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### KENNEDY MANOR RESIDENTS SAFE AFTER BUILDING FIRE

DUBUQUE, Iowa – All residents of the Kennedy Manor building who were evacuated due to the June 26th structure fire are safe. According to the Fire Marshall a cause is yet undetermined, but probability indicates a weather-related lightning strike in the early morning hours of June 26. Eleven families have been temporarily displaced from their homes by the fire, but Catholic Charities is working with the Red Cross and the City of Dubuque to ensure no one is without shelter over the next few days. Families will not be permitted to return to their apartments for at least 24 hours, but a majority will likely return by the weekend. Two apartments have been damaged by the fire.

A call was made to the Catholic Charities apartment's management office at 8:15 am reporting a power outage. Property manager, Steve Jacobs, responded to the concern and smelled an electrical burning smell. While waiting for the electrician, Jacobs and the resident saw smoke coming from the roof. A possible structure fire was called in at about 8:30 am, and the fire department was on-site in 1:42 minutes.

Residents were promptly evacuated and the fire, which originated in the attic, was contained quickly by the fire department. Several residents reported a loud boom, believed to be lightning, around 4 am. Other buildings in the complex also experienced electrical issues, which could have been caused by an electrical surge from the strike.

“The first responders, Fire, Police and City Housing did an awesome job getting there, making sure residents were safe, and getting the fire quickly extinguished,” reports Matthew Roddy, Catholic Charities Housing Director. “We are so appreciative also to the Red Cross for their quick response, water, lunch and help in the temporary relocation plan.”

“The most important thing is that everyone is safe.” Said Tracy Morrison, Catholic Charities Executive Director. “The needs of the 11 families will be fully evaluated and we will make sure everyone has a place to stay, while the building is restored.”

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque was founded in 1931 as a non-profit, social service organization. The organization serves 30 counties in Northeast Iowa and is part of a national social services network through Catholic Charities USA, working to reduce poverty, strengthen families, and empower communities, responding to persons in need of all faiths. For more information or ways to get involved visit [www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org) or call 800.772.2758.