



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **CITY OF EL MONTE HELPS DISPLACED FAMILY IN THE WAKE OF DEVASTATING HOUSE FIRE**

***El Monte, Calif.*** – The El Monte/South El Monte Emergency Resources Association has recently come to the aid of an El Monte family of seven who were recently displaced from their home when it caught fire and burned down the morning of Monday, May 3.

A non-profit organization founded more than 50 years ago, the Emergency Resources Association is assisting Gladys Bravo and her family in finding housing, through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, as well as providing them with clothes, blankets and other such essential items. The Association is also currently helping the Bravo family track down leads on housing and, once found, will provide the family with the housing deposit and first month's rent. They also provided Gladys with three work uniforms, which she needs for her job as a medical assistant.

“It is always difficult when a family loses their home and it is our responsibility as a community to help our fellow neighbors through their difficult times,” said Juventino “J” Gomez, El Monte City Councilmember. “The El Monte/South El Monte Emergency Resources Association has done an excellent job thus far assisting the Bravo family in their recovery. With the help of even more El Monte residents, we can further ensure this tragedy yields a happy ending.”

The Bravo home, located on the 4100 block of Peck Road, broke into flames around 7 a.m. the morning of May 3, apparently caused by items stored too close to the house's water heater. Gladys, her husband, son, daughter, parents and sister all made it out of the house safely with the help of their next-door neighbor, 18-year-old Ivan Alvarez, who rushed into the house and helped the family evacuate.

Along with the help provided by the Association, many other local El Monte organizations have chipped in to help the Bravo family get back on their feet. The Red Cross provided housing for the family for three days immediately after the incident. They also provided the family with a voucher from Wal-Mart for more than \$1,000 to purchase basic needs. The family was also given a voucher for food. The El Monte Police Department has also donated hygienic items and toiletries.

The El Monte City School District has provided uniforms for the children, and the children's elementary school, Frank Wright Elementary School, has also given the family a \$500.00 gift card to Target so the family can buy some basics such as toiletries, detergents and clothing. The Frank Wright Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is currently working to raise money to further assist the family. Anyone interested in donating to the Bravo Family can send checks made out to Frank Wright PTA with "Bravo Family" filled in on the memo portion. All money gathered by the PTA will be forwarded to the Bravo family.

For more information on how to assist the Bravo family, or to make any donations including monetary donations, gift cards, clothing or any other such items, please contact the El Monte/South El Monte Emergency Resources Association at (626) 444-7269.

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The City of El Monte, located in Southern California, is committed to improving the quality of life for its citizens and strives to provide its community personalized service, uncompromising commitment, and individualized accountability. For information on the City of El Monte, please call 626-580-2001 or visit [www.ci.el-monte.ca.us/](http://www.ci.el-monte.ca.us/).