

NAPA VALLEY

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Terence Mulligan, President, Napa Valley Community Foundation
707.254.9565 x 11

NAPA FIRE RECOVERY CENTER OFFERS RE-HOUSING SERVICES FOR THOSE MADE HOMELESS BY THE OCTOBER WILDFIRES; CONTINUED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS IS ALSO AVAILABLE

January 25 – Napa, CA – Napa Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) has launched a pop-up recovery center to help individuals and families affected by the Napa Fire Complex. The Napa Fire Recovery Center is offering re-housing services for those who were made homeless as a result of the October wildfires, predominantly uninsured renters; and providing financial assistance to people who may not have lost their homes, but have nonetheless encountered economic hardship because of the temporary slow-down of the viticulture and hospitality economy in the region. Re-housing services and financial assistance are available to individuals who live or work in Napa County; earn up to 120 percent of Area Median Income; and have not received sufficient support from private insurance, government aid programs or other sources. To qualify for help, people will be asked to provide documents to substantiate their fire-related losses, such as proof of residency at a home or apartment that appears on the county’s list of red-tagged properties.

The Napa Fire Recovery Center – located at 3299 Claremont Way, Suite 8, in Napa – is powered by the generosity of 20,000 donors across the country, each of whom has contributed to the Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund managed by NVCF in recent months. The Center is staffed by three nonprofit organizations with expertise in re-housing, case management and individual assistance programs. Abode Services and On the Move are housed in the Claremont Way location, and Up Valley Family Centers is operating a satellite branch of the Center at its established sites in Calistoga and St. Helena. Fire survivors in need of assistance are encouraged to schedule an appointment by calling [\(707\) 363-8390](tel:7073638390), or by sending an email to info@napaefa.org. The Napa Fire Recovery Center is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and will operate until June 30, 2018 unless changing circumstances warrant otherwise.

“This is a storefront operation I wish our community didn’t need, but the fact is, we need it,” said NVCF President Terence Mulligan. “In Napa Valley, too many people are still struggling to find their way back to some semblance of normalcy, post-fires – even though the last flames were doused three months ago.” The December exit of government disaster aid programs, the seasonal drop in visitors to the Valley, and the pressure placed on an already crowded rental market by residents using private insurance proceeds to snap up available properties in Napa County have sharpened NVCF’s focus on re-housing services and financial assistance, he added.

“The Napa Fire Center is a collaborative effort, and our goal is to make an often difficult process as seamless as possible for those who still need help,” said Alissa Abdo, Executive Director of On the Move. “I’m proud to be working closely with Abode Services, UpValley Family Centers and Napa Valley Community Foundation,” she continued, noting that other services were likely to be added to the Center’s menu, over time, such as mental health counseling and legal assistance. The nonprofits staffing the Center will coordinate their financial assistance programs with other charitable groups in the Valley involved in distributing cash aid to fire survivors, to ensure equity and avoid duplication of benefits.

About the Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund

The Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund is managed by Napa Valley Community Foundation and was established with a \$10 million lead gift from [Napa Valley Vintners](#) following the 2014 South Napa Earthquake. After all phases of quake-related relief, recovery and rebuilding programs concluded in 2016, the Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund had a balance of approximately \$2.5 million, which was the starting point for current relief and recovery efforts for the Napa Fire Complex. Since the Fund was re-activated on October 10, 2017, nearly \$14 million has been contributed by 20,000 individual, corporate and foundation donors in California, the US and abroad. Growers and vintners in Napa Valley have contributed significantly to assist those affected by the October wildfires, and their generosity has inspired their many friends, customers and partners to get involved, as well. Thus far, \$4 million has been distributed from the Fund to provide 15,000 fire survivors with services and nearly 1,900 households with direct cash assistance. The most recent grant approved by the Fund, of up to \$3 million, will support the Napa Fire Recovery Center and its clients.

About Napa Valley Community Foundation

Napa Valley Community Foundation helps donors transform their passion for giving into greater impact. Now celebrating 24 years of service to Napa Valley, NVCF has served as a bridge between philanthropic families and hard-working nonprofit agencies since 1994, bringing people, ideas and resources together to enhance the quality of life in our community. From American Canyon to Calistoga, NVCF has distributed more than \$50 million in grants since it was founded, and currently serves as the philanthropic partner to 100 individuals, families, nonprofit agencies and corporations in Napa Valley. To learn more, please visit www.napavalleycf.org.

About Area Median Income

In the first hours and days following a disaster, everyone who needs charitable assistance deserves to receive it, regardless of their level of income or wealth. That's why emergency shelters take care of evacuees from wealthy neighborhoods and low-income neighborhoods alike. However, as time passes and days turn into weeks, IRS rules require charities like NVCF to assess the financial resources survivors may have at their disposal to assist in their own recovery – such as private insurance, savings or access to government disaster aid dollars. For this reason, and because NVCF believes strongly in the equitable distribution of disaster aid resources, eligibility for cash aid and re-housing programs from the Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund is currently capped at 120 percent of Area Median Income (AMI). Please see page 9 of the document available for [download here](#) to learn more about AMI for families of different sizes in Napa County.

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