

# Fire!

On February 2, 2023, Hiway 80 Rescue Mission's Gateway to Hope in Tyler, Texas caught fire. This fire devastated this facility's resources and caused the Mission to lose approximately one million dollars of supplies and structures. Thankfully, the Lord provided for the Mission by inspiring many people to make donations to help the Mission regain supplies to help the homeless recover.

I was packing up to go home with my dad when he received a frantic call from the manager of Gateway to Hope in Tyler, Texas. When he hung up, my dad told me we had to drive an hour away to go to Gateway because the building in the back had caught fire. After we arrived, we had to go inside the building that was not burned first because we needed N95 masks to enter the burnt building. We then realized that the masks were now a puddle of plastic in the building that was burned. My dad was still able to go in but I was not allowed in because he was not sure if it was safe enough. After my dad inspected the building, we had to go to Lowe's to buy plywood and caution tape so that we could block off the hole in the wall that the firemen had to make to extinguish the fire. We did this to keep curious people from going into the building and potentially getting injured. When we finished blocking off the hole, we had to go home because it was after eleven p.m. The next day, my dad went back to Tyler to further inspect the building and made the hole in the wall more secure.