



FOUND

NVCF.ORG

## Contact:

David Little, executive vice president. Email: <u>dlittle@nvcf.org</u>. Phone: 530-891-1150, ext. 300.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 29, 2024

The North Valley Community Foundation has announced a first round of eight grants totaling \$75,000 to help with Park Fire response and relief.

The Park Fire started just five days ago and has already burned more than 370,000 acres in Butte and Tehama counties. More than 100 structures have been destroyed.

"Right now we are focusing on supporting the immediate needs of the people in the region and their animals," said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. "As a humanitarian and a disaster response organization, we stand ready for this work. At the same time, our hearts are broken for our communities in the path of this firestorm. We will do everything we can to help. And, like with the Camp Fire, NVCF will stay in this recovery work for as long as it takes."

The fire, which started in Chico's Bidwell Park, is already the sixth largest wildfire in California history. Butte and Tehama counties have been home to four of the 10 largest wildfires ever in California.

The first round of grants to nonprofits working on the fire includes:

- North Valley Animal Disaster Group (\$10,000), which has helped rescue and house hundreds of animals for residents who were evacuated.
- Butte County Search and Rescue (\$10,000), for new radios and other needs to help the all-volunteer organization respond to the fire.
- Butte-Glenn 211 (\$10,000), to help the organization respond to evacuees and connect them to available resources.
- Boys and Girls Clubs of the North Valley (\$10,000), to assist families evacuated because of the fire.
- American Red Cross (\$10,000), to assist evacuees at the shelters.

- Northern Valley Catholic Social Service (\$10,000), for mental health services for those affected by the fire and evacuation.
- Watch Duty (\$10,000), for keeping residents informed about the fire and evacuations through its smartphone app.
- Moms of the Ridge (\$5,000), to address the emotional needs of children in the area through activities that bring them together in safe spaces.

NVCF has a history of raising money and issuing wildfire grants to trusted and vetted organizations that help wildfire survivors. NVCF has issued more than \$67 million in grants for Camp Fire since 2018. NVCF has also awarded \$3 million for Dixie Fire recovery, more than \$1.1 million for the North Complex Fire and \$150,000 just this month for the Thompson Fire near Oroville.

Individuals, organizations and businesses can contribute to NVCF's Park Fire response by donating to our Wildfire Relief and Recovery Fund at nvcf.org/wildfire.