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The North Valley Community Foundation has awarded more than \$100,000 for organizations to reward more than 1,500 workers and volunteers who are serving at-risk populations during the coronavirus pandemic.

The grant comes from the NVCF's COVID-19 Employee Care Grant Program. The program was unveiled in December. Nonprofit organizations and residential care homes in Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Colusa counties were asked to apply with ideas on how to reward employees with self-care initiatives or gestures.

"It was important to us to show care for the people who care for us," said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. "We can't express our gratitude enough to these workers and volunteers who too often think of themselves last."

All 35 organizations that met eligibility guidelines were given grants totaling \$104,597. They represent workers and volunteers in Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Colusa counties. Funding was provided by the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund and other funds at NVCF dedicated to regional recovery.

Among the ideas that were approved for employees: celebratory lunches, staff appreciation events, massages, arts and crafts classes, buying books to start a staff book club, personalized gift baskets and stress debriefing sessions with a licensed clinical social worker.

Organizations that received funding on behalf of their front-line workers and volunteers included: Jesus Center, Boys and Girls Clubs of the North Valley, Youth For Change, Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, Sycamore Glen Active Retirement Community, Country Village,

Valley Oak Children's Services, Children's Hope Foster Family Agency, Hmong Cultural Center of Butte County, African American Family and Cultural Center, Community Housing Improvement Program, Orchard Hospital, Feather River Health Foundation, Chico State University School of Social Work, Butte County Local Food Network, True North Housing Alliance, Empower Tehama, Almond Blossom Assisted Living, Community Action Agency of Butte County, Reading Pals, Family Service Agency of Tehama County, Caring Choices, Safe Space Winter Shelter, Lilliput, Northern California Youth and Family Programs, Stonewall Alliance, Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network, Disability Action Center, The Salvation Army, YMCA, Friends of the Chico Animal Shelter, Westside Domestic Violence Shelter, Butte-Glenn 211 and From the Ground Up Farms.