

CONWAY DESIGNS

TO: THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MAYOR SHEILA DOYLE RUSSELL

DATE: APRIL 28, 1997

RE: REPORT ON THE UPTON STREET FIRE FUND



MEMORANDUM

TO: *THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL*
FROM: *MAYOR SHEILA DOYLE RUSSELL*
DATE: *APRIL 28, 1997*
SUBJECT: *UPTON STREET FIRE FUNDRAISING UPDATE*

Since the tragic fire of January 31st which totally destroyed eight attached homes on Upton Street, leaving twenty three adults/children homeless, all departments/agencies of the city, under the direction of the City Manager along with the Deputy City Manager and Assistant City Manager of Human Services and Superintendent of Schools, have marshalled their resources to provide assistance to the victims of this terrible fire.

The fire department along with our police department responded immediately and acted courageously in containing this conflagration and in securing the area around Upton Street, thereby preventing further fire damage to neighboring homes and The Graham and Parks School.

On February 1st, the morning after the fire, The American Red Cross was on the scene immediately to take information from affected families and renters and to prioritize and assess individual needs and services. Emergency Services provided immediate channels of communication linkups throughout the city. The Cambridgeport Bank established a fire fund where contributors could send or bring in cash donations. The Salvation Army set up a food, clothing and furniture collection; the business community joined in by donations of money and services led by Putnam Furniture who made available box springs and mattresses for each fire victim. The Star Market quickly sent gift certificates for food for each family; also, many of our schools arranged their own fundraising events. Further, The Superintendent of Schools loaned personnel on a temporary basis to assist in this relief effort.

A summary of fundraising activities is included in this report.

The Multi Service Center is currently providing to both owners and renters a multitude of much needed services in the areas of: temporary housing, furniture, food, clothing and the distribution of various vouchers, received from local businesses, to our fire victims and their families. The Just-A-Start Corporation is presently involved in ongoing meetings and negotiations with families around the most important issues surrounding the demolition and rebuilding of the eight Upton Street units. The reports from these two agencies are attached to this memo.

In addition, I wish to thank the many Cambridge residents community members, city and school employees, non profit organizations, neighborhood groups, businesses, colleges/universities, churches, volunteer organizations and our City Council and School Committee Members both individually and collectively for their caring and concern for those so adversely affected by this devastating fire. I also would like to thank: The Cambridge Chronicle, The Tab, The Boston Globe, CCTV and our own city and school department cable departments for their excellent and comprehensive, as well as accurate, coverage of this fundraising effort.

Finally, I will be planning to have a ceremony in my office by the second or third week in May to present checks to families and renters. I hope that you will be able to join me on that evening.

If you have any comments, suggestions or need additional information regarding the Upton Street Fire Fundraising Drive, please feel free to contact: Claire Murphy at 349-6480.

**FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
UPTON STREET FIRE FUND**

TEDDY ARVANITES, Vice President
Corporate and Community Relations
Cambridgeport Bank
661-4900

REVEREND NELSON FOXX, Pastor
Saint Bartholomews Church
354-8582

MARY ANN JARVIS, Associate Director
Local, State & Community Affairs
Harvard University
495-4955

NORM McIVER, Senior Vice President
Cambridge Trust Company
876-5500

GERRY OLDACH, President
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce
876-4100

PAUL PARRAVANO, Assistant
Community Relations
Office of The President
MIT
253-3873

ARTIS SPEARS, Election Commissioner
City of Cambridge
Assistant Director,
Spears Funeral Home
876-4047

Memorandum

DATE: April 16, 1997
TO: Mayor Sheila Doyle Russell
FROM: Claire Murphy
RE: Update on Relief Efforts- Upton Street

The following fundraising projects and events were planned and completed to assist the Upton Street Families and renters affected by the fire of January 31st.

- * Letters mailed to Chamber of Commerce Members
- * Letters sent to all City of Cambridge Employees including School Department
- * CCTV Telethon
- *Televised all notices on Cable-City and School Department
- *Direct Calling
- *Donated food -Trader Joes
- *Distributed Star Market Food vouchers to each family and renter
- *Special School Projects: Graham& Parks, Cambridgeport, Morse, Harrington, Fletcher, with all schools sending money donations
- *Senior Center Special Projects: Bingo and Musical presentation 4/16/97
- *East Coast Grille Fundraiser
- *Middle East Fundraiser
- *Taste of Culture Fundraiser- Old Baptist Church
- *Coady Florist Valentines Day Fundraiser
- * Carl Barron donated box springs and mattresses for each family and renter-available through the Multi Service Center
- *Tags Hardware \$200.00 vouchers for each family and renter arranged to have vouchers distributed through the Multi Service Center

* Jordans Furniture- currently in negotiations for either furniture or vouchers
4/15/97

*Dana Park Party Saturday, April 26th

To Date: Money Raised = **\$99,388.00**

sharing resources...building community

UPTON STREET FIRE UPDATE APRIL, 1997

All of the fire victims have been housed with the exception of one family. To the families who we worked with the following services were provided:

- All the furniture referrals were made to the Cambridge Furniture Bank via Dennis Healy who not only approved the requests but also moved the furniture to the new homes at no cost.

Bed linens, curtains, kitchen appliances & utensils, dishes, pots & pans, and other needs to furnish an apartment were also attained. We accompanied the clients to the furniture bank to assist them in picking out whatever they needed.

_ Arrangements were made with Gary at Putnam Furniture for pick-up of brand new mattresses donated by Mr. Carl Barron.

- Our office was also responsible in picking up and distributing of the gift certificates donated by Tag's Hardware in Porter Square.

_ In addition, we made contact with several local realtors such as Sandi Russell at the Cambridge Realty Group and Beverly Dorsey at L.E. Smith Mngt. Both these women were extremely receptive to having our clients apply for apartments and actually held a couple of apartments vacant until they heard from us. We drove some of the clients to the realty agencies to fill out applications and look at apartments.

_ We are also the contact office for Jordan Furniture to coordinate their anticipated donations.

- We have also assisted in the paying of first month's rent through the Cambridge Fund.

- We are still in the midst of assisting clients with furniture, and moving.

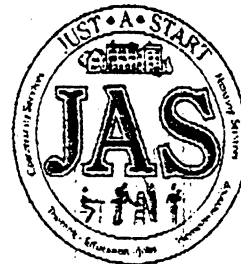
Len Thomas and Zelia Pacheco-Kelleher
Multi Service Center

City of Cambridge 51 Inman Street Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-1102
Voice: 617-349-6200 TTY/TDD: 617-492-0235 Fax: 617-349-6248



JUST A START CORPORATION

P.O. Box 410310 • 432 Columbia Street #12 • Cambridge, MA 02141-0003
Telephone: 617-494-0444 • Fax: 617-494-8348



April 17, 1997

STATUS OF JUST A START WORK-UP WITH PROPERTY OWNERS ON THE UPTON STREET ROW HOUSING FIRE

There are eight (8) property owners with attached single family row housing. Fire and water damage and subsequent rain and blizzard damage have created a situation where 7 of the 8 homes are going to be gut rehab, with rebuilding entirely from the second floor level up on many of them.

Just A Start and the Community Development Department (CDD) met with owners initially, and in a subsequent site inspection CDD provided an engineer for an initial structural report.

Since then, Just A Start has been working with all property owners, and has had ten (10) individual and group meetings and ongoing telephone contact. We have: 1) prepared specifications and related documents to commence clean out and demolition; 2) pulled together lists of architects and structural engineers to work on structural systems; 3) coordinated with a local volunteer architect on a firewall and roof reconstruction plan; and 4) had construction job showings with 12 contractors for competitive bidding on demolition and debris removal.

Bid opening for demolition and debris removal will be this Friday. We will meet with the homeowners on Saturday to review the bids.

The second phase plans and specifications are being developed. These will cover framing, reconstruction of exterior walls, party walls, roof systems and bearing partitions.

Phase 3 will be to bid out this work and reconstruct the above-noted to complete outside walls and roofs. Phase 4 will be the individual interior rehab work, which can proceed with or without Just A Start assistance.

Homeowners are in the process of work-out with their insurers. The Fire Marshall's report is in. Lab tests are still in process to determine if the fire was caused by a halogen lamp or home alarm system.

Respectfully submitted by: Gordon Gottsche, Just-A-Start Corp.

TO: Mayor Sheila Doyle Russell

FROM: Claire Murphy

DATE: April, 1997

SUBJECT: UPTON STREET FAMILIES (Confidential)

**Felix Jakimczyk
Bonita Cox
95 Cliffmont Street
Roslindale, MA 02131
521-2082 w
738-3111 h**

**Lloyd Haynes
Jean Haynes
2 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
354-3638**

**Stansbury Themea
Ora Themea
20 Chestnut Street #206
Cambridge, MA 02139
621-0689**

**Ruth Hamilton
16B Clinton Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
876-5189**

**Estate of Alfred S. Mohan
Cambridge, MA 02139
C/O Bernard Goldberg, Attorney**

***Jessie L. Harris
19 Jay Street (rear)
Cambridge, MA 02139
492-3864**

**Nancy Henry
38 Jackson Place
Cambridge, MA 02140
491-2388**

**Anne Marie Plasse
Gerard F. Plasse
146 West Main Street
Marlboro, MA 01752
1(508) 485-1775 h
1(617) 259-9527 w**

UNIT 9- RENTERS:

**Burman Barnett
237 Franklin Street Apt.6D
Cambridge, MA 02139
441-0531**

***Michelle Anderson
19 Jay Street (rear)
Cambridge, MA 02139
492-3864**

***Corinne Terrell Brown
19 Jay Street (rear)
Cambridge, MA 02139
492-3864**

**Mark Themea
c/o 18-3 Arizona Terrace
Arlington, MA 02174
646-7510**

***Robert J. Jones
38 Jackson Place
Cambridge, MA 02140
491-2388 (son of Nancy Henry)**

**Janet Williams
45 Linnaean Street
#3F
Cambridge, MA 02138
491-4112**

*** reside at same address**

Upton Street Fire Benefit



CONWAY DESIGNS

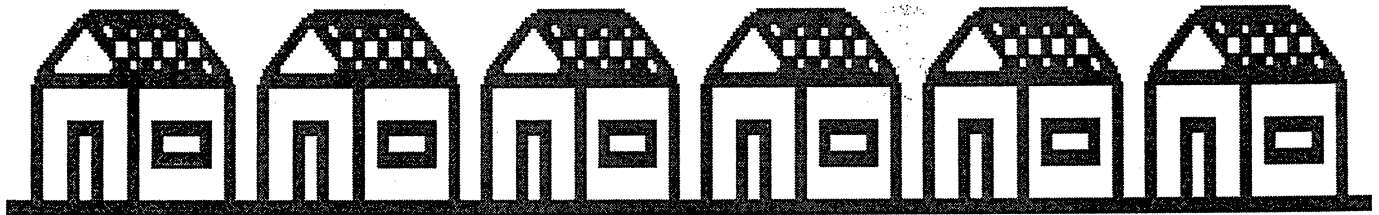
The Graham & Parks and Cambridgeport Schools are co-sponsoring a

Family Dance Party

Live Rock n Roll music



by the Vaguely Familiar band



Sat. February 8th 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Graham & Parks School Auditorium
15 Upton Street

Admission: Adult: \$5.00 Child: \$3.00

child admission includes childcare, video and snacks.



Children's tickets must be purchased by Wednesday, **February 5th.**

We need to plan for adequate supervision.

Space is limited, so please sign up early. No children without a parent, please.

If you would like to help in any way, please call **Ann Bolger** at **349-6613**

All proceeds will go to the families whose homes were destroyed by the January 30th Upton Street fire.

Communications and Reports from City
Officers #2

5-243

A communication was received from
D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting
a letter from Mayor Sheila Doyle Russell,
regarding a report on the Upton Street Fire
Fund.

In City Council April 28, 1997

PLACED ON FILE