



BUTTE STRONG

FUND



AARON RODGERS
NORCAL
FIRE RECOVERY
FUND at NVCF



Contacts:

David Little, executive vice president, communications, North Valley Community Foundation. Email: dlittle@nvcf.org, 530-891-1150, ext. 300.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 7, 2021

The Butte Strong Fund has approved \$750,000 in grants for two housing programs for Camp Fire survivors.

A grant of \$500,000 will allow the Chico Housing Action Team to help at least 120 households secure housing over the course of two years. A grant of \$250,000 was approved for Volunteers Rebuilding Our Community.

Both CHAT and VROC have been heavily involved in the effort to connect fire survivors with housing and both have worked closely with the Butte Strong Fund.

The Butte Strong Fund is a partnership of fundraising efforts led by NVCF, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. and Aaron Rodgers, the Chico native and three-time NFL Most Valuable Player.

CHAT's Camp Fire Housing Access Model Program (CHAMP) has already helped 81 households get homes with prior funding from the California Community Foundation, Global Giving and United Way. CHAMP's individualized approach helps overcome obstacles that stand in the way of getting housing, whether it's help with move-in costs, rent or incentives to landlords.

"Receiving this wonderfully generous grant through the Butte Strong Fund program will make a real, life-changing difference for many Camp Fire survivors who have been unable to regain any long-term housing stability since the fire, and continue to struggle

with the after effects of that tragic event," said Leslie Johnson, executive director of CHAT.

Referrals to the CHAMP program come from multiple sources, including case managers, government agencies and social service organizations. Learn more about the program at www.chicohousingactionteam.net.

VROC is a program of the Hope Crisis Response Network. In early 2019, the organization established a full-time presence in Paradise, in part with funding from the Butte Strong Fund and support from Paradise Alliance Church and many others.

The organization relies on case managers to qualify homeowners who would benefit from the program, including elderly, low-income and disabled individuals, as well as single-parent families and others.

The grant will help cover some rebuilding costs for qualified individuals. It also will pay for two client advocates to support homeowners through the rebuilding process. Learn more about the program at <https://hcrn.info/paradise-volunteer-housing>.

Other Butte Strong Fund grants awarded in the past month include:

- \$50,000 for gift vouchers and organizational support to the Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council, which has played a vital support role in the Concow and Yankee Hill areas since the Camp Fire. The grant supports businesses in the area through a voucher program, with vouchers to fire survivors that are redeemable at businesses in the Concow/Yankee Hill area. The grant also funds an office manager, who is helping coordinate fire prevention projects.
- \$43,340 for a food assessment study coordinated through the Butte County Local Food Network. The organization hopes to complete the study by the end of summer, the start of a process to create a network to address food insecurity and food distribution in the region.
- \$21,500 for community gatherings in Paradise through Paradise Alliance Church.

The five grants issued in the past month total \$864,840. The North Valley Community Foundation has now awarded more than \$42 million for community recovery via Camp Fire funds since the devastating fire on Nov. 8, 2018.

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.