

AARON RODGERS
NORCAL
FIRE RECOVERY
FUND at NVCF



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A new campus wellness center for Paradise High School students opens Monday.

The wellness center, named the Ridge Retreat by Paradise students, was funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund at North Valley Community Foundation. The Aaron Rodgers fund is one of three founding partners in the Butte Strong Fund.

The concept for campus wellness centers came from Thrive, NVCF's healing initiative created in the wake of multiple crises affecting young people and families in the North Valley. The Ridge Retreat is Thrive's pilot project for future campus wellness centers.

NVCF partnered with Paradise Unified School District, Paradise High School and Butte County Behavioral Health Prevention Services on the project.

The Ridge Retreat was designed by young people. The lounge-style atmosphere will offer levels of support that will include peer listening groups, more intensive group sessions and individual meetings with counselors.

The center also will provide a space for students to engage in individual and group activities such as music, art and peer gatherings.

"The center will provide a healing space for young people in a community ravaged by extensive trauma and loss, wrapping them in support as their families, school and community continue on the path toward healing," said Erin Morrissey, Thrive program manager. "It is our hope that this will become an innovative learning project that is both comprehensive and responsive to the needs of our community and can be realistically replicated on other campuses."

Students, teachers and staff will be introduced to the Ridge Retreat during lunch hour Monday. The community is invited to see the facility after school Monday from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Masks are required.