

Wildfire Survivor Summaries

1.) **Applicant** and her daughter were returning from a trip to Wal-Mart when they noticed the flames coming at the homes from both sides. Their first instinct was to go inside and rescue their dog, which they were able to do before it was too late. They each resided in separate trailers on applicants property. The trailers were destroyed, most of their belongings burned to the ground alongside the structures. Both household members have a fixed income. The daughter is on disability and applicant is over 60, unemployed, and receives social security. Due to the ages of their trailers they were not insured. The Red Cross stepped in and provided the family with about \$500 to spend on immediate needs. Applicant used the money to stay at a hotel while trying to figure out her temporary housing situation. Since then, applicant has been staying with a family member, and her daughter has relocated with her dog to the east coast to stay with a friend. She would like to be able to remain on her property and reside in a trailer once more. Currently she is waiting for her chance at a donated small trailer; her daughter however wants to relocate to Naples into a rental to remain close to her mother. Applicant says she will need to pay to have her electrical and meter box but does not have the funds.

2.) **Applicant** and his wife were devastated to return to a home that had been destroyed. Saddest of all was being powerless to rescue their family of cats, all who died in the fire though fortunately their two dogs remained safe. Already severely affected by COVID-19, applicants bobcat business was not salvageable, and neither was his wife's jewelry business. Their cars burned down as well. With no response from Reemployment yet, they were already enduring financial jeopardy and struggling to get by. Their single-wide trailer is insured, and applicant has said that he has been told that he is roughly to receive about \$16,000, but no official paperwork or funds have been sent yet. The Red Cross provided them with some funds which they used for a hotel stay during the beginning of the disaster. Currently they are renting a furnished apartment in Bonita Springs for two months while working on clearing the debris. He would like to have another trailer put on the property and is already working on fixing the electrical. Need be if he can find affordable rent in Naples that allow his dogs, he would like to relocate and remain there until he is able to afford to put a new trailer on his property.

3.) **Applicant** and her **veteran-husband's** three-story home was lost in the fire. They lost copious amounts of personal property in their sheds and trailers as well. Her parents were also staying in a camper on the property but have since returned to Michigan. In addition, applicant has two daughters, both under 18. They still have a mortgage on the home and so have homeowner's insurance, though still has not received paperwork back. They have a GoFundMe page with about \$12,000 that have been raised for their recovery. Both applicant and her husband are employed full-time and were luckily not financially affected by COVID-19. Applicant said the plan is to rebuild a home on the property. They would like to make their surviving guest house

more livable to move into while working on rebuilding the home. They have been staying at their husband's boss' home while figuring out how to take the next step.

4.) Applicant and her family were left distraught when suddenly forced to become homeless due to the fires. Her mother-in-law owns the land and stays on the property seasonally. The household consists of up to six people at the time due to prolonged visitors. Two children under 18 resided in the home as well. Her three chihuahuas were successfully rescued, with one of them recovering at the vet's office. Her turtles, however, did not survive the fire. Her husband works full-time and lost income due to not being able to come into work while dealing with the disaster. Applicant has underlying health issues that won't allow her to work. The family members were spread out in different homes on the property. There were two trailers, a double and single-wide. When applicant mother-in-law visited she would stay in a mobile home towards the back of the property. So far, she has received funds from the Red Cross to purchase some clothing. She would like to have a trailer on the property again, they do not have homeowner's insurance nor the funds to do so. Currently they are residing in a one-room RV on the property, loaned to them by a friend. If they can remain on the RV while working on a permanent housing solution they will, if not they have expressed interest in renting.

5.) Applicant is a 66-year-old man who resided in an 80's mobile home until it burned down due to the wildfire. He had a roommate who lived in a small addition as well. His roommate has relocated to go live with his sister. He is navigating the disaster process with the help of his son. He is disabled and lives on a fixed income from Social Security. Due to the trailer's old age the home was uninsured. A GoFundMe page was started to help with applicants recovery with a little over \$9,000 of donated funds. His son would like for a rebuild to take place on his father's property as he feels it will be a safer choice. He knows a contractor that can build a two-bedroom, one bath home for \$45k-\$50k. For the time being applicant refuses to leave the property and remains on-site living in an older that his son is trying to repair.

6.) Applicant and his wife were left with out a home after the fire destroyed their two-story house. His neighbor on the property completely lost his trailer to the fire. The couple is glad to say that their three dogs are fine. Although applicant is disabled, his wife has a full-time job and brings additional income to the home. There is still a mortgage and so the house is insured though they have not received paperwork back from their homeowner's insurance. They would like to be able to use the funds to rebuild a house on the property. He has a nephew in Michigan who says he is willing to come down and help with demolition when the time comes. They spent a night in a hotel but found it difficult due to his dogs. He currently resides in an RV that he rented out and would like to continue to have a way to stay on the property while the rebuilding process takes place.

7.) Applicant lived on his own in his trailer on the property of a friend who allowed him to keep his trailer on the premises free of charge. He works as a marine and automotive mechanic full-time. He lost a lot of his tools to the fire as well. His hours were decreased due to COVID-19 and now

that the hours are picking up, he has taken it upon himself to work as much as possible to save up money. He has been couch-surfing at the homes of different friends to achieve his goal of purchasing a used trailer to live in again. He has succeeded in saving up \$2,500 and has a trailer he will potentially be able to purchase for that amount. If all goes well, his bigger concerns will be getting a mattress and frame, and additional furnishings to make a new home.

- 8.) **Applicant** lived on someone else's property and was in the middle of nap when he was awoken and realized that his trailer was catching on fire. Unfortunately, two of his cats were not able to make it out in time and only one cat remains. He is over 60 and a diabetic so he is on disability and lives on a fixed income provided by Social Security. He was residing in a travel trailer and so it was uninsured. His plan was to save up money to move up to Ocala where his son lives and place the travel trailer on the property. He had \$1,000 saved up that was incinerated in the fire. He would like to be able to purchase a travel trailer once more so that he can make his way up to Ocala and live on his son's property. Currently, he is staying with some friends in Bonita Springs.