



BUTTE STRONG

FUND



AARON RODGERS
NORCAL
FIRE RECOVERY
FUND at NVCF



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The Butte Strong Fund has approved a \$425,000 grant that will provide a path to keep counselors in Paradise Unified School District schools for the long term.

The Butte Strong Fund is a partnership of fundraising efforts led by North Valley Community Foundation, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

With the latest grants totaling \$579,400, NVCF has now awarded \$51,300,409 for community recovery since the Camp Fire on Nov. 8, 2018.

Previous grants from the Butte Strong Fund provided funding for the Butte County Office of Education to provide counselors to all schools in the county where students were affected by the Camp Fire.

The grant funding for schools in the Camp Fire footprint ends after this school year, but PUSD requested help to make the temporary program more permanent.

The grant will allow PUSD to share the cost of the seven counselors and a coordinator position with the Butte Strong Fund for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. During that time, PUSD hopes to transition the counselors to become permanent employees of the district.

“The Butte Strong Fund has been providing funding for counselors in schools since the Camp Fire,” said Kim DuFour, a program officer for NVCF. “Consulting with educators, we have learned that supporting these counseling positions reduces trauma and enhances academic achievement. Continuity is vital, too. Keeping the same counselors in the same schools is best for students. We are pleased to continue the partnership.”

Other recent Butte Strong Fund grants awarded include:

- \$50,000 to Pine Ridge School for the Rainforest Art Program, which will allow students to help create five permanent public artworks for the school campus. Pine Ridge students have already participated in the Rainforest Art Program, building the school’s logo medallion and contributing to the design of a stained glass project for the library. The school administration gives high praise to this life-changing collaboration for students and staff that is nurturing students’ confidence and bolstering their mental well-being.
- \$49,400 to From the Ground Up Farms, based in Concow, to hire clerical and gardening staff for the nonprofit organization that has been immersed in fire recovery work. From the Ground Up continues to garden and provide food at no charge to the community, operate a tool lending library and run a portable sawmill. The organization has responded to four declared disasters in the last three years providing support for North Complex, Dixie Fire, Camp Fire and COVID-19 relief.
- \$45,000 to Regenerating Paradise to help plan Paradise Community Village 2.0. The grant will support Regenerating Paradise in networking with Paradise community organizations and individuals, finalizing its team and launching a capital campaign to secure funding for its larger housing project.
- \$10,000 to First Baptist Church of Paradise for its food pantry, which distributes food and sundry items for people affected by the Camp Fire and other members of the community. The pantry is open on Fridays and serves the needs of approximately 1,500 people per month.

Organizations interested in applying for Butte Strong Fund grants can visit nvcf.org/buttestrongfund to determine if they qualify for funding. Donations to the fund can also be made on the web page.