Carr Fire Relief Fund Report

AUGUST 2022
When we talk about long-term recovery, it can often times be seen as an abstract concept. What does recovery really look like? How will these funds be put to use? In the four years that have passed since the Carr Fire reached Redding, we have been able to help rebuild homes, provide for mental health and trauma support, come together as a community to honor and observe, and put into practice a myriad of prevention and mitigation efforts.

The recovery process can seem like a long one at times, but it takes many hands to come together. We worked with a number of dedicated and determined organizations, many that donated time and materials to help expedite getting people back into homes. In the midst of so much loss and destruction, we stayed the course.

We are happy to share here with you some of these stories – of rebuilding and reconnecting, of recognizing the past, but also looking forward. As we enter the mid-way point of 2022, we have formally expended all of the designated Carr Fire funds. We have helped rebuild 28 homes for those lost, including addressing a plethora of utility needs as well as homeowner’s insurance. We have facilitated a lot of cleanup and prevention work on the trails in Redding and are currently continuing mitigation work in that realm. We also have recently provided seed funding for the next phase of Whiskeytown Environmental Camp, so that students can once again learn and play in this amazing natural resource.

We thank you for your support of this community. If anything the last four years have reinforced, it is that Shasta County remains resilient, and always #shastastrong.

Regards,

Kerry Caranci
CEO Community Foundation of the North State
Timeline

2018

Sept - Grants for utility deposits and rental assistance through programs at NVCSS

Oct - Assist with erosion control via Western Shasta Resource Conservation District

Nov - Grants to Redding Trail Alliance for trail maintenance and equipment

Dec - Granted $4,500 for holiday gifts/activities for Carr Fire families

2019

Jan - Begin work with Salvation Army on utility poles, septic systems, water lines, water tanks, gravel, soil, and grading

April - Support outreach of CalHope Shasta by providing propane gift cards

June - Infrastructure needs addressed relating to water and sewer installation at survivor homes sites

July - “Redding Remembers” one-year anniversary event with the City of Redding

September - Support community-wide art program and exhibit with ART from the Ashes

Nov - Cover fire suppression systems and permit fees for 12 homes via Shasta Builders Exchange

2020

Feb - Purchase manufactured homes including fees assoc. with escrow, title insurance and legal review

May - Reconstruction of survivor sheds and fences through California Heritage Youth Build Academy

July - Provide for one-year homeowners insurance policies for homes rebuilt through CRT process

Nov - Provide fire mitigation materials to survivor homes (fire resistant siding, sprinkler infrastructure, etc)

2021-22

Shasta Builders Exchange to administer construction, title, and property record documents and provide support for remaining homes
For Stea and Wayne McLaughlin, the days after the Carr Fire destroyed their home off Iron Mountain Road were just about survival. Their drinking and bathing water came from 100 yards of hot hose a distance from the ruins of their home. As they began to pick up the remnants of their former lives, sorting through appliances and photo albums, an aid worker came by with a restaurant gift card.

"We walked out the door with that nice meal, I just couldn't even tell you," Stea said. "We were in the dirt out here, all the ash. We were trying to figure out how to eat, what to do, everything was smoky and dusty. Everywhere you turn was just dust and all your favorite trees and plants are gone. You're trying to feed yourself and all of a sudden it occurs to you - we could go sit in a restaurant and look through a window. That was the best."

The McLaughlins had moved to their home on Iron Mountain a number of years prior to help care for Wayne's ailing parents. After they passed, Stea and Wayne stayed, settling in beside the manzanita and thickly wooded conifers. After the Carr Fire, aid workers showed up to help the McLaughlins through the rebuilding process.

"You know how to donate," Stea said. "You know how to call up and offer things, but you don't know how to ask. It's one of those things where you don't even know that you need things half the time. We had no idea what we needed - I mean, we were doing without, but we were doing without a lot."

First, they got water, then an electric pole was installed, eventually a gift card to pick out furniture. And by the summer of 2021, the McLaughlin's were fully moved into their air-conditioned, factory-built home. The landscape around them had changed. The charred trees still dot much of the route toward Whiskeytown Lake. But, it's another beginning of sorts, after so much loss. One Stea is eager to embrace.

"We'd like to shout it from the rooftops," she said. "But, we haven't got a ladder for this house yet."

It's hard to ask for anything, but every once in awhile someone says, you need it, do it, let us help you. And when you finally let them help you, it's that easy. It's the same as helping someone else. It's not so hard to get to."

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"We lost our home that we raised our kids in. We have a new home now, a new chance to make memories. Family can come over on the holidays, we can call be together again. That makes it worthwhile right there."

CINDY & BROOKS MCLAUGHLIN

Learn more about the McLaughlin’s rebuilding process here
Carr Recovery By-The-Numbers

- **Rebuild 24 factory-built homes**
- **Rebuild 4 stick-built homes**
- **Power poles for 36 households**
- **Gift cards for 150 households**
- **Septic repairs for 43 households**
- **House/pad fill for 11 households**
- **Gravel for 11 households**
- **Electrical repairs for 18 households**
- **Waterline repairs for 22 households**
- **Debris removal for 4 households**
- **Erosion control for 20 parcels**
- **Culverts for 2 households**
While much of the residential rebuilding has been completed, other restoration projects remain underway.

**Whiskeytown Environmental School**

The Community Foundation granted $225,264 to WES Camp to help with rebuilding.

7 cabins burned and other buildings were damaged during the Carr Fire.

Half of the funds WES Camp raises will go toward rebuilding damaged structures.

The other half will be allocated toward infrastructure, repairs, furnishings and fixtures.

Modular housing and dining facilities mean 4,000 students will be able to return to WES Camp by 2023.

Visit https://www.wescommunity.org to learn more about the work underway.

**Bethel Global Response**

The Community Foundation granted $386,028 to Bethel Global Response to focus on fire mitigation efforts in the City of Redding.

Grant funds are being used for staffing, fuel costs, equipment maintenance, operational supplies and personal PPE.

They are utilizing a six-person crew and BGR-owned forestry equipment.

BGR is clearing any burnt brush, tree, or material within a 30ft margin of the trails.

Areas of focus include: the Sacramento River Trail, Lower Salt Creek Trail, and West Side Trail.
A special thank you to our partners whose on-the-ground efforts helped bring the numerous Carr Fire projects to fruition. We are grateful to help fund the work and would like to recognize their contributions.