





AARON RODGER NORCAL FIRE RECOVERY FUND at NVCF



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The Butte Strong Fund has awarded 53 grants to Butte County schools totaling nearly a half-million dollars and a \$250,000 grant to help reopen the Paradise Teen Center on Skyway.

The Butte Strong Fund Education Grant Program was open from May to November, allowing all schools in the county to apply for grants of up to \$10,000. The grants are designed to support educators and students in a county where schools were drastically impacted by the Camp Fire.

The 53 grants total \$461,401 for things like counseling, playground renovations, staff professional development and student engagement projects. See a list of the grants at www.nvcf.org/buttestrongfund-fundedprojects.

Since the Camp Fire, the Butte Strong Fund has awarded more than \$5 million to Butte County educational institutions to support trauma response and recovery.

The Teen Center grant supports youth on the ridge. The center, operated by the Boys and Girls Clubs of the North Valley, has been closed since the Camp Fire. However, the organization has been working on renovations and developing programs for a reopening. The grant of \$250,000, including \$50,000 from the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund, allows the Boys and Girls Clubs to provide a local match for a \$198,000 USDA grant.

The grant funding provides the final dollars needed to reopen and provide staffing for two years.

"The emotional well-being of all ridge residents, and particularly young people, continues to be an area of concern and emphasis for us," said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. "We realize there's no one simple solution, but many. It's the reason we've funded counselors in schools, the Ridge Retreat wellness center at Paradise High School, the Equilibrium Wellness Center through Paradise Stronger, the Teen Center in Paradise and more. Every one of these efforts is vital and we are enthusiastic about being a funding partner."

With the latest grants, NVCF has funded \$57,625,837 through grants and projects since the Camp Fire on Nov. 8, 2018. The Butte Strong Fund is a partnership of NVCF, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund.