

Community Responds with Support for Fire Victims

(Seneca Daily News, January 13, 2018 - online newspaper)

As a Red Cross volunteer, Doris Wolf has first-hand experience working with fire victims. Doris Wolf knows what it's like to work with people who have been devastated by fires. As a Red Cross Volunteer, she has often preached the gospel of creating an emergency kit with copies of passports, drivers licenses, and other vital information.

She had created such a kit for herself. That kit was kept in a place that would have been easy to access had she been home at the time fire broke out in the home she shared with her husband Walter, two dogs, some cats, a rabbit and a brood of 42 chickens who wandered the grounds behind the historic cobblestone home on Birdsey Road.

But they were not home when the fire started. Her emergency kit and the cell phone she had left close by went up in the flames that destroyed the home.

"Next time, I will make sure I tell people to make extra copies and keep one in the glove compartment of their car or some other place outside the home," Wolf says. "And I won't ever leave home without my cell phone."

One of the dogs had insisted on going with them when Doris and Walter left at about 2:30pm. The fire was reported to 911 at 2:42pm. Doris suspects the fire, the cause of which is thought to have been electrical in nature, was already smoldering in the walls before they left, which may be why the dog was so insistent on leaving with them.

One of the cats also survived the fire and was found by firefighters crying under a tree and was resuscitated. The other two cats, dog and rabbit are presumed to have perished in the fire.

Doris and Walter Wolf at one of several award dinners celebrating Doris's community service, The outpouring of support is not surprising. Doris has spent the better part of her life in community service, including founding Trevor's Gift and working with organizations like Red Cross, Seneca Community Players, Celebrate Commemorate, Waterloo Rotary, United Way of Seneca County and many others. Walter Wolf was a professor at Eisenhower College and RIT and has been an actor and director in many Seneca Community Players theatrical productions.

Seneca Daily has received several calls and e-mails from people wanting to help. When we spoke with Doris (who writes for Seneca Daily) and asked about what she might need she had two responses: first was, "I don't really know what we need yet. Call me in three weeks and take me out to lunch, I'm sure I'll need it then." Her second was, "We need egg cartons. The chickens are laying a dozen eggs a day and the fire won't stop that."

The home was insured and the couple hopes to rebuild on the original location, but that is something that will be tackled "down the road."