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The North Valley Community Foundation and Feather River Health Foundation have combined to purchase 53,500 face masks for Butte County businesses to hand out to customers.

The masks will be handed out to businesses Friday between 2 and 4 p.m. at Chamber of Commerce offices in Chico, Oroville, Paradise and Gridley.

"We hope the donated masks will help both employees and shoppers feel safe and will also help businesses deal with state requirements that people wear face coverings outside the home," said David Little, who is heading up NVCF's coronavirus response. "We also hope it makes shoppers more inclined to purchase items locally rather than online. Shopping locally is more important than ever to prop up the local economy."

The nonwoven, reusable face masks were purchased from a Chico company, Salus Supply.

NVCF has now mobilized more than \$1 million for coronavirus relief through its Coronavirus Rapid Response Fund and various charitable funds.

Other recent grants provided face masks for the Community Housing Improvement Program and for clients of Butte County Behavioral Health and Butte County Social Services. A grant of \$9,600 will help the Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley comply with new sanitation requirements to stay open. A \$5,000 grant to Caminar will provide support for the program to reopen safely. The NVCF and Feather River Health Foundation also funded 500 "Keep Butte County Open" posters for businesses to hang in front windows.

For more information on how to donate to the Coronavirus Rapid Response Fund, see www.nvcf.org/coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-response.