

July 17, 2017

To the Recipients of Donations,

It with a full heart I write this letter to you, our neighbors and brothers and sisters in Christ, and possibly in agriculture, in Kansas. It is the hope of many that you are blessed by the items contained in the semi with "Jamestown, North Dakota" painted on the side. Donations, in many forms, have been sent from across our community, county, North Dakota, and even as far as Delaware, to meet the needs you have at this time, as you rebuild your lives and your ranches. Your families have been on our hearts and in our prayers since March. I can't imagine the hardship you have been through and it must take an incredible amount of determination to carry on, pick up the pieces, and move forward. I commend your faith and strength. We hope we can bolster both.

There is another person who has been trying to do something brave like you. Her name is Charlotte Wilson. She is ten years old and God has given me the privilege of being her mother. She is a member of Country Kids 4-H Club and owns goats, pigs, chickens, and leases dairy calves. She is going into the fifth grade this fall. For the past four years she has been quite ill. She developed an antibiotic-resistant kidney infection in first grade and until March of this year she has been on daily antibiotic treatment, seen more doctors than I can count, and has traveled across North Dakota and Minnesota to address her health issues. In late 2014 we lost my Dad in a car accident and in early 2016 we lost my father in law to cancer. It has been a rough road for our little girl. She missed forty days of first grade, I homeschooled her for second and third grade to allow for flexibility as she battled chronic infection, and she began attending a local Christian School for fourth, but missed another forty days due to infection and illness. In February, Charlotte was referred to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, eight hours from our farm, because so many antibiotics had stopped working and we were running out of tools in the toolbox. We needed a different approach and through the collaboration of two medical teams, Charlotte had a double surgery in March, having her tonsils and adenoids taken out and having both kidneys operated on.

Since the surgery I am overjoyed to announce she has been infection-free and no longer needs a regimen of antibiotics. However, the surgery required a significant recovery and Charlotte ended up back in the ER three times in those first few weeks. At that same time in March, the wildfires hit your area. While Charlotte was home recovering we watched the footage and our hearts broke for you all. Charlotte told me, "Mom, we have to do something." She had the idea to donate some of the 4-H projects she was making for the Stutsman County Fair. Then she asked if she could ask the other kids in her 4-H club if they would be willing to donate. She stood in front of her club and explained what had happened in your area. It happens that one of the county Extension Staff has her girls in our 4-H club, so she suggested we take the idea to the other clubs in the county. Then Charlotte was given a booth space at the County Fair to collect donations as well. She made fliers and put them all around town and took them to many businesses, and then made posters and put up her booth at the fair. In the meantime, our 4-H agent suggested she go on the radio with the idea, which led to calls for another interview, and another, and another. She's done TV, she's done live radio, print media interviews, you name it. All to get the word out to collect more donations. She met with business owners across town. This reserved young lady has been bold for you, and for God. At first, she didn't want to. She didn't want the attention. She had just come from a very difficult season and just wanted to be a "normal kid" again, but God had planted a seed in her heart and it was growing. We had no idea He had already laid

out a plan and we were just following it step by step. By the time the 4-H kids got involved we realized we needed to figure out how to ship items to you. I attended one of my Stutsman County Farm Bureau board meetings and without my mention of Charlotte's idea, another board member mentioned wanting to help. The board kicked around the idea of helping to pay shipping for the 4-H kids. The UPS store offered a discount on shipping what we thought would be a few boxes. Then the effort grew. I realized we needed to look at trucking options. I called a fellow member of New Hope Free Lutheran, David Glinz, local farmer and owner of Glinz Transfer to ask about trucking rates. He said "I've been looking for a way to help. I've got a truck for you and we'll cover the driver and fuel. And I know another guy, J.P. Wiest, who I'm sure will cover a trailer." I thanked him profusely and hung up the phone. Our family cried together tears of joy that night. The generosity I have witnessed is astounding. The truck is full! Folks have handed Charlotte checks and cash, checks showed up in the mail, people dropped boxes and pallets of supplies at our farm. NUMEROUS individuals and businesses stepped forward to donate or purchase fencing supplies. We used every penny of donations to purchase more fence. It has been incredible, but not without momentary discouragement.

Charlotte was having a tough time one night. She asked me why she had to be so sick all that time and she was sad she missed so much school this spring as she recovered from surgery. I told her I don't know why God leads us to these difficult times, but I do know that he uses them for good (see Romans 8:28). I explained to her that if she hadn't been home recovering, we never would have been sitting around watching YouTube videos. There is always plenty of work to do on the farm. You all know that very well. We might not even have paid much attention to reports about the wildfires, but in that time, God planted that seed in her heart and gave her the strength to follow through with this "Wildfire Relief Donation Drive".

It is with confidence that I write to you that He will use this most difficult of times for good and I pray that you will be blessed abundantly and His plan for goodness and mercy will be revealed to you. This past Sunday, Charlotte and I gave the children's sermon in church and described the journey we have been on with this donation drive. We referenced the parable of the sower in Matthew 13. We explained to the children that when a seed is sown in good soil (being a person who knows and understands God's word), it can yield a hundredfold. The seed that was planted in Charlotte's heart, and the seeds planted in so many others that have contributed have sown at least that. May blessings flow from this semi. May your hope and faith and strength be renewed and may your hearts be good soil. May this story be one you carry in your heart, to remind you that each of us has unique talents and gifts that God is waiting to use to fulfill a plan that is greater than we can ever imagine.

God bless each of you,



Sarah Wilson, and Jeremy, my dear husband, and Charlotte (10), Molly (8), and Samuel (6).

Co-owner, Wilson Farm

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Jamestown, ND 58401

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## Stutsman County 4-H member starts wildfire relief donation drive



By Sharon Johnson | Posted: Wed 5:23 PM, Jul 05, 2017 | Updated: Wed 5:38 PM, Jul 05, 2017

**STUTSMAN COUNTY, N.D.** - This year, wild weather has taken a toll on farmers across the country.

Spring wildfires ravaged parts of the Midwest and the South, where farmers lost their property and livestock.

A Stutsman County 10-year-old came up with a plan to help them out.

Ten-year-old Charlotte Wilson owns dozens of farm animals.

So when she heard about the spring wildfires that ravaged farms in the Midwest and south, she felt a strong connection.

"I thought, aw man. That would be awful if that happened to my goats, and my pigs, and my chickens," said Charlotte Wilson, member of the Stutsman County 4Hers.

Farmers lost thousands of heads of livestock, miles of fence, and other property in the March wildfires.

"I felt bad, and I wanted to do something about it," said Charlotte.

So her idea to donate her 4-H artwork turned into something much bigger.

After Charlotte and her mother brought the idea to her 4-H group and the Stutsman County Farm Bureau, other people wanted to pitch in to help.

Now, they're collecting fencing supplies, paper products, household items and more.

"I don't think anybody can imagine going through that. And so, just rallying for those in the ag community. That's what the ag community does," said Sarah Wilson, Charlotte's mother.

Charlotte has already received more than 80 quilts, and projects from other 4-H members.

A semi-truck will be taking the items down to Kansas on July 17th.

"I hope it gives them, not just a physical boost, as in filling a physical need, but also filling that emotional need of having that encouragement," said Sarah.

"I hope this gives them a brighter future. For sure," said Charlotte.

A semi-truck will be collecting large quantities of fence July 10 through 14 in Stutsman County.

Monetary donations can also be sent to the Stutsman County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 1490, Jamestown, N.D., 58401.

Those donations will be used to purchase additional fencing supplies.

**Afghan All-Girls Robotics Team, Originally Denied Entry, Arrives In US**

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Afghan All-Girls Robotics Team,  
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Ⓜ



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## 10 Year-old Starts Huge Donation Drive for Kansas Wildfire Relief Efforts



June 21, 2017  
By: Warren Abrahamson (NewsDakota.com)

JAMESTOWN, N.D. (NewsDakota.com) – What started as a small gesture for those in Kansas affected by the string of wildfires that hit earlier this year has turned into a huge effort from area businesses and individuals.

According to the Kansas Farm Bureau, March wildfires burned over 700,000 acres in 21 counties, thousands of cattle, homes and ranches were lost to the blazes. When 10 year-old Charlotte Wilson heard about the fires, she wanted to help out.

00:00

Wilson originally approached her local 4-H group, County Kids 4-H Club, to help and it just grew from there.

"It went from the 4-H club to the Stutsman County 4-H to the NDSU Extension Service in Stutsman County and now it's bigger than we ever thought it would be," stated Sarah Wilson, Charlotte's mother.

A semi will be packed with donated items and needed materials for the Kansas farmers to get ahead start on rebuilding their lives. Charlotte pointed out that there are numerous items that will be sent to those in need.

00:00

Charlotte says several projects will be donated by Stutsman County 4-Hers and many others are helping provide assistance too. Stutsman County Farm Bureau will send purchased fencing supplies, Glinz Transfer is providing a semi, fuel and driver to deliver the donations, JP Wiest is providing his 53' van trailer, UPS Store is giving packaging materials for donations and Stutsman County Fair is allowing temporary donation storage.

00:00

Wilson stated that there are several ways anyone can get involved. They can donate newly purchased, homemade items, or 4-H projects in the Russ Melland Building at the Stutsman County Fairgrounds, write encouraging notes to donation recipients at the booth, donate fencing supplies, or send monetary donations.

Donations can be made out to:

Stutsman County Farm Bureau  
P.O. Box 1490  
Jamestown, ND 58401  
Put "Wildfire Relief" in the check memo.

The donations will then be trucked down to Kansas in the month of July, all by donated time, resources and efforts.

For more information or with any questions, contact Sarah Wilson, SCFB Board Member, at 701-269-4438 or email wilsonfarmnd@gmail.com.

Listen to a full interview with Charlotte Wilson below:

00:00

00:00

00:00



Charlotte Wilson shares her donation idea on air. Photo by Sarah Wilson.

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**Sarah Bedgar Wilson**

July 5 ·

[View on Instagram](#)

Today my #daughter did a #tv #interview while holding her favorite #chicken. Proud #mom of a #farmher right here. #noshameinhergame #4growshere For the whole story about the #WildfireReliefDonationDrive go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/512825392393568/?ti=icl>

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Vickie Poland, Kristie Swenson and 70 others



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**Sarah Bedgar Wilson**

July 5 ·

This afternoon we picked up 76 quilts from the women of St. John's Lutheran Church for the #WildfireReliefDonationDrive! — with Jeremy Wilson.

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Candy Wilson, Erin Motschenbacher and 99 others



**Darlene Connors** That is just awesome

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · July 5 at 5:57pm



**Angela Schmidt Whillock** A wonderful mom raising wonderful, christian children! Our future - thank you for making it look good!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · July 5 at 6:47pm



**Danielle Di Maria** Beautiful

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · July 5 at 8:51pm



**Debra Bowman** Wow.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · July 5 at 7:40pm



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## NEWS



One of the efforts for the disaster relief project is for 4-H members in Stutsman County to write notes of encouragement to the Kansas ranchers hit by wildfires in March. Photo taken June 29, 2017, at Jamestown, N.D. (Forum News Service/Agweek/Mikkel Pates)

## Mutual aid: 4-Her organizes Kansas relief project

By Mikkel Pates / Agweek Staff Writer on Jul 3, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

JAMESTOWN, N.D. — Head, hands, health and heart: Charlotte Wilson is throwing all of those into her idea for a relief effort for Kansas ranchers hit by wildfires.

Wilson, 10, of Jamestown, N.D., is a daughter of Sarah and Jeremy Wilson. A member of Country Kids 4-H Club, she decided to take action about the Kansas disaster after viewing a Facebook video on the topic last March. Wildfires there burned over 700,000 acres in 21 counties.

"I thought, I just feel so bad for these people," Charlotte recalls. "I thought, you know what? At the fair I'm going to enter some of my projects for that cause. I'm going to mail them down there. I thought maybe a nice quilt that I made."

Other groups and individuals from the Dakotas and Minnesota have put some muscle into relief efforts, including the state Farm Bureau and North Dakota Stockmen's Association, but Charlotte had a mission of her own. She took the idea to her 4-H club and then to the Stutsman County Farm Bureau, where her mother is a board member.

Charlotte designed posters for the effort and took posters around to businesses in town. She designed and set up a booth at the Stutsman County Fair, which ran June 28 to July 1. Eighty quilts had been donated by the second day of the fair. Charlotte stood at the booth part of the time when she wasn't showing her goats. Other 4-H clubs joined the effort.

"I was really excited that the kids wanted to do something tangible, that they could really see, that things that they made were going to be sent directly to those affected by the wildfires," Sarah Wilson says.

The Farm Bureau is making a push to send fencing supplies. Larger quantities will be picked up around the county from July 10 to July 14. Money donations designated as "Wildfire Relief" will be used for added fencing supplies, and can be sent to the Stutsman County Farm

Bureau, P.O. Box 1490, Jamestown, N.D., 58401.

Those with questions about the fencing can contact her at 701-269-4438, or at [wilsonfarmnd@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonfarmnd@gmail.com) (<mailto:wilsonfarmnd@gmail.com>).

## Fencing help

The Farm Bureau plans to support the effort with shipping. One farmer, David Glinz, who owns Glinz Transfer — told Sarah he'd been looking for a way to help too. "He says, 'I've got your truck (needs) covered,'" Sarah says, saying he would provide the driver, fuel and semi-trailer tractor. J.P. Wiest has donated the use of a 53-foot van trailer.

The rig will take off for Kansas on July 17, and the driver will be a local 4-H dad.

Sarah Wilson, who grew up on a Maryland farm and got her master's in animal science from North Dakota State University, is a blogger and chairman of her local Farm Bureau education and promotion efforts. She says the thing that's affected her the most about the project is contacting people in churches and relief organizations at Ashland, Kan.

"Hearing their response, when I talk about the kids and their project: they're really touched by it," Sarah says. "And kids are writing encouraging cards to go with their donations. It's hard not to get emotional when you see kids really sharing their time and talents and the gifts that they have for people in need. They have that passion for agriculture and they want to help others that are also participating in livestock stewardship. It means a lot."

Sarah says the next step is to pay attention to people in the developing drought, closer to home in North Dakota. "I just think the agricultural community is going to continue to rally — every time — anytime any of our brothers and sisters in agriculture are faced with any kind of disaster like this," she says.

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BY VERIZON HUM

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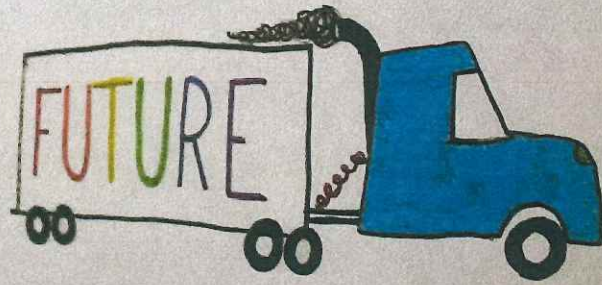




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DRIVE

Statsman County  
Gloria Transfer - Donation of Services  
JP West - Use of a 53' van trailer.  
UPS Store - Packaging supplies for donations

Statsman County Fair - Temporary Donation Storage



# Wildfire Relief Donation Drive

In March, wildfires burned over 700,000 acres in 21 counties, thousands of cattle, homes, and ranches. (Source: Kansas Farm Bureau)

*“Using our hands for larger service and our hearts for greater loyalty so ranchers in Kansas can have a brighter future.” – Charlotte Wilson, age 10*



## Four Ways to Help:

1. Donate newly purchased, homemade items, or 4H projects at the booth in the Russ Melland building at the Stutsman County Fair, June 28-July 1.  
**\*Please, no perishable, breakable items, or items affected by summer heat.**
2. Write encouraging notes to donation recipients at the booth.
3. Donate fencing supplies. Larger quantities will be picked up July 10-14.
4. Monetary donations may be sent to Stutsman County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 1490, Jamestown, ND 58401 (write “Wildfire Relief” on check memo) and will be used to purchase additional fencing supplies.

## Many Thanks to Donation Drive Partners:

**Stutsman County 4Hers-**

Donation of projects

**Stutsman County Farm Bureau-**

Purchase of fencing supplies

**Glinz Transfer-** Semi, fuel & driver to deliver donations to Kansas



**JP Wiest-**

Use of 53' van trailer

**UPS Store-**

Packaging materials for donations

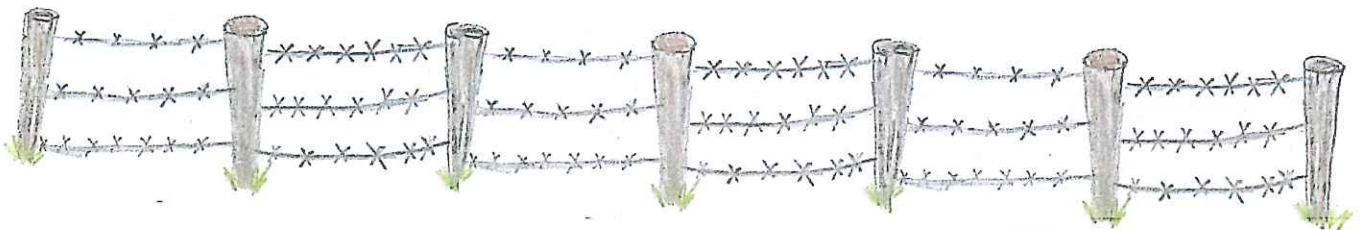
**Stutsman County Fair-**

Temporary donation storage

## Suggested Donations:

- FENCING SUPPLIES (material specs on back).
- Paper products, nonperishable food, household items, as many families continue to rebuild homes.

Questions? Contact Sarah Wilson, SCFB Board Member, 701-269-4438, [wilsonfarmnd@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonfarmnd@gmail.com)



## Wildfire Relief Donation Drive

### Partners

- Stutsman County Farm Bureau
  - o Donation of \$4,250 in fencing supplies
  - o Collection of Donations
- Glinz Transfer, LLC
  - o Donation of use of semi, fuel, and driver
- J.P. Wiest
  - o Donation of use of 53' van trailer
- St. John's Lutheran Women
  - o 76 Handmade quilts
- UPS Store
  - o Donation of Packaging Materials, Printing of posters
- Enzminger Steel
  - o \$200 and discount on wooden posts
- Farmers Union Feed & Pet
  - o Donation of two 16' feed bunks
- Tractor Supply Company
  - o Donation of roll of barbed wire and discount on fencing supplies
- Wade Dally
  - o Donation of 100 wooden posts
- Gladys Ley
  - o Donation of rolls of barbed wire
- Wells Fargo Bank
  - o \$200

- Country Kids 4-H Club
  - o \$100
- Walmart
  - o \$50 gift card
- Stutsman County Fair
  - o Temporary storage of donations
- Numerous other residents from across North Dakota who made monetary donations, and gave 4-H projects, fencing supplies, other non-perishable items, and wrote encouraging cards for donation recipients
- THANK YOU to the media for helping to spread the word:
  - o Agweek, Mikkel Pates reporting
  - o "What's on Your Mind", KFYZ Radio, Daryl Lies, President of North Dakota Farm Bureau, host
  - o News Dakota, Warren Abrahamson reporting
  - o KFYZ TV, Bismarck, Sharon Johnson reporting
- Donations Totaled: 400 metal fence posts, 340 wooden posts, 56 rolls of barbed wire and clips, three 16' feed bunks, pallets of household donations.