



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 30, 2019

Contact:
Lisa Furman
Vice President of Marketing & Communications
(612) 672-3834
lfurman@mplsfoundation.org

Minnesota Helps Fund Addresses Immediate and Long-Term Needs of Survivors of Drake Hotel Fire

100% of donations will be distributed to support those impacted by the fire

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – Since The Minneapolis Foundation activated the Minnesota Helps – Drake Hotel Fire Recovery Fund the evening of Christmas Day, more than 2,500 generous Minnesotans and companies have contributed \$390,000 to support the survivors of the Drake Hotel fire. Within the first 24 hours of launching the fund, distribution of dollars began.

“Our team is working hard to address the immediate and the long-term needs of the individuals impacted by the fire,” says Chanda Smith Baker, Senior Vice President of Impact at the Foundation. “Every individual and family who has been displaced faces unique challenges. It is our goal to use the resources that have been entrusted to us to support the urgent needs – such as safe temporary shelter, food, and emergency supplies – with the need for families to find affordable, stable, and supportive long-term housing.”

As of noon today, The Minneapolis Foundation has made the following distributions from the Minnesota Helps Fund to support the direct needs of individuals and families impacted by the fire:

- \$25,000 to the Salvation Army Harbor Light Center to support their immediate response on the ground, providing food and emergency supplies to families impacted by the fire
- Provided financial guarantees on hotel rooms for some families to transition out of the temporary shelter at Bethlehem Church for the weekend
- Began distribution of \$10,000 in Target gift cards and cash to each family and single adult impacted by the fire; distribution continues today
- \$40,000 to enable First Covenant Church of Minneapolis to provide a hospitable, safe, sanitary, and supportive temporary shelter to families for the next 2-3 weeks

“It is a priority to make The Foundation accessible to our partners and organizations who are on the ground,” says Smith Baker. “At the same time, we are committed to doing our due diligence and ensuring that we use the Minnesota Helps Fund to bring longer term stability to the families who have just endured an unthinkable trauma.”

The Foundation will continue to distribute the resources from the Minnesota Helps Fund in the coming days and weeks and will be updating their blog at minneapolisfoundation.org as this effort continues.

###

About The Minneapolis Foundation: *For more than 100 years, The Minneapolis Foundation has connected people, resources, and ideas to improve lives in Minnesota and beyond. The Foundation manages \$890 million in assets, providing customized and tax-smart giving solutions that result in the average annual distribution of more than \$50 million in grants. The Foundation brings people together to unite behind common goals and spark positive change in our community. www.minneapolisfoundation.org*