

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**United Way  
of Northern California**

### **United Way to Assist Fire-Stricken Communities**

*Emergency Funds Will Help Eight Agencies in Butte, Plumas, Siskiyou Counties*

REDDING, CA (September 10, 2020) — United Way of Northern California (UWNC) announced Thursday a total of \$80,000 in emergency funding to eight agencies helping residents affected by wildfires that have destroyed homes and forced thousands of evacuations in Butte, Plumas and Siskiyou counties.

“These emergency grants will put resources immediately on the ground to help people displaced by these fires,” said Larry Olmstead, President & CEO of United Way of Northern California. “We are particularly worried about Oroville in Butte County, and Happy Camp in Siskiyou. These are just the first funds that will need to go out, as we are in the early stages of this relief effort.”

Olmstead called urgently for donations to UWNC’s Wildfire & Disaster Relief Fund ([www.NorCalUnited.co/respond](http://www.NorCalUnited.co/respond)). “Currently, we have wildfires burning in eight of the nine counties in our territory. The Bear and Slater fires already have resulted in casualties and homes lost. As always, we will be there for our communities, but we are counting on our generous donors to help us meet the challenge, as they have in the past.”

The Bear Fire – now formally known as the North Complex West Zone Fire – has burned at least 2,000 structures in Butte and Plumas counties, resulting in at least 10 fatalities. UWNC grants will help the following agencies deliver shelter, food, clothing, gasoline and other essentials to survivors and evacuees:

American Red Cross, \$25,000  
Oroville Hope Center, \$5,000  
Oroville Rescue Mission, \$5,000  
Oroville Southside Community Improvement Association, \$5,000  
Plumas Crisis Information & Resource Center, \$5,000  
Tzu Chi Foundation, \$5,000

The Slater Fire in Siskiyou and Del Norte counties in California, as well as Josephine County, OR, has killed two people and burned at least 150 homes in Happy Camp, Siskiyou County. United Way emergency grants will support the following agency’s relief efforts:

Happy Camp Community Action Inc., \$25,000  
Rescue Ranch Adoption Center, \$5,000

Residents in Butte, Glenn, Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama counties are reminded they can receive crisis-related information and referrals by dialing 2-1-1. Help Central Inc., operates 2-1-1 in Butte and Glenn. UWNC operates the service in the other counties. All North State residents also can text WILDFIRE to 211-211 to receive automated updates.

Tax deductible donations to UWNC can be also be made by visiting [www.norcalunitedway.org](http://www.norcalunitedway.org) and clicking the “Donate” button; texting “norcalfire” to 91999, or by mailing a check to United Way of Northern California, c/o Wildfire & Disaster Fund, 2280 Benton Drive, Building B, Redding CA 96003.

UWNC meanwhile is continuing to serve survivors of the 2018 Camp and Carr fires, with \$3 million in financial assistance scheduled for distribution in 2020. United Way also has a robust COVID-19 assistance program underway, with direct aid to individuals impacted by the pandemic, along with contributions to small business assistance programs and homeless shelters. “We are doing our best to meet the urgent needs of our communities,” Olmstead said.

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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. 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)