

NAPA VALLEY

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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7,000 FIRE VICTIMS HAVE RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM THE DISASTER RELIEF FUND SO FAR; DEADLINE FOR CASH AID PROGRAM EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER 15

November 22, 2017 – Napa, CA – Since the outbreak of the Napa Fire Complex in early October, a special fund established to provide immediate and long-term assistance to those affected by the disaster has helped more than 7,000 residents to-date. The Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund, which is housed at and managed by Napa Valley Community Foundation (NVCF), has approved distributions totaling \$4 million in the last six weeks, including:

-- \$565,000 that provided immediate relief services to more than 6,000 residents since October 8, such as meals, temporary shelter, emergency childcare during school closures (and at the various shelter sites in Napa County), medical care, mental health services and assistance for the elderly and those with special needs. Sixteen local nonprofits which had been pre-approved for disaster funding from NVCF helped local residents at several sites in Napa County, including the Local Assistance Center (LAC).

-- \$3 million to launch an Emergency Financial Assistance program that has provided cash aid so far to approximately 1,000 families since October 27, all of whom live or work in Napa County and are facing serious financial hardships because of the economic slow-down brought about by the October wildfires. Financial assistance is currently scheduled to be distributed through December 15, an extension from the original application deadline of November 9. Appointments can be made by contacting On the Move at 707-251-9432.

"Disaster relief is charity in its truest form," said NVCF President Terence Mulligan. "We're fortunate to work year-round with great partners in the nonprofit sector and local government. These relationships help us understand current and emerging disaster-related needs, and enable us to direct our resources to fire victims that might otherwise fall through the gaps. We know that many of the nonprofits helping us now have given up other sources of funding to be of immediate service to fire victims, so part of our approach is to support them financially as we also fund direct services and cash aid to those affected by the fires."

Michele Grupe, Executive Director of Cope Family Center, one of the distribution sites for Emergency Financial Assistance, said: "Since the fires started, we reallocated most of our resources to support the shelters, staff the LAC, and develop and execute the Emergency Financial Assistance program. Our regular services are primarily paid for by government contracts and foundation grants. We cannot ethically or legally bill those contracts for emergency and recovery services, so financial support from the Disaster Relief Fund has been essential to our being able to do the work of helping fire victims. Because we help families manage crisis and trauma year-round, our staff's expertise has been essential to helping the individuals who came

through our family resource center, many of whom had been experiencing pretty severe fire-related trauma and anxiety. Through a partnership with Napa County Mental Health, we had these families immediately seen in our office for more intensive mental health support.”

The next round of grants from NVCF will include a series of workshops to help Napa County residents navigate the application process for private insurance reimbursements, and also is likely to include additional funding to further extend the Emergency Financial Assistance program. NVCF will make a grant to United Policyholders (UP), a nonprofit insurance consumer advocacy group with extensive disaster-related experience, to conduct these workshops and provide individualized assistance at no-cost to Napa County residents, with a particular focus on small businesses, low-income residents, and Latino families. The first workshop is being planned now for mid-December.

About Napa Valley Community Foundation

Napa Valley Community Foundation helps donors transform their passion for giving into greater impact. Now celebrating 23 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.

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