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The North Valley Community Foundation has awarded \$50,000 in grants for wildfire recovery from a memorial fund set up by Donna Murrill.

Murrill, a longtime Durham resident who worked for 35 years in the Butte County Health Department, died in 2022 and left a gift in her estate to establish a fund managed by NVCF for wildfire relief and response. These are the first grants from that fund.

Her fund awarded \$10,000 grants to the Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association, African American Family and Cultural Center, Tiny Pine Foundation and Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County. All four organizations, based in Oroville, helped and continue to assist people who suffered losses in the Thompson Fire near Oroville earlier this month. The grant could also enable the organizations to have resources in place when future wildfires occur.

The other grant, also \$10,000, is for the volunteer organization Butte County Search and Rescue to purchase mapping equipment to help coordinate response in future wildfires.

“Just as we stand ready to respond to any wildfire, so do these organizations,” said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. “Donna was evacuated twice during the Camp Fire and was profoundly affected by that. Donna Murrill left an incredible gift to our area. We honor that gift with grants from her fund to help for not only the last fire, but the next fire.”

This comes on the heels of \$100,000 in grants to 10 organizations during the Thompson Fire on July 3. Those grants were from two funds at NVCF – the Wildfire Relief and Recovery Fund and the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund.