



BUTTE STRONG

FUND



AARON RODGERS
NORCAL
FIRE RECOVERY
FUND at NVCF



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The North Valley Community Foundation's Butte Strong Fund has awarded more than \$1 million in new grants, bringing the cumulative total for Camp Fire recovery deployed through NVCF to nearly \$64 million.

The largest grant this cycle, announced last week, is \$500,000 toward construction of the Enloe Comprehensive Cancer Center at 20th Street and Bruce Road in Chico.

A grant of \$250,000 will extend the Butte Strong First Responder Wellness Program. The program is available to all first responders in Butte County, staff and volunteers – more than 1,000 people in all. Their families can also participate.

The program focuses on three pillars: physical fitness (yoga, fitness programs, physical therapy and more), mental and emotional wellness (including access to eight contracted therapists), and family engagement and support.

The program started just after the Camp Fire with the help of a \$1 million Butte Strong Fund grant. The new grant will extend the life of the program until roughly the end of 2026.

A \$250,000 grant will help continue the planning efforts of the Healthy Communities Collaborative, as well as early stages of execution of the plan. The Healthy Communities Collaborative aims to improve the health and well-being of Butte County residents by preventing mental health and physical health disorders. Efforts will target three areas: healthy eating, physical activity, and connection and meaning.

In addition to the three large grants, the Butte Strong Fund made the following awards through its Small Grant Program:

- \$50,000 to the Paradise Animal Shelter Helpers for the shelter's expansion project. The effort will improve spaces where the staff and public interact, add exam and treatment rooms, expand isolation areas for sick animals, double the cat capacity, enhance outdoor access, create adoption facilities and reduce noise levels for animal comfort.
- \$50,000 to the Camp Fire Collaborative so it can re-grant the dollars for organizations that want to create public events tied to the five-year anniversary of the fire on Nov. 8.
- \$50,000 to Sol Sanctuary to continue its community wellness program, which is dedicated to enhancing emotional and spiritual well-being among Camp Fire survivors and the community. Sol Sanctuary offers events, group wellness activities, life coaching and educational programs.
- \$25,000 to Chico State Ecological Reserves to provide continued support for its ecotherapy program for Camp Fire survivors. The program will serve at least 3,000 fire survivors through professionally guided forest therapy experiences.
- \$20,000 to Oroville Hope Center to continue its Camp Fire counseling services. The grant offers six sessions of individual, couples or family counseling over a year to at least 40 low-income individuals affected by the fire.
- \$11,692 to HomeTech Charter School for its Balanced Brain Project. The program aims to enhance the mental well-being of trauma-affected youth using creativity and self-awareness practices. The project employs a 36-week curriculum accessible through in-person and virtual means.
- \$10,000 to Chico Unified School District for the League of Stars Mentor Program. The grant seeks to address the academic and social-emotional needs of CUSD high school students, focusing on those affected by the Camp Fire and COVID-19 pandemic. The grant will support program activities, including student field trips, mentor meetings and staff development.

The Butte Strong Fund is a partnership of NVCF, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund.

The grants total \$1,216,692 and bring the total of grants and projects funded to \$63,796,336 since the Camp Fire on Nov. 8, 2018.