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# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR RELEASE

Sunday, May 4, 1958  
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Donations ranging from \$1 to \$5000 have been coming into the Museum of Modern Art since the fire on April 15 along with hundreds of letters, wires and phone calls offering sympathy, assistance and expressing confidence in the Museum's future program. Because of the spontaneous expression of good will and because of the need for funds at this time an Emergency Committee of Friends of the Museum has been formed under the chairmanship of Mrs. Donald B. Straus and Mr. August Heckscher to solicit additional contributions.

Although the Museum building and its contents were insured, the trustees' decision to redesign all gallery floors for the greatest possible safety for the public and for works of art means that additional funds are necessary. The Museum is an educational non-profit organization entirely dependent on admission, memberships and donations from individuals and charitable foundations for its support. At this time only one floor has been re-opened.

Many of the letters accompanying checks are from people who have never been members and are not directly connected with the Museum's program in any way. A New York minister sending \$10 wrote: "It was a real shock to hear of the tragic fire at the Museum. We hope this small contribution will help." Another man, enclosing \$50, said, "It is less than I would have wished to contribute but I do want to associate myself with your committee in this important endeavor."

And another, enclosing a \$1 bill wrote, "I grieve with you. Hardly anything can be said further in the face of this great loss...It's not much--but in my own way--I trust this dollar (and many more from others) will hasten the reconstruction of the Museum of Modern Art."

Sponsors of the Emergency Committee, which will be seeking funds throughout this month, include Larry Aldrich, dress designer and manufacturer, former Senator William Benton, of Connecticut, Mr. and Mrs. John de Menil of Texas, Dr. Grayson Kirk of Columbia University, Marianne Moore, famous poet, Mrs. Edward R. Murrow, Vincent Price, actor, Richard Rodgers, composer, Dore Schary, film producer and Edward Stone, architect.

Checks should be made out to the Museum of Modern Art and sent to the Emergency Committee of Friends of the Museum, 21 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y.

For additional information please contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York. CI 5-8900.