



Local Hoteliers Help Victims of Apartment Fire

A group of local hotel owners, all members of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA), are donating up to 50 room nights to victims of a weekend apartment fire in Irving, TX.

More than 80 people suddenly found themselves homeless over the weekend in the wake of a fire that destroyed much of the Resort at Jefferson Park apartments in Irving, TX. Property insurance covered the cost of moving most residents to temporary housing while the reconstruction of the apartments takes place. However, a few residents remained homeless until a group of local hoteliers offered free housing.

Members of AAHOA offered the remaining victims a place to stay while they await placement into temporary housing - up to 50 free hotel room nights valued at over \$5000.

“Hotel owners know how important a clean and safe environment is for families.”, said Bruce Patel, chairman of AAHOA and Irving resident. “When we first heard about this tragedy almost a dozen local AAHOA members immediately offered free rooms to everyone who was displaced. Fortunately, temporary housing was found for most. Yet for the few without housing we are happy to do all we can to help them.”

Bharat Vashi, the owner of the Hotel Las Colinas, is housing three families displaced by the fire. He’s willing to house even more if the need arises.

“We have been blessed by this community and this is our opportunity to give back in the best way possible,” Vashi said. “It is fortunate that most families have now found a place to live. But we stand ready to help if circumstances change.”

Other Irving hotel owners who offered free housing to the fire victims include, Suresh "Sam" Patel and Kamal "Ken" Patel, a Best Western owner, along with Hasmukhbhai "Hash" Patel and Biran Patel, owners of a Studio 6.

AAHOA is the largest hotel owner’s association in the United States. The more than 15,000 AAHOA members own almost 50% of all U.S. based hotels. Each year AAHOA members donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to their local communities.

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