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The CARE Team, an innovative youth suicide response program that has helped hundreds of Butte County families, will have a new home starting in July.

North Valley Community Foundation will hand off the CARE Team to Healthy Rural California, a nonprofit dedicated to improving health and health equity in Northern California.

“We started the CARE Team for two main reasons – because the program was badly needed in the wake of the Camp Fire and other local challenges, and because nobody else was doing it,” said NVCF President and CEO Alexa Benson-Valavanis. “NVCF is nimble and brave. It’s easier for an organization like ours to start an innovative program where one didn’t exist. But we did so with the recognition that if we could find an organization better suited to be the CARE Team’s permanent home once the program was on firm footing and running smoothly, we could hand it off.

“After months of discussion and collaboration, NVCF is convinced that Healthy Rural California, with its mission to provide health care and mental health services to our underserved area, is the perfect organization to manage the CARE Team,” she said. “The CARE Team fits HRC’s mission well and HRC is enthusiastic to manage the program for the long term. HRC can use its connections in the health care and mental health field and its focused grant writing capabilities to help the CARE Team thrive in its permanent home.”

The CARE (Community, Assessment, Response and Education) Team started in October 2021. The program activates quickly to wrap compassionate support around young people and their families when a young person is struggling with suicidal ideation, has attempted suicide or has taken their life by suicide. The team develops individualized care plans, connecting families to community resources and facilitating swift access to traditional and nontraditional care at no cost.

To date, the program has supported nearly 500 youth and caregivers facing suicidal ideation and mental health challenges.

"The CARE Team provides essential support for youth and their families," said Healthy Rural California CEO, President and Graduate Medical Education Administrator Kristy Bird MaKieve. "It is truly an honor to transition the team to Healthy Rural California. We have already begun planning for fundraising and applying for grants to ensure a smooth transition and a sustainable future for the CARE Team."

As a sponsoring institution accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, Healthy Rural California's Psychiatry Residency and Family Medicine Residency are directly addressing systemic access to care issues. In addition, Healthy Rural California is dedicated to community health programs that include youth prevention, harm reduction, health care pathways and medical education programs.

Healthy Rural California also provides fiscal and administrative support of Butte-Glenn Medical Society and North Valley Medical Association, representing health care leadership in 10 counties.

Donate to Healthy Rural California to provide funding for the CARE Team at www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=W9UHTA62GZ55E.