

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATE ON FIRE RELIEF FUNDS

Friendly Garden donations total more than \$700,000;
nearly \$500,000 distributed to affected families

(Silver Spring, MD) A collaborative effort involving Montgomery County agencies and multiple nonprofit relief organizations has resulted in nearly \$500,000 in funds being distributed to families affected by the catastrophic March 3 explosion and fire at the Friendly Garden Apartments in Silver Spring.

The **dedicated relief fund, which totals more than \$700,000**, is being managed by local nonprofit MHP. One hundred percent of donations are going to affected families to cover costs and damage resulting from the explosion/fire. Some families lost everything. The funds that have not been distributed yet are expected to help families who have had significant medical expenses that are not covered by health insurance.

Once the extent of those expenses is understood, the County's Financial Donations Recovery Committee will be directing the remaining financial support to residents displaced by the explosion and fire. Assistance will be tiered, based on the relative impacts. Some families' homes were completely destroyed.

MHP anticipates closing the Friendly Garden relief fund by the end of May. Those interested in contributing to the fund should complete their donations by May 31 [here](#).

Similarly, the community stepped up financially to help families affected by the Flower Branch Apartments fire in the Long Branch community in early 2022. Donations to that fund, also managed by MHP, totaled \$107,408.

MHP is honored to be able to assist the impacted families. While Friendly Garden and Flower Branch Apartments are not MHP properties, the organization maintains strong ties with these communities by engaging in neighborhood revitalization work, developing and maintaining MHP affordable properties, and offering preschool and after-school enrichment programs.

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ABOUT MHP

At MHP, we are dedicated to making home possible. Since 1989, MHP has been preserving and expanding access to quality affordable housing. MHP is a private nonprofit that provides more than 2,600 homes in Montgomery County and surrounding communities. We accomplish our mission by housing people, empowering families, and strengthening neighborhoods. Learn more: mhpartners.org