



Mission of the Neighbors Fund

The Fund aims to provide assistance to individuals and families affected by community-wide emergencies, such as floods, earthquakes or flu pandemics. Here are some of the areas the Fund has focused on, in response to community-wide emergencies:

- Convened planning meetings of nonprofit organizations with a role in emergency response and recovery. **What we saw:** The 2006 New Year's Eve flood in Napa shed light on the collaborative efforts of nonprofits and the County to help those affected. The experience highlighted a need for these agencies to begin planning now for future disasters, so response and recovery can be even more effective. We also anticipate that several leaders who specialize in disaster relief will retire in the next few years, and capturing their knowledge is essential for continuity and progress.
- Drafted a functional emergency/disaster plan that delineates for the community the roles of the various nonprofit organizations and of the County. **What we saw:** Napa County and the nonprofit community have a rich history of providing needed assistance during and in the aftermath of disasters such as fires, floods and earthquakes. Yet, there was no plan that integrates nonprofits and government. The flooding also reminded us that a disaster response needs to minimize redundancies, eliminate gaps in service, and be well-coordinated.
- Developed an inventory of nonprofit assets that are available for use during an emergency. **What we saw:** Generally, local officials know what they can expect from nonprofits with a direct role in the emergency response phase (e.g., American Red Cross) or the recovery phase (e.g., Catholic Charities) of a disaster. However, several dozen local nonprofits have important assets to contribute, such as medical staff, therapists and grief counselors, or translators. An inventory of these assets will allow officials and service providers to access these resources quickly during emergency situations.

Examples of Projects

\$350,000 for temporary housing assistance, food, clothing and household items to families and individuals affected by the January 2006 New Year's Eve flood.

\$130,000 to support the nonprofit agencies providing direct services to victims of the January 2006 New Year's Eve flood.

\$30,000 for a disaster planning expert to: convene planning meetings of nonprofit organizations with a role in emergency response and recovery; draft a functional emergency/disaster plan; and develop an inventory of nonprofit "disaster" assets.

How to Apply

The Fund is open for applications in response to community-wide health or natural-disaster emergencies. Grant decisions are made at the discretion of the Community Foundation Board of Directors, with recommendations from staff. For more information, please contact Marla Tofle at 707.254.9565.