

Valley neighbors band together to help Shelton fire victims

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Barely two weeks after a swift-moving fire destroyed a landmark building in downtown Shelton and 25 apartments within it, most of the displaced tenants are in new, furnished housing.

Of the 23 affected households with a total of 30 people burned out in the Jan. 6 fire, seven have moved into new housing and seven more are in the process of reviewing leases, said Richard Knoll, executive director of TEAM Inc.

Four other households are eligible for assistance from the U.S. Veterans Administration or other programs for military veterans, and TEAM Inc. continues to help the remaining families find new housing.

TEAM, the Derby-based community action agency, also coordinated with the state Department of Social Services, which operates a security deposit assistance program, Knoll said.

Members of the Echo Hose Hook and Ladder Co., just up the hill from the 135 year-old former Kreiger building at 434 Howe Avenue, coordinated relief efforts, including a clothing drive.

Clothes for displaced residents were also collected at the St. Vincent dePaul Society on Roosevelt Drive in Derby; excess donations were provided to My Sister's Place, an Ansonia thrift store that assists