

# 2017 Wildfire Relief Fund Statement

## Protection of the Holy Virgin Parish/Saint Seraphim Cathedral

### Donations Received:

Via Square (mostly individuals)	\$	12,100.00
Checks Received from individuals	\$	17,360.00
Checks Received from groups	\$	13,238.00

**Total Donations as of 12/31/2017:** \$ 42,698.00

### Expenditures:

Square Fees	\$	350.40
Donations to individuals	\$	12,650.00
Donations to partner groups	\$	6,500.00

**Total Expenditures as of 12/31/2017:** \$ 19,500.40

**Balance as of 12/31/2017:** \$ 23,197.60

The October wildfires have affected the entire county. We all know those who have lost everything, who have had damage, who had close calls, who lost their schools, businesses, places of work. The fire began the night of October 8th as the parish had been celebrating the marriage of Joe and Emma Anderson. We all remember the anxiety of the first days, checking on who was safe and who had suffered the loss of everything. In the first days of the fire, as contingency plans were made to evacuate the church property our Parish Council decided to establish a Wildfire Relief Fund to provide a way for our parish to help our members and friends who had suffered some sort of loss and were in need of support. By Friday, October 13th there was a place on our parish web site for people to make donations for Wildfire Relief.

Over that first weekend we received over \$2000 in donations from our web posting and additional \$2700 in checks on Sunday. On Monday, October 16th we wrote checks for \$1000 each to two families who had been burned out. By the following weekend we had begun to receive checks in the mail from Orthodox parishes both in the California and from out of state.

During 2017 our Wildfire relief Fund helped 12 individual/families who burned out or who suffered loss of wages or damages to their property due to the October wildfires. We will continue to help these and others as they come to the attention of Father Lawrence and the Parish Council.

As Father Lawrence became aware of other groups working to aid the fire victims, it was decided that we would redirect some of our relief funds to those organizations. To date we have made donations to 5 partner groups. These groups include an ad hoc group established to help 8 Eritrean families who were burned out; Catholic Charities; Homemakers of America; Habitat for Humanity; and The Living Room.