



BUTTE STRONG

FUND



AARON RODGERS
NORCAL
FIRE RECOVERY
FUND at NVCF



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The Butte Strong Fund has approved a \$100,000 grant for Hope Plaza that will allow the project on the Skyway in downtown Paradise to break ground in a few weeks.

Hope Plaza is a landmark dedicated to the memory of the Camp Fire and is designed to be a place of honor for first responders and those who were killed in the fire. It will be on the triangle of land at the corner of Skyway and Foster Road.

The \$1.5 million project has received no public funding, instead relying on grants (including \$250,000 total from the Butte Strong Fund) and donations of labor, materials and expertise.

The Hope Plaza Steering Committee hopes to break ground on the project this month.

"The volunteer team that is working to create Hope Plaza is thrilled and honored by the support of North Valley Community Foundation and the Butte Strong Fund," said Melissa Schuster, a member of the Hope Plaza Steering Committee and longtime Paradise resident. "Hope Plaza is a compassionate response to the very basic need for a physical place to acknowledge the immeasurable impact of the Camp Fire. It reminds us of how we were unified at that moment in time, and celebrates the profound courage, perseverance and resilience of this remarkable community."

"NVCF and the Butte Strong Fund have, without question, been an integral part of this journey and Hope Plaza proudly recognizes and appreciates those contributions."

Together, we will celebrate our milestones and victories, show our immense gratitude to all of our 'helpers,' and inspire the world to move forward with us."

Take a virtual tour of the project and learn more at www.hopeplazaparadise.com.

The Butte Strong Fund is a partnership of fundraising efforts led by North Valley Community Foundation, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

With the latest grants totaling \$311,397, NVCF has awarded \$51,611,806 for community recovery since the Camp Fire on Nov. 8, 2018. The Butte Strong Fund will continue to hand out grants for roughly another year and a half, until all donations are exhausted.

Other recent Butte Strong Fund grants awarded include:

- \$50,000 to Paradise Alliance Church for a program that helps clear trees and maintain defensible space for elderly, disabled or low-income residents. The grant will fill some of the gap to provide for needed equipment, technology and outreach marketing. The program launches this month.
- \$50,000 to Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council, which does fire prevention projects in the Concow, Yankee Hill and Cherokee area. The grant will help with staffing, supplies, signage and utilities.
- \$50,000 to Sol Sanctuary for its community wellness program. Sol Sanctuary provides group and individual counseling and life coaching to support trauma recovery and provides tools and resources for survivors to navigate their path forward. Sol Sanctuary collaborates and coordinates with several other organizations in the community.
- \$40,000 to Paradise U to continue a free exercise program that helps people of all ages and abilities affected by the Camp Fire find a way to use physical activity as a tool to cope. There are free physical activity classes for Camp Fire survivors, and supplemental physical education for students at Paradise Ridge Elementary School to help them build resiliency and strength. Types of exercise offered for adults include yoga, cross training, step aerobics, dance, pilates and walking.
- \$2,500 to Paradise Community Chorus to support its Spring Concert, which will be April 24 at the Paradise Performing Arts Center.

In addition to those grants, two others were approved through the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund at NVCF. They include:

- \$10,397 for Girls on the Run of the North State, which will allow 50-55 girls on the Ridge to participate in the program. Girls on the Run is an established program with a mission to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using running and other physical activities as a platform for teaching life skills and promoting positive social, emotional and holistic health outcomes for girls in grades 3-8.

- \$8,500 for a children's playground in Cohasset, a project of the Cohasset Community Association. The closest playground for children in Cohasset is Chico's Wildwood Park, 18 miles away.

Organizations interested in applying for Butte Strong Fund grants can visit nvcf.org/buttestrongfund to determine if they qualify for funding. Donations to the fund can also be made on the web page.