



North Valley

COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Working To Build A Better World

www.nvcf.org



A Year in Review

(JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020)

The North Valley has seen too many crises lately.

First there was the Oroville spillway evacuation, then the devastating Camp Fire. As we surpassed the one-year anniversary of the Camp Fire and our region started to focus more on the future, another calamity hit.

The coronavirus pandemic affected the whole world, of course, but the problem was compounded here, with trauma upon trauma.

As always, though, we witnessed our compassionate community at its best. We opened the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rapid Response Fund to raise money. Within three months, we had mobilized more than \$1 million in grants back into the community.

We helped stock food banks, start food delivery programs and provide food, shelter and other resources to the most vulnerable members of our four-county service area. We organized an effort to provide reusable face shields for all health care workers in

Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Colusa counties. We purchased reusable masks so businesses could give masks to customers to keep people safe and restore confidence to shop locally.

We did all this while simultaneously staying laser-focused on Camp Fire recovery, with millions of dollars issued in grants, especially in the areas of housing, community development, and health and wellness. We managed this by keeping our Camp Fire program officers dedicated to their monumental task, while a separate team at NVCF concentrated on COVID-19 needs.

At the same time we were responding to these calamities affecting our area, we continued the important work that has always been the core of our businesses — developing and working with the hundreds of charitable funds held at NVCF. These funds started with a person's idea to change the world for the better, and in 2020 we saw that the need for change focused on social good is more important than ever.

We feel fortunate to be part of that effort.





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Message from the PRESIDENT & CEO



Photo: Jason Halley, Chico State University photographer

"I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things."

When I first read these words from Mother Teresa, I fell to my knees and wept. In 20 words she'd managed to extract my faith in humanity. In 20 words she'd described the core belief NVCF was rebuilt on more than 15 years ago. It's the belief that human beings are inherently good and that we can take care of one another, and this planet.

I have decades of evidence to prove this, but I suspect if you are reading this, you believe it too. Every day in a million ways human beings do selfless, generous things for people they love and total strangers alike. This was true before the Camp Fire ravaged our region. This was true before a

pandemic took over our globe. This was true before George Floyd's death at the hands of a police officer ripped open wounds that demand and deserve to be healed. It was true before all of that and it's true now.

We are the solution. You. Me. Them. Us. We will heal us. This is humanity's call to action and humanity will answer!

When I am asked how a little foundation with a handful of employees and board members turned into the leading philanthropic organization in the Camp Fire relief and recovery, I point to this truth. When I am asked how we mobilized to address the pressing needs of COVID-19, I point to this truth. When I am asked how

we show up, day in and day out, to address injustice, and the pains and hurts in our world, I point to this truth.

We are the solution. You. Me. Them. Us. This is our call to action.

Every firefighter. Every nurse. Every civil servant. Every grocery store clerk. Every doctor. Every donor. Every mom. Every dad. Every child. Every one of us. We are the solutions to the problems we face.

The call is louder now. The dark is a little darker. The suffering is a little deeper. We need to dig in. We need to find more courage, more faith, more fuel for the journey. But, make no mistake, we will get through this. The dawn will come. So, I humbly ask you, pray to whatever Source guides you, but pray for us, all of us, because we must do this together. If we start on our knees and end arm in arm, we will heal us.

You have my love,

Alexa Benson-Valavanis
President and CEO

Message from the CHIEF HEART OFFICER

Part of the NVCF magic comes from the 19 wholehearted love warriors who compose the team. Thanks to Alexa and the amazing individuals she has attracted, together we work hard, play hard, laugh, cry, support, dream dreams and lift one another up.

This past year our leadership team went through a thoughtful process of choosing words to describe our culture and landed on three core values reflecting who we are:

Be Brave: We are change makers. We value risk-taking and making mistakes knowing all we learn now makes us better next time. Our abundance mindset encourages us to follow our hearts and dream big.

Pursue Excellence: We value professionalism. We strive to deliver quality products and services. We are intentional about providing an experience that inspires all toward their highest aspirations.

Mobilize the Heroes: We do Yoda. We value being the sage on the side empowering the heroes and helping the helpers.

Underlying these is our heart-centered core belief in the goodness of humanity.

We spend much time and effort focused on nurturing our team. That became more difficult during the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, when we lost in-person interaction for nearly four months. One



way we tried to help employees was a \$500 gift for each team member to use for their own health and wellness. We also established an employee care fund for each person to direct a \$500 gift to nonprofits of their choosing. Additionally, we set up a weekly therapist-guided meditation session, extra opportunities to stay connected and initiated a “Dinner’s on Us” program giving staff and their families a free dinner and a night off from meal prep during April and May.

Our remarkable team has responded during an incredibly challenging season with resilience, compassion, authenticity, caring, resourcefulness, commitment and love.

Sharon Nichols
Chief Heart Officer

Financials



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

\$70,024,434

Net assets, end of year

\$25,235,707

Grants, scholarships, charitable projects in fiscal year

\$22,588,563

Money raised in fiscal year for social good

2.2%

Investment returns

6.99%

10-year average investment return

534

Charitable funds at NVCF

40

New funds opened in fiscal year

Since 2005

\$142,792,776

Money raised

\$78,247,715

Grants, scholarships, and charitable projects

Disaster Relief

\$35,216,564

Camp Fire grants since Nov. 8, 2018

\$21,245,263

Camp Fire grants issued in fiscal year

\$1,024,646

Coronavirus grants issued

STAFF AND DECISION MAKERS



North Valley Community Foundation Staff

Alexa Benson-Valavanis, president and CEO

Chris Hayashida-Knight, vice president, administration and finance

Sharon Nichols, chief heart officer

Bill Hubbard, director of gift planning and general counsel

Karsen Bradley, controller

Carolyn Engstrom, client care manager

Debbie Blue, executive assistant

Katie Hubbard, operations assistant

Tria Nicoara, administrative assistant

David Little, executive vice president, programs and communications

Logan Todd, director of grants

Megan Smith, program coordinator

Carly Gordon, director of philanthropic initiatives

Patrice Berry, communications assistant

Jovanni Tricerri, vice president, regional recovery and partnerships

Chris Copeland, program officer

Kim DuFour, program officer

Monica Wigman, executive assistant

Helen Worley, program assistant



STAFF AND DECISION MAKERS



NVCF Board of Directors

Farshad Azad, chair, owner of Azad's Martial Arts Center

Earl Jessee, vice chair, senior consultant at Matson & Isom Technology Consulting

Deborah Rossi, treasurer, VP of investments, Stifel Nicolaus

Elizabeth Goldblatt, secretary, founder and co-owner of Six Degrees Coffee

Sherry Holbrook, founder and president of Orphan Care International

Manoah Mohanraj, director of physical rehabilitation, Meridian Management Services

Janet Wietbrock, Caring Communities, The Hignell Companies

Diane Ruby, CFO of Sheraton Real Estate Management

Alexa Benson-Valavanis, president and CEO, North Valley Community Foundation

Butte Strong Fund Grant Selection Committee

Chuck Rough, former Paradise town manager

Anna Bauer, First 5 Commission director

Scott Lotter, former Paradise mayor

Carol Peterson, former publisher of the Paradise Post

Don McNelis, former Butte County Office of Education superintendent

Geoffrey Chinnock, financial manager, Morrison

Greg Webb, developer and philanthropist

Peggy Moak, former Butte County treasurer-tax collector

Farshad Azad, board chair, North Valley Community Foundation.

Our Funds



OVERVIEW

BY **CAROLYN ENGSTROM**, CLIENT CARE MANAGER

At North Valley Community Foundation, we get to see a lot of truly remarkable things happen in our immediate area, throughout the country and across the world. People who have an idea, a spark, a place that they want to help or serve ... they find their way here, conversations are had and often, quicker than you may imagine, that idea has turned into a viable money-raising, conscience-raising, soul-serving, heart-driven reality.

A young man who wants to make sure any kids in his neighborhood have bikes if they want one? He started a fund here. Clean water projects in developing countries? We have a fund for that, as well. Employers wanting to help employees get over an unexpected financial hurdle? Got it. Scholarship funds, charitable project funds, agency marketing funds, donor-advised funds ... yes, yes, yes, yes and more!

Aside from the work that our disaster relief and recovery funds do, NVCF hosts close



to 500 different funds. This fiscal year, the work these funds have done has supported more than \$2 million in outgoing grants.

Social entrepreneurs, strategic philanthropists, individuals, families, service clubs ... all of these people, and more, have found a home under NVCF's umbrella. We are honored to provide support, helping these helpers focus on their whole-hearted work, in whatever way we can.



GLOBAL REACH

Our funds benefit social good in countries around the world.

- United States
- Mexico
- Borneo
- Sumatra
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Ethiopia
- Cambodia
- India
- Pakistan
- Guatemala
- Bulgaria
- Belgium
- Thailand



Case Study:

VETERANS GARDEN PROJECT

If gardening is an example of cyclical growing, the Veterans Garden Project is an example of cyclical healing.

Established in 2011 by Michelle Angela and Michael Cannon, and under the North Valley Community Foundation since 2013, this program embodies the phrase, “It is great to part of something bigger than yourself.”

The Veterans Garden Project of Chico’s goal is, “To provide a multi-faceted program for U.S. veterans, treating symptoms of PTSD



with hands-on experience of greenhouse management, organic gardening, growing and distributing plant starts to the veteran community, and serving as a knowledge resource for veterans and their families in growing their own food.”

Michelle, a mental health nurse at the Chico VA Outpatient Center, was very familiar with common issues local veterans face daily. Mental and physical health are related in many ways, and she knew that for some, the camaraderie and connection many found during their service was now missing from their lives.

She and her friend, Michael, believed veterans could benefit by engaging in gardening as therapy. Plants were started in a donated greenhouse, and a garden plot in a community garden came next.

Veterans were encouraged to come out and join in with the planting, the tending, the harvesting — and they did. This new mission changed lives, reduced chemical dependence, and honed life skills in agriculture and environmental science.

The Veterans Garden Project has touched several thousand local veterans’ lives and now has two garden plots, two greenhouses, and has given away roughly 80,000 pounds of produce. Community donations, and proceeds from the frequent sales of plant starters to the public, are all raked directly back into the soil to provide free produce and free starters to veterans.

Putting our hands in the dirt has the power to heal our hearts and our minds.

Case Study:

WALK WOOF WAG

Walk Woof Wag may have had its beginning as a required service project for Bryce Velasco, but it has since grown legs (and paws!) and now exists as an annual fundraiser celebrating our beloved canine companions.

Part of NVCF since 2014, what was once Bryce's eighth-grade leadership class project is now run by the Canine Connection and Friends of Chico Animal Shelter.

Walk Woof Wag has granted over \$50,000 to the Chico Animal Shelter's medical fund. While the Chico Animal Shelter is a city-operated program and the employees' salaries and animals' food are part of the



budget, all the medical funding for animals, who are sometimes at the neediest times of their lives, comes from donations.

Each fall for the past six years, a day is designated as a festival celebrating ALL THINGS. DOG. Part walk, part carnival, Walk Woof Wag's event is filled with pet photography, face painting, doggie tattoos and the ever-popular costume contest. The artwork featuring the year's poster dog has become highly coveted and collectible.

Sarah Richardson, owner of the Canine Connection, remembers when Bryce first approached her for advice on benefitting the Chico Animal Shelter medical fund.

"Walk Woof Wag is really the story of good partnership, in many ways," she said. "What began as a love of his adopted dog, Jasmine, and an appreciation for community, grew into a mentorship between us."

NVCF is proud to be a participant in this partnership as well.

Case Study:

THE CELEBRATION FOUNDATION



Charlene Mikeska's life motto is: "Life is short. Do it now."

As a breast cancer survivor, she has experienced firsthand the power of hope, the power of resilience and the power of a good celebration. She opened the Celebration Foundation fund at NVCF in 2011 to provide operational support and to continue to produce the event celebrating life beyond breast cancer.

This wildly popular, life-affirming, joyful and fun evening is filled with delicious food, peppy music, lovely auction items and general festivity. It culminates with a fashion show featuring local models who are all at some point in their breast cancer journey. Some may be years past their diagnosis, some may be newly facing theirs and some may be currently in treatment, but all bask in the company of one another, in that certain club that links their fierce strength and courage.

Since its inclusion at NVCF, the Celebration Foundation fund has gifted more than \$180,000 to the Celebration Compassion Fund at Enloe Medical Center as well as other local cancer centers. These funds are used to help cancer patients and their families meet needs not covered by health insurance, including such things as bus passes or gas for transportation to treatments, hotel rooms when overnight stays are necessary and purchase of supplies for wound care.

Stories abound from event participants of the experiences they have of gratitude, of recognition, of freedom, and of the deep satisfaction of being a part of giving back to our community. And, as so often happens when we begin our intention of helping others, we ultimately end up realizing how much we have helped ourselves, in the process. Something worthy of celebrating, for sure!

ALL NVCF FUNDS

- 3CORE
- 5th Foundation
- Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund
- Access Eye Healthcare Fund
- AG Edwards Charitable Fund
- Alice Brewer Fund
- A Makers Fund
- AmeraMex Foundation
- Amma Culture
- Anduril Fund
- Anonymous F Fund
- Anonymous W Donor Advised Fund
- Apollo Piano Foundation
- Arc Endowment Fund
- ARC Senior Endowment
- Arthur and Betty Gee Community Endowment Fund
- Arts For All
- As One
- Association for Northern California Historical Research
- BCOE - Arts Education Fund
- BCOE - Butte County High School Anglers
- BCOE - Employee Disaster Relief Fund
- BCOE - Fresh Start Youth Farm Scholarship
- BCOE - Memorials Fund
- BCOE - Mini-Corp Education Fund
- BCOE - Special Ed Sports & Recreation
- BCOE - Susan Williams Scholarship Fund
- BCOE - Terri Tozier, Where Students Come First Award
- Be Forever Strong Team
- Be Forever Strong Team Award Fund
- Belden Fund Drive For Paradise Survivors
- Bethel AME Church Restoration Project Fund
- Betty Lou Carson Memorial Fund
- Biggs Festival Events
- BJHSF - General Fund
- BJHSF John Schulz and Linda Wilbur Memorial Endowment Fund
- BJHSF - Operations Fund
- Boice Family Fund
- Brain Injury Coalition
- Bridging The Gap
- Bridging the Gap for Breast Cancer
- Butte Strong Fund
- Burkett Family Charitable Fund
- Business Recovery Fund
- Bus Transportation for Camp Fire Survivors
- Butte Community Cancer Endowment Fund
- Butte County 2020 Census Support Fund
- Butte County Historical Society Fund
- Butte County Libraries - Biggs, Chico, Durham, Gridley, Oroville, Paradise
- Butte County Libraries Designated Fund
- Butte County Libraries Designated Fund Fish Memorial
- Butte County Office of Education Foundation
- Butte County Schools Long-Term Recovery Fund
- Butte County Search & Rescue Proprietary
- Butte County Sustainable Communities Scholarship
- Caleb Matthew Jacobs Memorial Fund
- California Trails Education Project
- California Xi Alumni Fund
- Caminar Endowment Fund
- Camp Fire Anniversary Remembrance Events - CARE
- Camp Fire Gridley Distribution Center Fund
- Camp Fire Long Term Recovery Group
- Camp Fire Public Safety Family Relief Fund
- Camp Fire Relief Fund
- Camp Fire Student Technology Support Fund
- Camp Fire WISH
- Camp Fire Zone Project
- Campos Family Fund
- Cancer Care Hospital and Research Center
- Caper Acres Nico Shade Sails
- Caper Acres Renovation Project
- Carol and Homer Lundberg Foundation
- Carrie Holiman Memorial
- Catalyst Endowment Fund
- Catalyst Endowment Fund - Non-Agency
- Celebration Foundation
- CFAF - Adopt a Family Fund
- CFAF - Chico Firefighters Association Foundation
- CFAF - Equipment
- CFAF - Ray Head Memorial Fund
- CHAT - Chico Housing Action Team
- Chelsea Dewit Account
- Chico American Legion Baseball Fund
- Chico Area Swim Association
- Chico Art Center
- Chico Art Center Endowment
- Chico Arts and Culture Foundation
- Chico Beard Collective
- Chico Breakfast Lions Club Memorial Scholarship
- Chico Chi Center
- Chico Childrens Christmas Fund
- Chico Children's Endowment Fund
- Chico Children's Museum
- Chico Chinese Temple Fund
- Chico Community Observatory
- Chico Community Shelter Partnership Endowment Fund
- Chico Country Day School Foundation
- Chico Cruz'n Classics
- Chico Down Syndrome Connection
- Chico Eat Learn Grow

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chico Executive Group • Chico Food For All • Chico Food Project • Chico High School Class of 1969 Scholarship Fun • Chico History Museum • Chico Oroville Associates Fire Relief Fund • Chico PD - Ryan Hyland Memorial Scholarship • Chico Police Blue Santa • Chico Police Department Animal Shelter Equipment • Chico Police Department Animal Shelter Medical • Chico Police Department Business Support Team • Chico Police Department Foundation • Chico Police Department Foundation Animal Shelter • Chico Police Department Foundation - H.E.L.P • Chico Police Department K9 Unit • Chico Police Department Social Media and Relations Team • Chico Posse Foundation • Chico Posse Foundation - Emergency Response Fund • Chico Science Fair Foundation 5% • Chico Science Fair Pass Through • ChicoSol Fund • Chico Stewardship Network • Chico Street Pastors • Chico Sunrise Rotary Recovery & Relief Fund • Chico Symphony Guild • Chico Unified School District Foundation • Chico Velo Cycling Club • Chico Women's Club • Christian Manell Souza Memorial Fund for Mental Illness Assistance • Christopher A. Karl Memorial Scholarship Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chuck & Sharon Patterson Family Fund • Cindy Kennedy Memorial • Circles of Justice • City of Chico - Arts • City of Chico, Bidwell Park Division • City of Chico Employee Giving Program • City of Chico Tree Fund • Clare Louise Bates Endowment Fund • Cleanrite-Buildrite Foundation • Collin Sweeney Memorial Fund • Community Connections Foundation • Community Impact Fund - The Hope Foundation • Computers for Classrooms Endowment Fund • Connecting Point Foundation • Continue Marcy's Support of Global Dental Relief • Cootsona Family Foundation • Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rapid Response Fund for Local Nonprofits and Agencies • COVID-19 Idea Fab Labs Face Shields and Face Masks for Butte County Medical Workers • COVID-19 Local Restaurants, Local Needs Fund • CSUC Interdisciplinary Center on Aging • CSUC Interdisciplinary Center on Aging Pass Through • CSUC Interdisciplinary - Non Agency • Cubana Books Foundation • Cycle for Sjogren's • David Tarter 35 Foundation • DCBA Clean and Safe Charitable Fund • Developmental Disabilities Sports Fund • DevPOP • DiDucca Family Fund • Disability Action Center Endowment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund • Disability Action Center Fund • Disability Sports and Recreation Fund • Dorothy Johnson Memorial Trust • Doug and Kaylinn Hignell Charitable Fund • Doug Hignell Memorial Fund • Downtown Chico Service Industry Workers Relief Fund • Early Childhood Mental Health, Learning and Recovery Fund • Edinburgh Fund • Educate Refugees and Vulnerable Children • Edwards Family Foundation • El Rey Theater Alliance • Emil W. Stiefvater Charitable Fund • Erase the Stigma Fund • Esplanade House Children's Trust Endowment • Every 15 Minutes • Expect More Tehama • Families and Community Embraced by Schools • Families Belong Together • Feather River Senior Citizens Center Endowment • First 5 Butte County Camp Fire Fund • Florestan Society Foundation • Foundation for the Study of Metabolic Bone Disorders • Fraine Jo Cox Memorial Scholarship • Friends of Comanche Creek Greenway • Friends of Comanche Creek Greenway - Maintenance Fund • Friends of Evangelical Theological Faculty • Friends of Everybody Healthy Body • Friends of Immigrants in Crisis Global Resource Fund • Friends of Paradise Football • Gene Howard Memorial Scholarship Endowment • George and Alice Smith Fund
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- George Maderos Junior Golf Champions Club
- Girl Scouts of Northern California
- Glenn Community First
- Greater Chico Kiwanis Club Foundation
- Greg and Sue Martin Family Fund
- Gridley Friends of the Library
- Grossman and Gonser - Smallfoot LLC
- Grow Glenn Catalyst
- Habitat for Humanity
- HACE Scholarship Foundation
- Hawaii Audubon Society
- Help Central.org
- Henri L. Flores Memorial Scholarship Fund
- High Desert State Prison D Yard Book Club
- Hignell Charitable Remainder Trust Fund
- Hignell Family Charitable Fund
- Hignell Family Paradise Shopping Center LLC
- Holbrook Charitable Fund
- Hope Academy for Personalized Education
- Hope House Endowment
- Hope House International Advised Fund
- Hope Plaza Fund
- Incaudo Family Foundation
- Inspire Support Team
- Irlen Ambassadors Charitable Trust Fund
- Jean & Everett Crist Family Fund
- Jerry Novotny Journalism Scholarship Fund
- Jesse M. Kohen Memorial Fund
- Jesus Center Endowment Fund
- Jesus Center Endowment Fund - Non Agency
- Jewett Family Endowment
- JJR Restoration dba Servpro of Chico Charitable Fund
- Just Breathe and Run
- Justin's Bike Fund

- Ken and Sally Logan Charitable Fund
- Kenneth Grossman and Kathryn Gonser Charitable Fund
- Kurt Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Kyle LaForce Memorial Scholarship
- KZFR - Agency Endowment
- Lassen Park Foundation
- Leadership Initiative
- League of Women Voters Butte County Endowment Fund
- Lisa Argetsinger Memorial Scholarship
- Little Red Hen Fund
- Loma Vista Foundation
- Long Term Recovery Group - CFF Ops
- Long Term Recovery Group - Dir Asst & Resource Ctr
- Love Chapmantown Community Foundation
- Love from the Heart
- Love Well Live Well
- Lundberg Family Foundation
- Lundberg Family Foundation - Parrish Family Fund
- Lydia Schulerud Endowment Fund
- Lydia Schulerud Pass Through
- Lydia Schulerud Sholarship - Brooke Rogers
- Maddux Scholarship Fund
- Marble Family Fund
- March For Our Lives Chico
- March for Science - Chico
- Margaret Korte Endowment
- Mary Linton-Mitchell Endowment Fund
- Matthew Axelson Foundation
- McGhee Advised Fund
- Mike and Dotty Collett Animal Care Fund
- Molly Sacksteder Memorial
- My Fathers Purse
- Never Counted Out
- Never Enough Athletics
- New Beginnings Scholarship Fund
- Nichols Family Foundation

- Northern California Counties Time Bank
- Northern California Regional Land Trust
- Northern California School Safety Fund
- North State Symphony League
- North State Symphony League - Redding
- North Valley Animal Disaster Group
- North Valley Animal Disaster Group - Agency
- North Valley Chamber Chorale
- North Valley Community Fdtn Temporary Holding Fund
- North Valley Fire Prevention Grant - Fire Pals
- North Valley Food Hub
- North Valley Freedom Foundation
- North Valley Housing Trust
- North Valley Intune Music
- North Valley Music Foundation
- NVCF - Camp Fire Healing Initiative Fund
- NVCF - Camp Fire Healing Initiative Fund - Psychiatric Care
- NVCF Community Endowment
- NVCF Community Engagement Fund
- NVCF - Harold Williams Scholarship Fund
- NVCF Operating Fund
- NVCF Operating Reserve
- NVCF Staff-Directed Philanthropy Fund
- Open Doors Literacy Project
- Operating - Admin
- Operating - Allocate
- Operating - Camp Fire
- Operating - Development
- Operating - Programs
- Orland Police Department - K-9 Unit
- Orphan Care International
- Outdoor Education for All
- Outreach and Community Resiliency
- Owen-Dunn Insurance Camp Fire Survivors Fund

- Pacific Gas & Electric Community Contributions
- Paradise Art Center Fund
- Paradise Citizens' Alliance
- Paradise Dancers Endowment
- Paradise Exchange Club Grad Night
- Paradise Exchange Club Music Fund
- Paradise High School Science Fund
- Paradise Police Officers Association Charitable Fund
- Paradise Recreation & Park District Fund
- Paradise Ridge Community Land Group Fund
- Paradise Shopping Center Manager Fund
- Passages - Champions for Older Adults
- Passages Endowment Fund
- Peace, Love and Pie
- Peace Panel Project
- Peggy McGettrick-Kirkland Memorial
- Peg Taylor Center
- Power Shutoff Fund
- Prestopino Family Fund
- Project Biggs
- Project Hope
- Purses for Primates
- PVHS - Brett Silva Memorial Fund
- PVHS Class of 99 Camp Fire Relief Fund
- PVHS Foundation Operating
- PVHS Foundation Viking Annual Fund
- PVHS Foundation - Viking Endowment
- PVHS Safe & Sober Grad Night
- PVHS Sports Boosters Foundation
- PVHS Theater Boosters
- PVHS Walkway Project
- Quail Fund
- Reading Pals
- Reading Pals Paradise
- Rebuild Paradise
- Rebuild Paradise - Housing Project
- Rising Star Foundation
- Ron and Alice Reed Family Foundation
- Rotary Club of Chico Sunrise

- Foundation
- Rottschalk Family Charitable Fund
- Safe Space Winter Shelter
- Senior Nutrition Program of Colusa County
- SF Invest Foundation
- Shalom Free Clinic
- Sharing Blessings to Others
- Sierra Association of Extended Care Camp Fire Relief Fund
- Six Degrees Coffee - Camp Fire Relief Fund
- Skyway House Foundation
- Slater & Son Covid-19 Community Support Fund
- Smallfoot Cash Fund
- Smallfoot Manager Fund
- Soul Centered Solutions
- Steve Harrison and Linda Zorn Foundation
- Stewart Family Foundation
- Stoimenovi Orphanage - Global Outreach
- Stop Trafficking Foundation
- Student Success Fund
- Sugar and True Foundation
- Supergoo Fund
- Swanson Charitable Fund
- Tee'd Off @ Cancer
- The Alex Project
- The Celebration of Life 5K Charitable Fund
- The Clexa Project
- The Dailey Family Foundation
- The Fred and Eileen Hignell Charitable Fund
- The Fred and Eileen Hignell Charitable Giving Fund
- The Hignell Companies, Inc.
- The Hignells Company Employee Care Fund
- The Hope Foundation of Sheraton Real Estate & Services Endowment Fund
- The Lyme Center
- The Maranatha House

- The Music Therapy Impact Fund
- The Stream Team
- The Yellow Door
- Thomas C. Bowers Memorial Endowment Fund
- Thomas Sprys Scholarship Fund
- Tony Hobbs Memorial Fund
- Tony J. Paiva Memorial Fund
- Turner Construction Camp Fire Relief Fund
- Valley Contractors Exchange Camp Fire Relief Fund
- Valley Contractors Exchange Endowment
- Valley Contractors Exchange PTF
- Veterans Garden Project
- Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 582
- Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519
- Walk Woof Wag
- Welcome to Paradise Sign Fund
- Wendell V. Loughhead Endowment
- Western Miracles Foundation
- Wildflower Open Classroom
- Wings of Eagles
- Wings of Eagles - Non-Agency
- Women's Improvement Scholarship
- Women's March on Washington in Chico
- Women's Micro-Finance Collaborative Fund
- Wondrous Women
- Work Training Center Endowment - Non-Agency
- WTC - Do It Leisure Endowment ED
- WTC Senior Endowment ED
- Youth Development Fund of Chico
- Youth for Change Endowment Fund
- Youth Nexus Foundation
- Youth Nexus Foundation - Athlete Committed

NVCF's Camp Fire Recovery



OVERVIEW

BY JOVANNI TRICERRI, VP, REGIONAL RECOVERY AND PARTNERSHIPS

In November 2018, Butte County endured the most devastating wildfire in California history. The Camp Fire profoundly changed the region. Many lost loved ones. Homes burned, and shelters were filled. The fire continued for 17 days, and 153,336 acres burned.

In the midst of the chaos and loss were glimpses of light and hope. The world took notice and banded together, rallying for Butte County from afar. People helped.



The North Valley Community Foundation, a small operation at the time, became the philanthropic hub for Camp Fire relief and recovery in a matter of hours.

At first this looked like the staff (all of six people) making phone call after phone call to make sure shelters and food pantries had the resources they needed. This quickly grew into an expanded role of opening funds, convening community leaders and building partnerships to address the challenges that we could not imagine were lying ahead.

It became clear that this would be a long journey. The Butte Strong Fund developed in partnership with Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and Aaron Rodgers, adding dozens of generous sponsors to support the long-term recovery effort.

In all, more than 600 grants totaling more than \$35 million have been awarded to nearly 500 organizations and agencies on the front line of recovery. We exist to fuel



the work of these warriors of compassion to ensure individuals and families get the help they need.

It has been one year and nine months since the Camp Fire. We continue on the long road of recovery together, step by step. The North Valley Community Foundation team is honored to participate in this work with the community we love.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

<i>Total Granted 2018–2020</i>	
<i>Housing</i>	\$6,727,939
<i>Health & Wellness</i>	\$5,988,563
<i>Direct Assistance</i>	\$14,298,504
<i>Community Development</i>	\$2,913,559
<i>Education</i>	\$4,037,999
<i>Economic Recovery</i>	\$1,250,000

\$35,216,564

Case Study:

CONCOW

Anyone visiting Concow can see that it is not simply unincorporated county territory; Concow is a true community of fiercely independent people. Many artists, farmers and activists call Concow home.

Fire has repeatedly impacted Concow's residents, but nothing like the Camp Fire in 2018. Concow has yet again proven resilient in the face of devastation, and NVCF wanted to contribute to their recovery in ways that would be meaningful to this unique community.

Among its various partners, NVCF joined with From the Ground Up Farms, Inc. to get involved. From the Ground Up Farms began as a nonprofit dedicated to creating a



path for people to learn how to grow their own food. The people at From the Ground Up Farms are deeply connected to their community. Like NVCF, this nonprofit's role expanded to facilitate the complex web of rebuilding their community.



NVCF supported this connection with four main grants in the last year totaling \$292,872.

A grant of \$47,472 helped with the reconstruction of the Concow Campground, where many of the community events are held. This is the only gathering space in Concow that provides enough space for families, and it is imperative for the community to regain this space. A grant of \$23,000 was approved to assist in rebuilding the Creekside Native Village, which was destroyed in the fire. This very special place for the community is tied to Concow's roots as the home of the Konkow Maidu Native American tribe. A \$122,400 grant supported the creation of a portable sawmill and tool lending library to enable residents access to the basic equipment needed to begin the process of rebuilding.

NVCF also supported essential needs in Concow by granting \$100,000 since the fire to Campaign Propane, which provides propane to community members.

<i>Rebuild Concow</i>	\$122,400
<i>Spring Valley School Playground</i>	\$100,000
<i>Concow School Digital Lifeline Initiative</i>	\$7,540
<i>Concow Pump House Shed Project</i>	\$24,250
<i>Campaign Propane</i>	\$100,000
<i>Concow Campground</i>	\$47,472
<i>Creekside Native Village</i>	\$23,000
<i>White Pony Express</i>	\$5,000
<i>Yankee Hill Historical Society</i>	\$5,761
<i>Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council</i>	\$99,990
<i>Golden Feather Pool Renovation</i>	\$100,000

Case Study:

OROVILLE HOPE CENTER

The Oroville Hope Center is the main hub of commodity donations for disaster relief in Butte County. They maintain a warehouse filled with donated items to be distributed to those in need.

Since the Camp Fire, the Oroville Hope Center has grown exponentially to meet the needs of the community. They provide food, furnishings, clothing, appliances and much more to those who need assistance.

The Hope Center has continued to meet these needs for the last year and a half.

Something that makes the Oroville Hope Center special is their reach. They provide services throughout the burn scar. They established the Paradise Hope Center in order to have a central presence in the epicenter of the affected area. The Oroville Hope Center goes where there is greatest need. They are a prime example of an organization that shows up for their community whenever necessary.

Through the Oroville Hope Center's distribution center, delivery services, food pantry and other services, grant funding provides support in all areas of the burn scar. Partnering with the Hope Center and their disaster relief services allows NVCF to leverage funding in a way that supports fire survivors across the region.

In addition to the \$511,985 granted to the Oroville Hope Center to aid their operations as they continue to provide invaluable assistance to fire-affected communities, NVCF leveraged its relationships with other funders to bring in an additional \$220,000 for this critical recovery resource.



Case Study:

STUDENT COUNSELING

While navigating the uncertain and complicated road ahead in the wake of the Camp Fire, the 4,500 children displaced by the devastation became one of our biggest concerns.

How could kids focus on learning long division after their home burned down?

Where could they access resources to ensure their wellbeing after enduring this disaster? How would teachers be able to handle an entire classroom of traumatized children while also dealing with their own recent trauma?

School was canceled for all 31,000 students in Butte County after the fire. When classes resumed, students and teachers alike were trying to regain a sense of normalcy and routine while holding their own trauma and loss. It was clear that they needed support.

The Butte County Department of Education developed a plan that

addressed these needs for the 2019-2020 school year and presented it to the Butte Strong Fund Committee. The proposal included additional counselors, primary intervention program staff, support for parents, professional development for teachers around mental health first aid, and the administrative support necessary to successfully roll out the changes. With enough coordination and funding, BCOE could expand their capacity to provide these services for the students, staff and families, transforming trauma into resilience and growth.

The Butte Strong Fund was developed to address the long-term recovery needs of the region after the Camp Fire. An investment in the children of Butte County is the clearest contribution to that long-term vision. The approval of this \$1,861,260 grant directly affects the future generation. These services provide resources to families, connect kids with counselors and help our teachers adapt to a changed community.



NVCF's COVID-19 Response



OVERVIEW

BY **DAVID LITTLE**, EXECUTIVE VP, PROGRAMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

We knew the coronavirus shelter-in-place order would hit the North Valley hard. The safety net here already needed mending even before the Camp Fire, and that disaster made it worse. Throwing another crisis at our area was going to be a challenge.

Drawing from our experience with other disasters, we opened a fund to help address some of those concerns. We seeded the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rapid Response Fund for Nonprofits and Local Agencies with \$250,000 from our operating fund, then started accepting donations.

As always, good-hearted members of the community stepped up to donate. There was even a six-figure donation from the East Coast.

By the end of June, we had distributed nearly \$400,000 from the Rapid Response Fund. In addition, our Butte Strong Fund augmented response in the Camp Fire area and issued \$180,000 in grants to help Camp Fire survivors. Chico native and NFL star Aaron Rodgers asked us to distribute \$50,000 to help children. Citizens in the community opened four charitable funds and granted out more than \$160,000.

In all, more than \$1 million was distributed for coronavirus relief by June 30, a span of three and a half months. And we're still going.

Most of the grants were in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range to nonprofits working with

at-risk populations, often to provide food or personal protective equipment. But there were larger grants as well, including the largest one (\$250,000) for lab testing equipment for the Butte County Public Health Department.

Two of our more ambitious projects involved working to get 20,000 face shields for all health care workers in our four-county area, and funding an effort to purchase 95,500 face masks that North Valley businesses could hand out to customers to help enforce the request to wear a mask in stores.

BY THE NUMBERS

(through June 30, 2020)

<i>Grant money mobilized by NVCF for COVID-19 response</i>	\$1,024,646
<i>Face shields distributed to Butte, Glenn, Tehama & Colusa county health care workers</i>	20,000
<i>Face masks purchased for North Valley businesses to give to shopping customers</i>	95,500
<i>Dollars granted to food assistance programs</i>	\$289,000
<i>Coronavirus testing machines purchased</i>	6
<i>Coronavirus response grants issued</i>	85

Case Study:

TESTING EQUIPMENT

Early in the coronavirus crisis, NVCF reached out to the Butte County Public Health Department to ask how we could help. The county said its biggest need was quick and reliable testing.

The county had no positive cases in part because very little testing was being done. The Public Health Department sought a polymerase chain reaction machine, more commonly known as a PCR machine. So the NVCF board approved a \$250,000 grant from its operating fund (not Camp Fire or other donated funds) for the equipment and other county emergency response needs.

The machine can test up to 80 samples a day and return results within hours. Before, it would take several days because



the specimens would have to be sent to Sacramento or the Bay Area.

Danette York, the county's Public Health director, said it's rare for a county to have a PCR machine, which is vital for an outbreak at locations like hospitals, nursing homes or the jail.

"If we have patients that we need to know results for quickly, such as individuals in congregate living facilities like the jail or skilled nursing facilities, this equipment is the only way to get results really fast," said York. "It prevents us from having to ship specimens out of the county and having to wait days for results. It has been instrumental in our response efforts on multiple occasions when we had exposure to critical workforce such as law enforcement and health care providers."

With the COVID-19 crisis extending, the testing equipment is more vital all the time.

"I am extremely grateful to the NVCF for their generosity and support in providing this lab equipment to our community," said York. "It has enhanced our ability to respond effectively to COVID-19 in Butte County and will continue to provide us the capability of running tests locally and getting results quickly. Butte County is lucky to have such wonderful partners!"

Case Study:

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



When the shelter-in-place orders took hold in mid-March and schools closed, the immediate thought of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley was how to help children.

After-school care was out, so the Boys & Girls Clubs filled another void – feeding the children.

School districts continued to provide breakfast and lunch. The Boys & Girls Clubs wanted to make sure all children would have dinner, too.

They started a curbside dinner pickup service. A family could drive up and get a nutritious dinner to go for any child in the vehicle.

A \$20,000 grant from the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund at NVCF helped the effort get started and then expand to include Chico, Hamilton City, Oroville and the Paradise ridge. An additional \$15,500 from our Rapid Response Fund served as the local match to leverage other grants totaling \$67,200 and allow the service to continue into June, when the stay-at-home order was lifted.

The Boys & Girls Clubs served more than 10,000 dinners during that time.

“Thanks to North Valley Community Foundation’s immediate response to support us, our staff at the Boys & Girls Clubs could quickly transform from after-school heroes to food service heroes,” said CEO Rashell Brobst. “NVCF helped us give emergency hot meal distribution to hundreds of kids a day throughout Butte and Glenn counties as COVID-19 shut down our clubs, schools and other social service supports available to them.

“With the support of NVCF we were able to quickly mobilize our staff to create new menus, find food sources and develop new safety systems for distribution under all the constantly changing rules and regulations. We are so grateful that during a time of so much uncertainty that NVCF asked how they could help us help kids and gave us the funds to ensure that for 10 weeks we could provide more than 10,000 meals.”

Case Study:

FACE SHIELDS PROJECT

A sudden worldwide demand for personal protective equipment for health care workers led to a scarcity.

A handful of local manufacturers and hobbyists stepped up to help. With a grant from NVCF for material, they used 3D printers to produce face shields for Enloe Medical Center and others.

It quickly became evident that many more shields would be needed. NVCF asked the Public Health departments in Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Colusa counties to help arrive at a number. The goal was to give one reusable shield to all health care workers, from doctors to dental technicians.

The number of shields needed: 20,000.

The 3D printers couldn’t provide that amount, so NVCF began pushing for a more voluminous solution.

Chico State University had the answer. The university, which was shut down, allowed the engineering department to open a lab and use an injection molding machine to produce the plastic frame, which looks like a visor. Instead of making 100 to 200 per week, they were able to produce 800 per day. Idea Fab Labs, a local manufacturing company, cut out and punched the clear plastic shields that attach to the frame. The shields and the frames can be cleaned and reused.

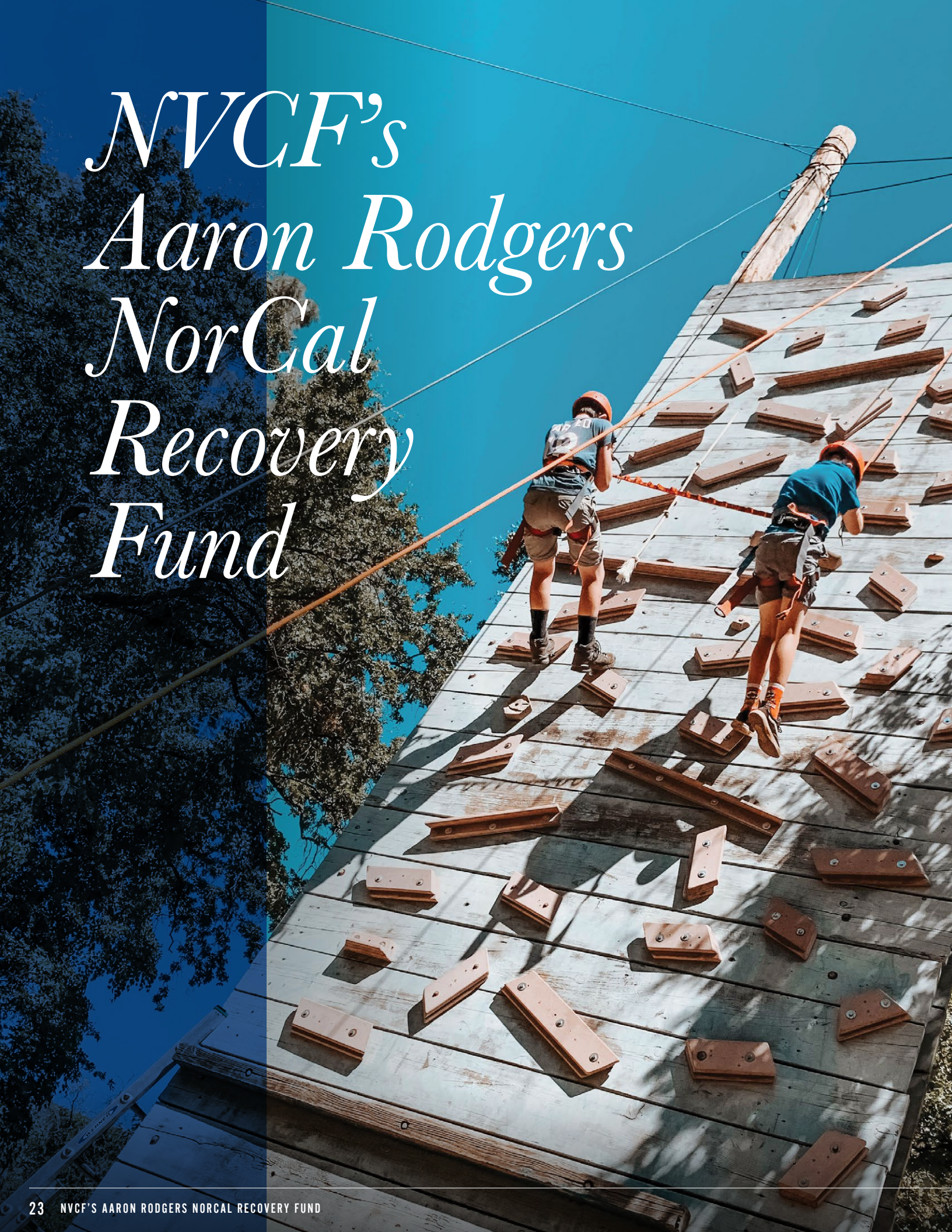
NVCF and the Feather River Health Foundation paid for the material and labor for both Chico State and Idea Fab Labs so the shields could be donated. They were distributed through the county public health departments.

“It was incredible to watch it come together,” said David Little, executive vice president of NVCF and the coordinator of the project. “Everybody recognized a need for personal protective equipment for all health care workers, then everyone worked to figure out how to make it happen. The teamwork and community spirit was amazing. There were no roadblocks. With every question that came up, somebody figured out a way to say ‘yes.’”



Chico State engineering chair Greg Watkins tries on a completed face shield.

Photo: Jason Halley, Chico State University photographer

A low-angle photograph of two people climbing a tall wooden structure, possibly a tower or a large climbing wall. The structure is covered in numerous orange-colored climbing holds. Two ropes are visible, one for each climber. The background is a clear blue sky with some green foliage visible on the left side. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and physical activity.

NVCF's Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund

OVERVIEW

BY **LOGAN TODD**, DIRECTOR OF GRANTS

The Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund was established in the immediate aftermath of the Camp Fire to support programs that offer youths stability in the face of crisis, support the local youth sports infrastructure and support the process of bringing permanent and transitional housing back to the burned area.

The fund was established with a generous contribution of \$1 million from the Aaron Rodgers Foundation, which was matched by State Farm and Walmart. The fund has been further bolstered by thousands of additional donations, both large and small. The fund has granted more than \$645,000 since it began, supporting more than 40 organizations and funding dozens of programs to help promote a sense of normalcy for children who lost so much in the Camp Fire as well as supporting several collaborative housing initiatives.

This past year, the fund has made \$275,000 in grants. These grants went to support the renovation and expansion of parks



and play areas in Gridley and Concow, a physical activity program catered to those affected by the Camp Fire to help with physical and mental impacts of the disaster, a separate program coordinating multiple organizations in Butte County to develop a series of programs to help youths deal with trauma by having them interact with nature in new ways, and a large collaborative program to provide and construct sheds in the burn scar area to help those who lost

their homes protect their property.

When the coronavirus crisis began, the fund sought recommendations to make grants at supporting children and families. Grants were made to support the coronavirus response of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley, Yellow Door, Valley Oak Children's Services, the Family Place and the 6th Street Center operated by Youth For Change, Lilliput, and the YMCA of Oroville.

BY THE NUMBERS

(July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020)

<i>Contributions to the fund</i>	\$30,023
<i>Grants made by the fund</i>	\$275,000
<i>Organizations that received support through the fund</i>	12

Case Study:

HEALING TRAUMA THROUGH NATURE

The Healing Trauma Through Nature Group was formed to support a comprehensive program to develop and deliver expanded outdoor experiences to help heal the traumas experienced by residents in communities impacted by the Camp Fire.

The group is made up of more than a dozen organizations, convened under the leadership of the Paradise Recreation and Parks District and Outdoor Education for All, which has a network of nearly 40 organizations including conservation



groups, government agencies and nature reserves.

The program is still in its infancy, but thanks in part to a \$50,000 grant from the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund, plans are underway to host a variety of events to utilize nature to help to heal the community. A Heal the Healers Retreat at Camp Lassen is being planned for fall 2020 to provide

trauma-informed instruction techniques for teachers, administrators and other youth care providers. There is also work being done toward a partnership with the Butte County Tobacco Use Prevention Education coordinator to formulate a plan to involve the program in addressing the needs of students who are caught smoking, vaping or utilizing other banned substances.

The group is also planning for Camp Courage in summer 2020 to be offered to local youths, and an “Art in the Park” event to provide guidance on nature journaling, meditation and mindfulness guided hikes, and hands-on art opportunities focused on nature.

“Rebuilding the Ridge involves much more than construction and improving infrastructure. We must first rebuild and fortify our people — starting with our youth,” said Scott Amick, recreation supervisor, Paradise Recreation and Park District. “Our work plants the seeds for personal recovery and resilience and their resilience will ensure the fruits of economic, cultural and community excellence as the years pass.”



Case Study:

MANUEL VIERRA PARK

The Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund was established in part to support programs that offer stability and safety to children impacted by the Camp Fire, as well as to support programs related to temporary and transitional housing in the wake of the disaster.

After the Camp Fire, Gridley became home to hundreds of displaced households and the site of the largest FEMA modular home community in the area. These households included more than 100 children who survived the Camp Fire and now called

Gridley home. At that time, the city of Gridley had two parks, each more than a decade old and inadequate to meet the needs of the new population. The Gridley Recreation Division reached out to the North Valley Community Foundation to seek funding to expand Manuel Vierra Park, which was located just more than a mile from the modular home community.

Thanks in large part to a \$50,000 grant from the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Feb. 21, 2020, to announce the newly expanded Manuel Vierra Park to the community. The park is now ADA compliant and boasts new swings, a rope climbing dome, a rope merry-go-round and a zip line.

“Gridley has grown so much so fast in the last few years. The need for additional activities and play structures was long overdue,” said



Katrina Leishman, recreation coordinator for the Gridley Recreation Division. “The joy I get to witness as I see dozens of families and children flock to our new playground is more than I can put into words. It has brought our community even closer as we see families and friends enjoy being outdoors and playing with their children. Thank you so much for making this possible!”

Case Study:

PARADISE U

PARADISE U stands for Physical Activity Reduces Anxiety and Depression, Improves the Stress-response and Energizes yoU. It was developed to provide free physical activity classes for the communities affected by the Camp Fire and to develop physical education programming for students at Paradise Ridge Elementary School.

The objective of the program was to teach participants how to use physical activity as a tool to help them cope with stress, anxiety and depression.

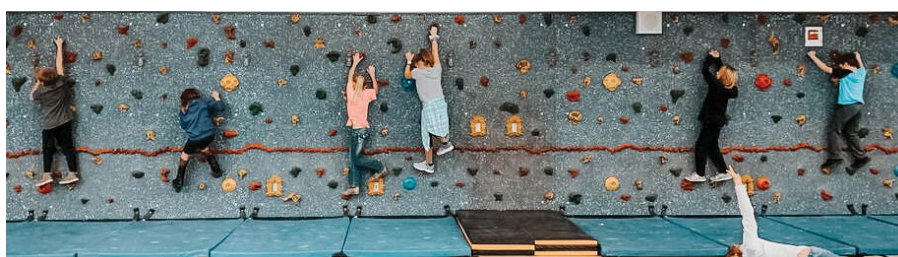
The program secured funding to operate from August 2019 through July 2020 thanks in part to a \$50,000 grant from the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund. The program has been providing around 20 classes a week, regularly serving approximately 245 community members per week. Many are older adults who were affected by the Camp Fire.

Classes were canceled after the coronavirus shelter-in-place orders took effect in March, but instructors posted videos of workouts every week that could be completed using household items. Limited, socially distanced classes resumed in mid-June.

The Paradise Ridge Elementary School program had been hosting a weekly physical education program on site for

approximately 350 students per week. After the school closed because of coronavirus, the instructor of the program sent weekly videos to the students to continue their engagement.

“We are eternally grateful that the Aaron Rodgers grant program at NVCF sees the value in funding this program,” said Catherine Himberg, a professor in the Department of Kinesiology at Chico State University. “We know the effects that physical activity has on stress and depression, and it is wonderful to know that funders in this community are open enough to consider the full range of ways to help this community heal. To the people we are now able to help, it matters and it makes a big difference.”



Donors



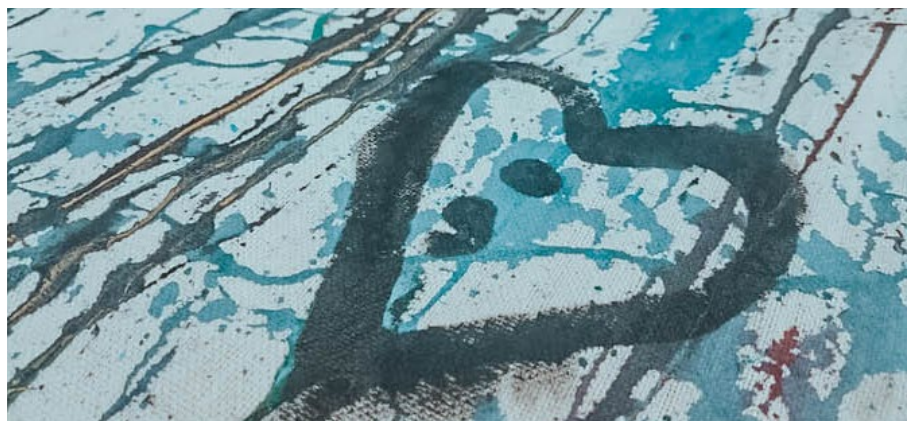


Dear Donors,

Healing and recovery start with a tiny spark, a glimmer of hope and belief that we all can make a difference. For the survivors who lost homes, businesses and loved ones in the Camp Fire, for the members of our communities that didn't know where their next meal would come from during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and so many more facing overwhelming odds, you were that tiny spark of light and hope that was needed to march on. Your philanthropy is personal and powerful. Thank you for giving without hesitation and for being the ones who brought us torches in the dark.

Forever Grateful,

North Valley Community Foundation



SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT NORTH VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

At NVCF we have built our core values around social entrepreneurship. That's the belief that business should be a source of economic wealth, but it also should be a source of social change.

Our social entrepreneurs are extraordinary people who come up with brilliant ideas that dramatically change people's lives. Social entrepreneurship signals the imperative drive for social change and has the power to bring about transformational benefits to society.

Featured here are some of the creative people we've met along our journey who have used the paint brush of philanthropy to color our world with new and exciting ways to serve our

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR SOCIAL GOOD?

Reach us at info@nvcf.org, or call (530) 891-1150.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT OPENING A FUND?

Fill out a form online to get the process started: www.nvcf.org/open-a-fund



Blue Puffer Brewing Company

More than 1,400 breweries nationwide signed up to team with Sierra Nevada to make Resilience Butte County Proud IPA. All proceeds from beer sales went to fire relief efforts.

One 10-year-old boy in Marin County, Owen Shore, decided to do the same. "There's all these pictures of these giant lots of ash, and I wanted to help build new houses," he said.

Owen made 22 four-packs and sold them to family members and adult friends. He called his endeavor the Blue Puffer Brewing Company, named after his favorite jacket. The 88 bottles of Resilience IPA that Owen made sold out in less than a day, thanks to his parents spreading the word about their son's initiative through social media.

He then sent a check to NVCF with 100 percent of the proceeds — \$462 in all.

"I hope," he wrote in the letter mailed with his check, "my money helps the fire victims."

Owen did not stop there. He went on to brew two additional batches of Blue Puffer Brew to continue ongoing philanthropy in support of Camp Fire victims. His second batch was named after the town, Paradise Hefeweizen.

Thrive Causemetics

Our sincere gratitude goes out to Thrive Causemetics of Los Angeles. The company is bigger than beauty itself. Not only do they produce 100% vegan and cruelty-free products but they donate to help a woman in need with every purchase and practice responsive giving by listening to nonprofits to contribute in ways that best address their needs.

In November 2018 at the onset of the devastating Woolsey Fire in Southern California and the Camp Fire in Northern California, the Thrive leadership team was moved to action and immediately sought ways to make a meaningful and supportive contribution to the relief efforts.

Thrive committed to donating 100% of their profits to wildfire relief efforts and



shared the challenge with their online community through the Thrive for CA campaign. With incredible support from their Thrive Tribe (customers and followers), they were able to raise \$250,000 for wildfire relief.

In December, representatives of Thrive Causemetics traveled to Butte County and presented a check for \$50,000 to our Camp Fire Relief Fund.

The Germ Who Got Tired of Waiting

Many children are struggling to understand their new normal in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This inspired Emily Hajec to use this turn of events to check off a bucket-list goal on her lifelong to-do list: She wrote a children's book and enlisted the help of her friend, Alycia Jones, to illustrate it.

Inspired by children everywhere who are being so brave during the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders, Hajec and Jones self-published "The Germ Who Got Tired of Waiting." It tells the story of one mean little bad guy (who nobody could see), and the power of perspective and family.



The local author and illustrator committed to donate 100% of the profits from their first 250 copies sold to NVCF's Coronavirus Rapid Response Fund. See more about the book at

www.thegermwhogottiredofwaiting.com



Partnerships





OVERVIEW

Our greatest resource is friends. Over the last year, NVCF continues to build its work through the unitive power of working together with our critical partnerships of community leaders and compassionate and generous funders.

We engage community leadership, weave strategies, address challenges, and support organizations and agencies to push through uncomfortable (and sometimes unrelenting) obstacles to ensure long-term recovery is a success. This process has not gone without its learning moments, which have uniquely helped us all gain knowledge and move in a way that allows the community to grow.

The complexity of recovery compels us to navigate the road ahead together on a scale we've rarely witnessed. By leveraging our relationships and creating partnerships around priorities and projects, NVCF created the Butte Strong Fund in partnership with Sierra Nevada Brewing

Co. and Aaron Rodgers. This hard work could not be completed without them showing up for their community. The greater good has shined bright from these folks and we are grateful for them.

This strategy of leveraging relationships helped us build a coalition of funding partners to launch the Manufactured Home Replacement Project. The relationships developed during the process of standing up the Manufactured Home Project amplified how big the hearts of those willing to do the work truly are.

These partnerships have been the biggest advantage to our commitment to serve our community. Partnerships like that not only leverage the work but also shows strength in numbers. NVCF has also acknowledged and paid close attention to this: These organizations are made up of people whose work truly make this community thrive in the healing process. Recovery would not be



in the stage that it's in without them. People helping people. People helping our most vulnerable people.

The goal remains to keep connecting and engaging with those who are the helpers and the healers. That is our greatest contribution, to maintain these relationships and grow new ones with recovery in mind. Thank you and congratulations to our region for holding one another up.

LEVERAGED FUNDING



Often a little bit of money can provide access to a lot more money. One example was paying for a road survey in Paradise just after the Camp Fire so the town could then access millions of dollars in government funding to repair roads after the rebuilding effort is finished. Another example: Government funding frequently comes with a required match of local dollars. If a five-figure local grant leads to seven-figure funding, we feel fortunate to help.

We know that to be an effective funder, we can have an outsized impact by leveraging our funding to trigger resources that are far larger than our own. That could mean influencing other funders (institutional or individual), catalyzing government support, mobilizing public will and opinion, or stimulating markets to provide services.

Just as corporations develop strong networks of trusted suppliers for needed goods and services, major private foundations require strong networks of local intelligence, additional funding and leadership in order to accomplish our organizational and community-wide goals.

MANUFACTURED HOME REPLACEMENT PROJECT



Tina Balasek sits outside her RV on a cold December morning in Paradise. She bought a burned lot and a used RV after the fire and she'll soon get a home as one of the first recipients of the Camp Fire Manufactured Home Replacement Project.

The Camp Fire destroyed Tina Balasek's home and all her belongings except the vehicle that barely helped her escape the flames.

Balasek, who was just starting to recover from Lyme disease that was undiagnosed for many years, bounced around from place to place, always feeling like an outsider wherever she landed. She knew she wanted to be in Paradise. She used the insurance money from her mobile home that burned to buy a lot off Pentz Road. A large house that was on the property had burned and the owner had no interest in returning. She also bought a used RV to put there.

In December, more than a year after the fire, she received unfathomable news. A case manager told her she would be getting a home of her own – for free – as part of the Camp Fire Manufactured Home Replacement Project. The effort to provide at least 40 homes for Camp Fire survivors was funded by grants and donations.

"I have a place to call home. There's nothing like it," she said. "And I feel guilty too. I know so many people need a home."

The Camp Fire Manufactured Home Replacement project is the work of several organizations. Samaritan's Purse donated the homes. Other major partners are NVCF, Camp Fire Collaborative, Wells Fargo, Center for Disaster Philanthropy and American Red Cross.



Balasek looks forward to the new beginning.

"There are days I just want to sit here and cry," she said. "That would be the easy thing to do. But sometimes you have to just show up. Do what you need to do. Go through the day. Help people if you can."

"If we help each other and do it together, we'll get it done," she said. "It will take longer than anybody wants, but we'll get it done."

Other Milestones



SOCIAL JUSTICE

"On behalf of the entire foundation, let me state clearly, we stand with George Floyd's family and friends. We stand with African Americans. We stand for justice. All decent and loving people must stand up. We must break centuries of silence. We must speak up, now. If there is any hope for justice and healing to prevail in our country, the heinous murders of African Americans at the hands of police officers and the armed public must end."

ALEXA BENSON-VALAVANIS, PRESIDENT & CEO
NORTH VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

#nvcf

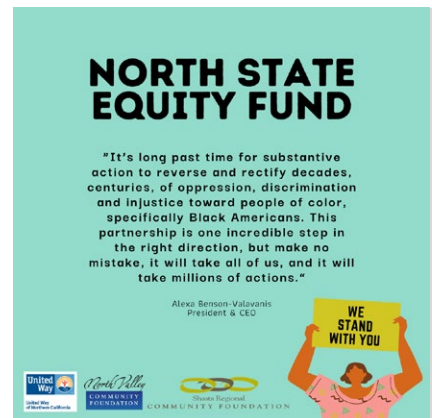
#georgefloyd

With this knowledge, our staff did what it does best: put love into action.

We immediately took to social media and used our platform to elevate the Black community. We created a social media post of Black-owned and operated local businesses for the community to support. We opened dialogues with these organizations and made a commitment to walk alongside them, to listen and to support.



Like so many Americans and people all over the world, we grieved for George Floyd, who senselessly lost his life at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer on May 25, 2020. As a foundation, this was a pivotal moment in our mission to create a better, more loving world. We realized that in order to fuel healing and compassion for a better world we must first look at the darkest parts of ourselves and our society, exposing the reality of systematic racism.



Equity Fund. This fund is a partnership between NVCF, Shasta Regional Community Foundation and United Way of Northern California. The fund has been started with \$100,000 in seed money, which will be granted to community organizations that are doing the constructive and unifying work of justice and healing.

We will continue together down this path of racial reconciliation as a community, hand in hand.



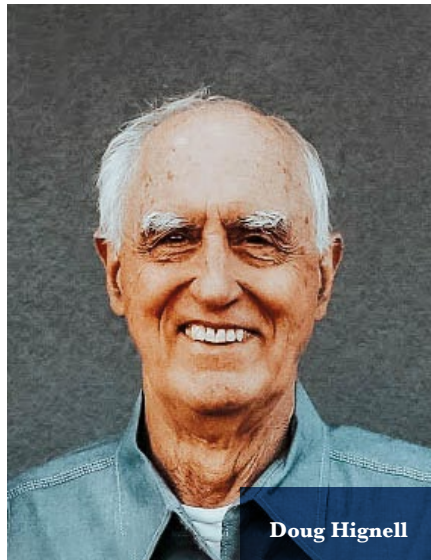
A community group in Chico came together to create an offering of love and support. The Bethel AME Church Restoration Project Fund held at NVCF intends to raise \$100,000 to restore the steeple and bell tower of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Chico. This is the oldest church in Chico, dating to 1863.

Conversations around the role of philanthropy in the fight for racial justice soon led to the creation of the North State



REMEMBERING DOUG AND DIANE

We lost two vital members of our family this year and continue to mourn their absence. Doug Hignell and Diane Ruby were two special members of the community who also played a critical role in shaping NVCF.



Doug Hignell was a kind and generous man who loved people. He went out of his way to help others and did so without a desire for notoriety. Countless people had their lives changed by Doug's generosity without ever knowing that Doug was the person behind it. Doug and his father, Fred, literally built much of Chico through their company, Hignell & Hignell, Inc. He died on Sept. 11, 2019, after a brief battle with cancer. He was 76. His charitable deeds continue to this day. Memorial contributions can be made to the Doug Hignell Memorial Fund at www.nvcf.org/funds/doug-hignell-memorial-fund



Diane Ruby served on our board of directors for nearly 10 years, handpicked by our CEO and president because she is precisely the type of loving individual who can identify with and guide the heart-centered work we do at the foundation. Diane was the co-owner of Sheraton Real Estate Management. Diane died on May 24, 2020. She was 63. Memorial contributions can be made to the Hope Foundation at www.nvcf.org/funds/Community-Impact-Fund---The-Hope-Foundation.

We miss them both dearly.



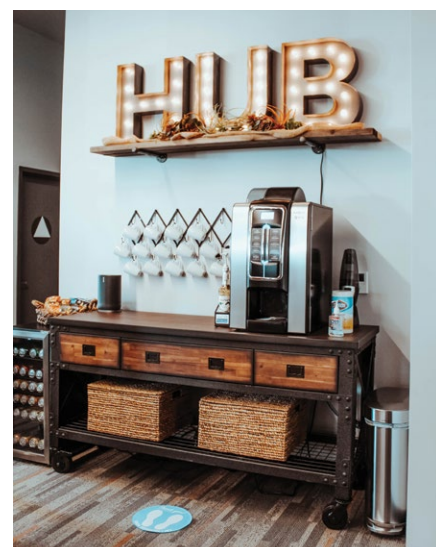
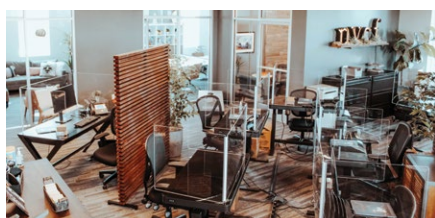
NEW HOME AT MERIAM PARK

Emerging from the coronavirus shelter-in-place orders at the end of June, our team was thrilled to move in to our new home in southeast Chico. Our new office is, fittingly, in the Foundation Building at Meriam Park, an emerging new development.

At Meriam Park, we embrace shared values with the community-minded development team. Meriam Park's mission: "Our vision is to create an authentic and lasting

sense of place built upon a foundation of sustainability, diverse uses, and social vibrancy. Our development philosophy embraces designs that are compact in design, pedestrian and transit oriented and energy efficient to reduce environmental impacts."

Our new address is The Foundation Building, 1811 Concord Ave., Suite 220, Chico, CA 95928. Our telephone number remains (530) 891-1150.



WORDS OF APPRECIATION

“There have been some incredible people who have jumped in to help (after the Camp Fire) and it starts, in my opinion, with the North Valley Community Foundation — raising millions of dollars, out there assessing the needs of our communities in real time and finding the best places to help.

AARON RODGERS,
GREEN BAY PACKERS QUARTERBACK

“Without NVCF, Butte County and the many agencies and organizations providing Camp Fire recovery support to our residents and survivors would not have been able to provide the level of support needed. Government funding was not sufficient to meet the needs, and the foundation proved to be our ‘pennies from heaven’ to fill the many gaps in recovery. NVCF continues to support Camp Fire recovery efforts, in addition to rising to the occasion and providing similar support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The foundation, its dedicated staff and its generous donors illustrate philanthropy, compassion and altruism on a daily basis!

SHARI MCCRACKEN, BUTTE COUNTY CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

“The North Valley Community Foundation continues to successfully navigate its critical mission of meeting the growing needs of our neighbors and friends. Through compassionate leadership coupled with generous personal and corporate support, NVCF continues to provide the critical bridge between donors and the charities that serve our community. Get to know them.

BRIAN SWEENEY, CHICO RESIDENT

“Why do I work with NVCF? Good question. Initially it was because of Alexa. She had a passion for helping people. She has established a quality team that shares her passion. When you see any business that is running smoothly, it always is because of the leadership at the top. We use NVCF for our donor-advised funds because we can count on their staff to help us quietly support the many nonprofits in Chico that deserve our support.

GREG WEBB

“Chico State is incredibly grateful to work alongside the North Valley Community Foundation to improve the quality of life for residents of the north state. Among our many joint projects are the Resiliency Collaborative, which focuses on gathering expertise, identifying challenges, producing solutions and showcasing the successes in our resiliency work, and the Forest Therapy pilot project, which will serve 450 Camp Fire survivors at Chico State’s ecological preserves. More recently, the foundation supported Chico State and Idea Fab Labs to 3D print thousands of face shields for area medical providers when personal protective equipment was difficult to procure. When there is an identified need, NVCF steps up and Chico State is a committed partner. We are so blessed to have this powerful force for good in our community.

GAYLE HUTCHINSON,
CHICO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



NVCF is amazing. They have an extremely difficult job as they work endless hours determining how these donations can do the most good. We are extremely grateful for all of their help with Concow rebuilding efforts. Thank you!

JENNY LOWREY,
FROM THE GROUND UP FARMS



We can't think of a more highly regarded, dedicated and effective community-minded, philanthropic organization than the North Valley Community Foundation to partner with on pandemic relief in our communities and region.

CHUCK ROUGH,
FEATHER RIVER HEALTH FOUNDATION



I'm contributing a million dollars to North Valley Community Foundation.

MARC BENIOFF, SALESFORCE CEO, IN APPEARANCE ON "MAD MONEY"



We are doing what we believe we are supposed to do to help our fellow brothers and sisters in the community who desperately need not necessarily a hand out, but a hand up. Thank you also for how you all at North Valley Community Foundation have come alongside us to provide the financial resources to do what we do. We may be the hands and feet but you have truly been the heart and soul because you see what we see and help us to take action in ways that we wouldn't otherwise have been able to if it weren't for your financial support. With that I'd like to take an opportunity to thank North Valley Community Foundation!

KEVIN THOMPSON, SOUTHSIDE OROVILLE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



In the aftermath of the devastation caused by the Camp Fire, Wells Fargo wanted to help the community recover. It was important for us to work with a strong organization and sustainable model that would continue to address the collective and highest community needs. The leadership and staff at North Valley Community Foundation clearly had deep connections with community leaders, had the pulse on community needs, and the heart and expertise to bring the community together to work to achieve common goals. We were honored to philanthropically invest \$3.25 million in the Butte Strong Fund, held at North Valley Community Foundation, and continue to have confidence in their efforts to help those most impacted by this tragedy.

KÄREN WOODRUFF, WELLS FARGO BANK



My wife, Katie, and I are big supporters of all the great work that Alexa and the team at North Valley Community Foundation provide to our community and the region. They have been a trusted partner for us to help manage many of our local charitable objectives. Their leadership and value to the region was never so evident as was displayed during the Camp Fire tragedy. Within hours they mobilized and were providing resources to those most in need, and continue to support the long and difficult rebuilding process. Their ongoing community support has continued to play a significant role in dealing with the current COVID-19 pandemic providing much-needed medical supplies and community outreach.

KEN GROSSMAN & KATIE GONSER,
SIERRA NEVADA BREWING CO.



North Valley

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

www.nvcf.org



The Foundation Building
1811 Concord Ave., Suite 220
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 891-1150

OUR MISSION

To fuel healing and compassion for a better world.

Through grantmaking, partnerships, financial and philanthropic services we are the North Valley's hub for social change. We help individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits maximize their impact on the local and global community.

Report designed by **MC2** | Proud partner of NVCF