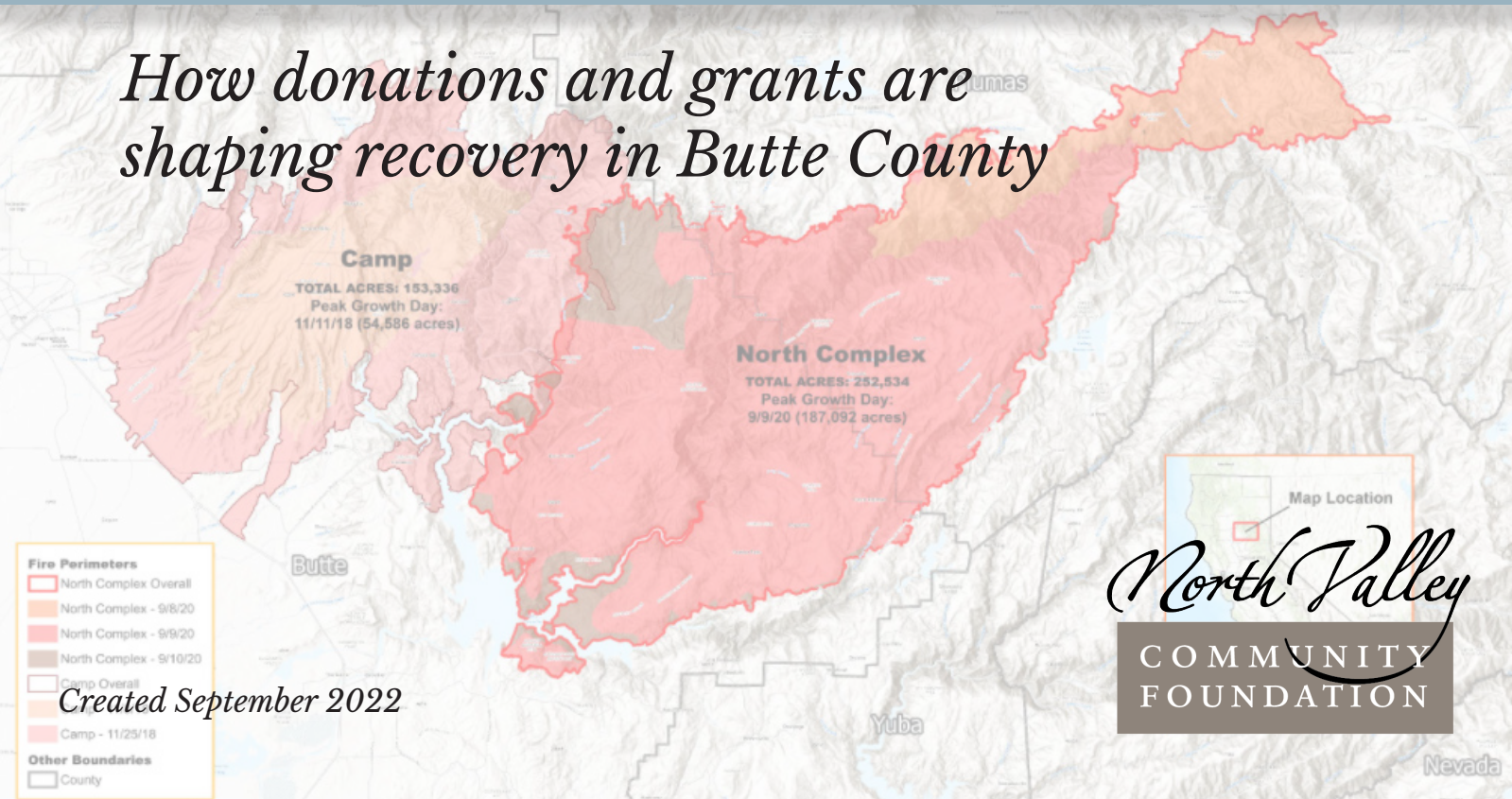




Kai Funk, Shasta Lake Hotshots

BEAR/NORTH COMPLEX FIRE IMPACT REPORT

*How donations and grants are
shaping recovery in Butte County*



OVERVIEW

The Berry Creek and Feather Falls areas remain very much in the long-term recovery mode after the Bear Fire two years ago, but more than \$1.1 million in grants from NVCF has certainly helped to jump-start the process.

Nearly 2,500 structures were destroyed and 16 people were killed by the Bear Fire and other fires that became the North Complex Fire.

The first priority after the fire was basic needs like food, gas, propane and shelter. Grants from NVCF helped provide gift cards that social service organizations distributed to fire survivors in the chaotic days and weeks after the fire.

Another grant established the Wildfire Resource and Recovery Center, which allowed Northern Valley Catholic Social Service to bring some organization to the recovery process. It opened a central location for member organizations of the Bear Fire Long Term Recovery Group, giving fire survivors convenient walk-in service for many of their needs.

In December 2021, NVCF granted all of the money left in its North Complex Fire Grant Program, \$410,562, to help fund the North Complex Fire Unmet Needs Roundtable, which connects fire survivors to help they otherwise would not receive. The roundtable has reviewed hundreds of cases presented by case managers. Funders of the roundtable include NVCF, American Red Cross, United Way and United Methodist Church.

<i>Total granted</i>	\$1,167,940
<i>Direct assistance</i>	\$530,562
<i>Emergency Response</i>	\$317,940
<i>Housing</i>	\$247,000
<i>Community Development</i>	\$43,338
<i>Health and Wellness</i>	\$29,100



CASE STUDIES

Wildfire Resource and Recovery Center

Grants from NVCF helped establish the Wildfire Resource and Recovery Center at 5250 Olive Highway in Oroville, at the Lakeside Market Shopping Center.

Northern Valley Catholic Social Service operates the center, which serves as a home to member organizations of the Bear Fire Long Term Recovery Group. Bear Fire survivors can go there to talk to a case manager, as well as receive crisis counseling and emotional support. There's a computer with stable internet – hard to find in the Bear Fire footprint – and a printer. There's also a popular food pantry.

The grant pays for all rent and office expenses through the end of 2022.

Jerry Olenyn, the resource coordinator for the center, said the center has branched out to serve



survivors from all fires, since the needs are similar. They've seen survivors from the Bear Fire, Camp Fire and Dixie Fire.

The number of people using the center is increasing thanks to promotion on the center's Facebook page. In one three-week period ending in September, 387 individuals or families used the center's services.

Berry Creek Elementary School Giveaway Days

The Bear Fire was tragic for the Berry Creek Elementary School community. The school burned down, and all but one of the 35 families at the school lost their home in the fire, as did eight of the 12 staff members.

Families dispersed and it was difficult to stay connected, but the school managed to do it through "giveaway days" every two or three weeks. It served as a way to distribute the donations that poured in. A \$10,000 grant from NVCF helped keep the Giveaway Days going after the donations ran out.

"All the events were really fun," said Patsy Oxford, the school's principal. "The most exciting was families having their portraits taken for free as they had lost all their family pictures in the fire. Families dressed up. It really meant a lot to them.



"At Christmas we handed out bikes and totes filled with toys as a drive-thru due to COVID-19," she continued. "Kids were jumping out of the cars when they saw the bikes. All the kids lost their bikes ... They were so excited."

CASE STUDIES (continued)

Case Management: Helping fire survivors, one person at a time

Alex Apodaca lived in Berry Creek for 34 years before the Bear Fire swept through in 2020, incinerating his two-bedroom mobile home and all of his belongings – everything but his dog and the car he escaped in.

pretty dysfunctional. I didn't have anything and it was weighing on me."

Now, the 57-year-old says, "I'm just grateful. I'm doing OK, taking it day by day."

Apodaca describes himself as "a cadaver" in the weeks after the fire. He said he saw two people die and was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. He was living in his car at an evacuation center in Oroville. That's when American Red Cross and Butte 211 found him and signed him up for case management.

Case managers connect fire survivors to help, both financial and emotional. Apodaca lived in a hotel in Chico for three months, then in a broken-down 40-year-old motor home in Plumas County before the case management system was able to secure him a newer RV. He has been living in an RV Park near Lake Oroville since early 2022.

"I'm lucky it (case management assistance) came along when it did," he said. "Toward the end, I was

"I'm just grateful. I'm doing OK, taking it day by day."

Apodaca's case is one of more than 800 that has been "closed," meaning the survivors' recovery goals have been met. More than \$1.4 million was devoted to getting those cases closed. As of September 2022, there are still 218 cases open and another 250 households on the waiting list to receive case management.

The program is managed by Northern Valley Catholic Social Service. Case managers are employed by both NVCSS and St. Vincent de Paul. The case management system mirrors the one still being used for Camp Fire survivors.

Case managers request financial help from the North Complex Fire Unmet Needs Roundtable. Funders of the roundtable include NVCF, American Red Cross, United Way and United Methodist Church.



GRANTS

GRANTEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
NVCF & United Way	The Unmet Needs Roundtable will provide another outlet for resources to help case managers and their clients reach recovery goals.	\$410,562
Lake Madrone Water District	For a fire prevention project in the Berry Creek area completing a fire break surrounding its 484-acre district	\$125,000
Paradise Alliance Church	To expand the defensible space program to the Bear/North Complex Fire	\$62,500
United Way of Northern California	To support the unmet needs of North Complex Fire survivors through case management.	\$50,000
NVCF COVID-19 Employee Care Grant Program	Approved transfer from Wildfire Relief and Recovery Fund approved December 16, 2020	\$50,000
Butte County	To help remove financially barriers so survivors can safely rebuild and move home, and to re-establish communities	\$34,500
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	To support Butte Hope which provides mental health support, education and referrals to fire survivors throughout the area	\$29,430
Butte County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue	To purchase of Nomex suits and fire shelters for teams performing searches for missing people in burned-over areas	\$26,000
Mountain Springs Grange	To rebuild an outdoor gathering space at the grange property in Feather Falls	\$25,565
Butte County Dept. of Employment and Social Services	To assist survivors in transitioning from sheltering or unsheltered status to the next step in their recovery	\$25,000
Butte County	For fire survivor assistance of safe and stable housing	\$25,000
United Policyholders	To provide fire-impacted families with up to \$5,000 in assistance to secure temporary housing during their period of displacement	\$25,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	For gift cards in response to the North Complex Fire	\$25,000
St. Vincent de Paul	For simple unmet needs for disaster case managers	\$25,000
Butte Hope/NVCSS	To provide gift cards for food to survivors	\$25,000
Help Central Inc. (Butte-Glenn 211)	To conduct intake, needs assessment, facilitate connection to available resources and provide follow up and care coordination for recovery	\$23,760
Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council	Vouchers to provide gas, propane, toiletries, groceries, meals, pet supplies and household goods	\$20,000

BC Volunteer Fire Dept. Company 52	To replace items that will keep power and water to building in order to aid in community response efforts	\$17,773
Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association	Basic hygiene products, mobile shower and laundry unit usage, and additional cleaning due to COVID-19	\$10,000
The Salvation Army, Chico	Gift cards for survivors to be distributed at the Local Assistance Center	\$10,000
American Red Cross	To support Gridley evacuation centers	\$10,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	To provide a walk-in location for services critical to the recovery of fire survivors at the Lakeside Wildfire Recovery Resource Center	\$10,000
Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council	For the North Complex Fire Small Business and Family Relief Project allowing for vouchers to be distributed to those in need to be used at local stores	\$10,000
Oroville Hope Center	To provide gas and essential supplies to fire survivors	\$10,000
Paradise Gleaners/Butte County Gleaners	To provide basic needs and comfort to those most affected by the COVID crisis	\$10,000
Pioneer Union Elementary School District	For “Give Away Days” every two to three weeks where families can receive donated items along with a gift card for food/gas	\$10,000
Butte County CERT	To purchase radio equipment required to assist the community	\$10,000
Butte County Sheriff Search and Rescue	To purchase supplies necessary for search and rescue efforts	\$9,900
Oroville Rescue Mission	To provide gift cards, mission supplies and blankets to fire survivors	\$7,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	To provide gift cards for fire survivors attending the Bear Fire Remembrance event at Lakeside Plaza	\$5,000
From the Ground Up Farms, Inc.	To provide gift cards for gas, groceries and shelter as direct aid to the new and old fire evacuees	\$5,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	To purchase meals for Bear Fire survivors to sign up for disaster case management services at two Resources Round Up events	\$5,000
Tiny Pine Foundation	To provide electric blankets to fire survivors	\$5,000
North Valley Animal Disaster Group	To shelter evacuated animals	\$5,000
Sewa International	To donate food, fresh vegetables, fruits, hygiene kits, gas cards, gift cards to evacuees in Oroville area weekly	\$5,000
Tiny Pine Foundation	To supply gift cards to help North Complex Fire evacuees and survivors obtain gas and food	\$5,000

Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	For gift cards that encouraged Bear Fire survivors to sign up for disaster case management services at two Resource Round Up events	\$5,000
Paradise Gleaners/Butte County Gleaners	To collaborate with E&J's Mobile Kitchen to provide food and resources for fire victims, first responders and all their pet needs	\$5,000
Youth for Change (6th Street Center)	Supplying food, lodging vouchers and supplies for foster youth and foster families	\$5,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	Gas cards for Butte County Office of Education (Pioneer (Berry Creek), Hearthstone, OCESD, OUHSD)	\$5,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	For gift card distribution to fire survivors	\$5,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	Gift cards for gas and food for victims	\$5,000
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	To purchase meals for Bear Fire survivors for the organization's drive-through Thanksgiving dinner giveaway	\$5,000
Boys & Girls Club of the North Valley	To immediately respond to and bring resources to families that have been displaced	\$5,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley	To provide gift cards, gas cards and hotel vouchers to displaced families	\$5,000
Berry Creek Community Council	To provide food and gas cards for basic needs in winter.	\$5,000
Paradise Evangelical Free Church	The funding we receive will go towards the purchase of tools and equipment needed to remove brush, cut up felled trees, and clean up properties.	\$5,000
Berry Creek Community Council	To provide food and gas cards for basic needs in winter	\$5,000
Help Central Inc. (Butte-Glenn 211)	To provide tarps, dehumidifiers and winter supplies for survivors in need	\$4,000
Tiny Pine Foundation	To deliver free firewood to 75 fire-affected households	\$3,100
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service	To provide fire survivors with emergency gas cards	\$2,500
The Axiom Project	To support clothing giveaways for fire survivors	\$2,250
American Humane	The grant would help cover the costs of medical supplies, pet food, supplies, shelter costs, transportation costs, and other costs associated with the deployment.	\$2,000
Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association	To purchase meals for Bear Fire survivors for the organization's drive-through Thanksgiving dinner giveaway	\$2,000