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The Torres Community Shelter's emergency fundraising effort received a significant boost today in the form of \$70,000 from North Valley Community Foundation.

True North Housing Alliance, which operates the Torres Shelter, announced last week an emergency fundraising effort to raise \$400,000 in 100 days to keep the shelter in operation.

NVCF responded with a \$50,000 grant from its COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund and \$20,000 from an anonymous local resident with a donor-advised fund at NVCF.

"We are incredibly grateful at True North for this amazing grant and anonymous donation from NVCF," said Executive Director Taylor Storey. "I am continually impressed by the Chico community's desire and willingness to come together to make a difference, especially at this time when it is so easy to remain divided. This donation will go a long way and positively impact the lives of hundreds of individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as our staff, and the positive ripple effect for our community is powerful.

"We're now 20 percent of our way to meeting our goal and it's only been one week into our 4 by 100 fundraiser. We are so thankful for our amazing community," she said.

The Torres Shelter is seeing an increase in the need for its services as a result of the city of Chico clearing camps in the city. The Torres Shelter is the only 24/7, year-round, low-barrier, permanent emergency shelter program in Chico.

As the need for services increases, the Torres Shelter is facing a budget crunch exacerbated by the lack of fundraising events it was able to do during the COVID-19 lockdowns, including the Empty Bowls and Gratitude Gala events.

The Torres Shelter has 177 beds and expects to reach capacity soon as the city continues to clear camps.

“True North does vital work and they need help to continue providing this important service for our community. This isn’t just True North’s responsibility. It is everyone’s responsibility. We want to show them that we are all in this together,” said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. “Our incredible donors gave to our fund to help at-risk populations. The people that True North serves are the very embodiment of that.”

NVCF has granted more than \$3 million for coronavirus response.

To make a donation to True North’s emergency fundraising effort, visit truenorthbutte.org/donate.