.

On-Line Funding: Several "Go-Fund Me" accounts are soliciting donations related to the Round Fire. We encourage you to only send money to individuals or organizations that you have a relationship with. We believe that most fundraising efforts are legitimate; however, the Bishop Chamber cannot vouch for any online fundraising efforts that are out of our control.

On behalf of the boards, staff and volunteers of the Bishop Chamber, Salvation Army and Tri-County Fairgrounds – THANKS! We're all proud to be part of such a wonderful community!