

Mega space transformed into 'store' for evacuees

May 17, 2016

Nearly 26,000 people displaced by the Fort McMurray wildfires have picked up essential items from the Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society (EERSS) Kingsway Mall location. The 65,000-sq-ft Fort McMurray Donation Pick-up Store was transformed from an empty mall space overnight May 8 into a makeshift store for evacuees that provides necessities such as clothing, toiletries, pillows and blankets.



"We're so grateful for the support Kingsway Mall has provided," says Nicole Geoffroy, spokesperson for the EERSS. "Within 24 hours, they turned an empty space into a vital support centre for Fort McMurray evacuees."

Kingsway Mall, owned and managed by Oxford Properties Group, donated their services and space to the City of Edmonton and the EERSS.

"When we heard evacuees were coming, some with nothing but the clothes on their backs, we wanted to help," says Susan Denney, General Manager of Kingsway Mall. "We have witnessed incredible generosity from our individual staff members going above and beyond, as well as retailers donating tote bags, water, food, refreshments and supplies for the space."

The Fort McMurray Donation Pick-up Store is entirely run by volunteers, with almost 150 people working at any time. Approximately 4,000 volunteers have come together to help their fellow Albertans in this time of immense need. More volunteers are needed and asked to sign up for a number of shifts through the [EERSS website](#).

EERSS says key donations are desperately needed (NEW items only):

- Pillows
- Towels and face towels
- Men's clothing (all sizes)
- Children's clothing (all sizes, all genders)
- Shoes (all sizes, all genders)

The [Donation Drop-off Warehouse](#) is at 3870-98 Street NW.

All food donations are to go directly to the Edmonton Food Bank at 11434-120 St. where items are coordinated with the Alberta Food Bank to distribute to all municipalities hosting evacuees across the province.

For more information:

eerss.org

Media contact:

Nicole Geoffroy
Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society
780 819 3517

Jelena Bojic
Marketing Director, Oxford Properties Group, Kingsway Mall
780 668 0845

The EERSS was first established in 1986 in response to a tragic house fire. They are a small group of people dedicated to serving victims of fire and disaster by helping them with the basic supplies, such as household necessities and furniture. All services are provided at no cost to the people in need.

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3rd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7
www.edmonton.ca

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