



AVCA Members and Neighbors,

The Loma Fire in October destroyed more than 12 homes in the Loma Chiquita neighborhood of Santa Clara County. Jim Johnson, long-time Almaden resident and Board Secretary of AVCA, is leading an effort to help the Loma Chiquita residents recover from this devastating tragedy, as he did in the 2008 Summit Hill Fire.

Several of the residents who lost their homes are widows and single women, and some didn't have enough insurance to cover this level of destruction. They are grateful for the help our community is providing as government and non-profit help is slow, at best. You can see photos of some of the recent clean up work on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1760939710832316/>

Will you please consider donating to help our neighbors? The first phase goal is to raise \$10,000 to cover the costs of dumpsters to clean up the remains of homes and buildings, chain saw repairs & sharpening, fuel for chain saws, trees to be replanted, sandbags to prevent erosion, and much more. \$100,000 will provide temporary housing or travel trailers to live in until the fire victims are able to rebuild or figure out what their next steps are.

After the 2008 Summit Hill Fire, Jim organized many clean up weekends. Volunteers from all over San Jose and surrounding areas joined him in planting trees, providing meals, clothing, and supplies, and generally helping the victims recover as much as possible throughout the better part of two years after the fire. When the Loma fire was contained, Jim immediately went to work organizing people to help out.

If you would like to contribute or help in any way, please contact Jim Johnson at (408) 723-8452. Checks can be sent to Fishnet at PO Box 41034, San Jose, CA 95160. Fishnet is a 501c3 non-profit and donations are tax deductible. You can read more about Jim, Fishnet, and the Summit Hill Fire at <http://fishnetcareandshare.org/about-us/>

Jim will provide updates on their progress at our regular monthly meetings, and you can follow their progress on Facebook.

Respectfully,

AVCA Board of Directors