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Grants totaling $50,000 from Chico native Aaron Rodgers will buy meals, groceries and help other programs benefiting Butte County children in response to the coronavirus crisis.

“Aaron called us and said he wanted to do something to help Butte County children during this upheaval,” said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, president and CEO of NVCF. “That’s the way he was after the Camp Fire and the way he has remained since then – our area and our children are so important to him.”

Rodgers, the Green Bay Packers quarterback who played at Pleasant Valley High School and Butte College, deployed $50,000 from his Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund, which is intended for long-term recovery of the area.

The largest grant, $20,000, went to the Boys and Girls Club of the North Valley. The organization is offering dinners for curbside pickup for children only. Distributions are in Chico and Paradise. The donations will allow the service to continue for several more weeks, according to Rashell Brobst, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of the North Valley.

“We are grateful to the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Recovery Fund and NVCF for supporting our relief efforts to ensure that no child goes hungry during this unprecedented time,” said Brobst. “Our team is working tirelessly to support and case manage the most vulnerable families in our community by preparing and serving food and supporting them with gift cards so they can stay safely at home.

“This grant will help us to safely continue these relief efforts and ensure that we can respond to not only our Boys and Girls Club families, but our greater community and additional families that have been referred to our case management team.”

Grants of $5,000 were made to:

- Youth for Change 6th Street Center: The center in Chico provides shelter and other services to foster children who are homeless.
Youth for Change Family Place: The organization in Oroville supports families with young children. The contributions will be used to purchase food, diapers, gas and other assistance for families.

Valley Oak Children's Services: The organization’s Parent Café’ Program offers drive-up or delivery services to families in Gridley, Chico and Oroville and would like to expand this service to Paradise.

Lilliput: The organization, which focuses on reunification of families in the child welfare system, will use the money for grocery cards and other needs for families in their program.

YMCA of Oroville: The organization has been providing an emergency day camp, food and child care.

Yellow Door: The organization serves children on the autism spectrum and their families. The grant will augment the Yellow Door Cares fund for emergency response.