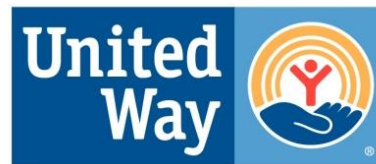


## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**United Way  
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### **Cheney Foundation Gives \$250,000 to Dixie Fire Fund** *United Way Will Distribute Aid in Greenville and Nearby Communities*

REDDING, CA (Aug. 23, 2021) — United Way of Northern California (UWNC) Monday announced it was receiving a grant of \$250,000 from the Ben B. Cheney Foundation to support its wildfire recovery and relief work. The primary use of the funds will be to help in the recovery of Greenville and surrounding areas that were devastated by the Dixie Fire, which continues to rage across multiple Northern California counties.

The Cheney Foundation, based in Tacoma, WA, has a legacy of giving in the region. Cheney Lumber Co. used to operate in Greenville and maintains former mill property in Westwood, another California community threatened by the fire.

“This generous gift truly shows the heart and commitment of this foundation,” said Larry Olmstead, President & CEO of United Way of Northern California. “We appreciate the confidence and trust it demonstrates in United Way’s ability to carry out our mission of providing hope and recovery to the survivors of this destructive wildfire season.”

“Our primary focus at the Cheney Foundation is to support the communities that supported the Cheney Lumber Company,” said Brad Cheney, Executive Director of the Ben B. Cheney Foundation. “We are heartbroken to see the loss in Greenville, which was for decades the site of Cheney Lumber’s most productive mill. While this grant won’t solve every need, our aim is to bring some hope to those affected by the fire.”

UWNC has launched a \$2 million campaign to provide wildfire relief and recovery to rural communities throughout the North State. The region is enduring wildfires that have all but leveled the towns of Greenville (Plumas County) and Doyle (Lassen County) and forced tens of thousands of evacuations. Exact numbers are still uncertain, but well over 500 residential structures in the region have been destroyed thus far during the wildfire season, which will extend through at least October.

Money donated to UWNC for wildfire relief is used to provide emergency financial assistance for evacuees and survivors; pay expenses related to intermediate and long-term housing; provide grants to partner non-profits that are working on relief and recovery, including case management for survivors; support information and referral services through the 2-1-1 NorCal helpline, and pay for operational expenses related specifically to relief and recovery.

UWNC over the past three years has distributed more than \$10.7 million in wildfire relief. Nearly \$8.5 million of that amount has helped survivors of the 2018 Camp Fire, which destroyed 14,000 dwellings and much of the Butte County community of Paradise. Another \$1.7 million assisted survivors of the 2018 Carr Fire, which destroyed 1,200 homes in Redding and other Shasta County communities.

“We are still providing about \$100,000 per month in housing assistance to Camp Fire survivors and will continue to do so for probably a couple more years,” Olmstead said. “We are also continuing to support recovery of 2020 wildfires, including the North Complex Fire in Butte and Plumas counties, and the Slater Fire in Siskiyou County. Our resources, and the resources of our partner agencies, are getting stretched thin. There is an urgent need for more funding.”

Tax deductible donations to UWNC can be made by visiting [www.norcalunitedway.org](http://www.norcalunitedway.org) and clicking the “Donate” button; by texting “norcalfire” to 91999, or by mailing a check to United Way of Northern California, c/o Wildfire & Disaster Fund, 3300 Churn Creek Road, Redding, CA 96002. Questions or requests for further information can be directed to Olmstead, at [lolmstead@norcalunitedway.org](mailto:lolmstead@norcalunitedway.org), 530-241-7521 xt 120; or Astrid Withrow, Chief Development Officer, [awithrow@norcalunitedway.org](mailto:awithrow@norcalunitedway.org), 530-241-7521, xt 123.

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**About United Way of Northern California:**

United Way of Northern California (UWNC) was established in Redding in 1953 and serves nine counties: Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity. Its mission is to fight for the education, income and health of all residents in the community and to assist in times of crisis. UWNC is active in disaster relief and recovery, raises funds for non-profit agencies and operates three 24/7 human services helplines: 2-1-1 Shasta, 2-1-1 Siskiyou and 2-1-1 Tehama, collectively known as 2-1-1 NorCal. For more information about United Way of Northern California visit [www.norcalunitedway.org](http://www.norcalunitedway.org).

**About the Ben B. Cheney Foundation:**

The Ben B. Cheney Foundation began grant making as a private foundation in 1975. After 46 years, the Foundation has made more than 5,780 grants, providing more than \$106,653,000 in support to the communities we serve. Ben B. Cheney formed the Cheney Lumber Company in 1936 and was involved with the lumber industry until his death in 1971. A tireless businessman and innovator, he is credited with standardizing the length of building studs at eight feet, a concept that reduced discarded and wasted wood. At the time of the sale of the Cheney mill interests in 1974, efficient, modern mills were operating in Tacoma, Washington; Central Point, Oregon; and Pondosa and Greenville, California. Learn more about the Ben B. Cheney Foundation at [www.benbcheneyfoundation.org](http://www.benbcheneyfoundation.org).