



BUTTE STRONG FUND



AARON RODGERS
NORCAL
FIRE RECOVERY
FUND at NVCF



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The Butte Strong Fund has approved more than \$1 million in grants, the largest of which will provide beds and support for Camp Fire survivors in the Renewal Center, a planned multimillion-dollar project in Chico.

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

The Renewal Center is the second phase of the Jesus Center's program expansion planned on Fair Street in Chico. The \$765,000 grant will prioritize two family rooms and one dormitory suite — 16 beds in all — for people affected by the Camp Fire who have been unable to find housing.

"While we realize the homelessness crisis in our community is large and complex, there's no denying a number of people are in that situation because they lost a home in the Camp Fire and have had trouble securing housing since then," said Kim DuFour, NVCF program officer. "The Renewal Center is a vital project for our area and one we have long supported. When the Jesus Center team approached us with a funding opportunity to prioritize rooms for people affected by the Camp Fire, our grant committee was enthusiastic in its support.

"It's another vital piece in a big puzzle. And it goes beyond being just a housing solution. It also connects Camp Fire survivors with a comprehensive program that will help individuals and families find stable housing and support services."

“The Jesus Center has prioritized relief and recovery since the earliest days of the fire,” said Laura Coostona, executive director of the Jesus Center. “Serving on the Camp Fire Collaborative board and committees, employing disaster case managers, and operating a transitional house (Sequoia) have embedded us in the collaborative efforts to find permanent housing and stability for those affected by the fire. The Jesus Center is thrilled to continue our partnership with North Valley Community Foundation and Butte Strong to this end.”

To learn more about the \$13 million Renewal Center project or to donate, go to renewalcenterchico.org.

The Butte Strong Fund grant committee also approved the Rebuild Paradise Foundation’s \$250,000 request to provide assistance to low-income and middle-income individuals and families trying to rebuild in the burned area. Rebuild Paradise’s Missing Middle grant program was launched in February 2020 and has awarded more than \$575,000 to 169 households across the Camp Fire footprint. The average household grant award is \$3,407 for items like surveying, engineering and architectural fees, as well as water system expenses.

The grant will allow Rebuild Paradise Foundation to help an additional 125 or more households.

To learn more about how to apply to the Rebuild Paradise Foundation’s Missing Middle grant program and who qualifies, go to www.rebuildparadise.org/grants.

Other Butte Strong Fund grants awarded in the past month include:

- \$50,000 for All Hands and Hearts, a nonprofit organization that enlists partners and volunteers to complete the interior construction of affordable new homes.
- \$50,000 for Paradise Ridge Elementary School to partner with the Rainforest Art Project to design and create a mosaic art structure of their new school logo and mascot, an eagle. The mosaic eagle will be created by students, parents and staff.
- \$5,000 for a commercial freezer for the First Baptist Church of Paradise Food Pantry. The pantry has been open since just after the fire and serves about 1,700 people each month.
- \$15,000 for the Butte County Local Food Network to complete an application for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Regional Food System Partnership Grant.

With the latest \$1,135,000 in grants, NVCF has now awarded more than \$43 million for community recovery via Camp Fire funds since the devastating fire on Nov. 8, 2018.

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.