

DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICES

APRIL 2024

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CLIENT SUCCESSES

In March, two Disaster Case Management Program clients began the online application process for the Housing & Community Development CDBG-DR RECoverCA grant process. (See *ReCoverCA Grants* article on page 3 for more information). Five DCMP clients who ran into trouble during the inspection of their power pedestal installation had their problems resolved in March and new inspections set up again – a step forward on the road to recovery. The DCMP Data Analyst learned of a program called Craftsmen for Christ that builds ramps for senior citizens who need them. One of PRS's Disaster Case Managers coordinated with a client and the Data Analyst to arrange for the group to come up in March and complete a ramp for the client.





Paula Johnston

MEET OUR STAFF

PAULA JOHNSTON
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Paula Johnston moved to Plumas County in 1991 and started working for Plumas Rural Services as the agency's Secretary/Bookkeeper. She moved to the area with her husband who grew up here. They raised their family in Blairsden and Portola, and Paula has worked continuously for PRS advancing through the position of Human Resource Director to her current position as Chief Operating Officer.

In the wake of the Dixie Fire, PRS began supporting fire survivors with critical needs and helped to create the Disaster Case Management Program with funding provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Paula continues to oversee the agency's Disaster Recovery services and support to this day. She served as the Chair for both the Disaster Case Management and the Emotional and Spiritual Wellbeing Committees when the Dixie Fire Collaborative (DFC) launched. She still chairs the Disaster Case Management Committee for the DFC.

Paula says, "I am inspired by staff that are dedicated to recovery, as well as seeing people on the road to

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recovery and getting back to a certain level of stability in their lives." One of her favorite projects has been the implementation of the Nature Made program for local youth in the summer time. "Watching the kids have fun in this space that was untouched by the fire gives us all a moment of pure joy in a space that feels safe and kind of magical," she says. "There's still a sense there of what was 'normal' before the fire."

When Paula is not working to support Dixie Fire survivors and other PRS programs, she enjoys paper crafting, crocheting, and baking. She also enjoys spending quality time with her family and their beloved cat, Wesley.

COLORING CONTEST

The Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) and Dixie Fire Resource Center (DFRC) teamed up to host an Easter Coloring Contest in March. Youth were invited to submit their coloring pages across three different age categories. DFRC donated 3 Easter 'baskets', one for the winner in each age group. The submissions were fantastic from all participants, shining a very bright light on the start of the spring season.

Congratulations to our winners, and a big thank you to everyone who participated!



AMERICORPS TEAM

PRS is excited to announce that we have been awarded an AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) team this summer. A group of nine young adults will arrive in early June to provide six weeks of service and support around our area. You may see them around doing brush clearing, fuels mitigation, helping to move Indian valley academy, working with the museums, cleaning the Indian Valley welcome sign, supporting the Quincy Fire Department, helping at Lost Sierra Food Project, participating in many community events, and more.

This group of hard-working individuals is joining us at the end of their 10-month commitment to AmeriCorps. The NCCC program recruits teams of individuals 18-26 years old. Each team works together for a 10-month commitment and serves local and national nonprofits by completing hands-on projects. The program focuses on efforts such as building affordable housing, disaster response, supporting climate change mitigation, and more. Teams travel the country, typically serving nonprofit partners in each location for 6-13 weeks at a time. Team members, in turn, receive a small stipend, training in leadership and technical skills, educational awards (to pay for future educational expenses or repay qualified student loans), and potential benefits from schools they attend or apply for such as application fee waivers or scholarships.

We hope you join us in welcoming the AmeriCorps NCCC team to our community and showing them our gratitude for their help.



DCMP HAPPENINGS

A group of Disaster Case Management Program staff attended a training given by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on "How to Offer Spiritual and Emotional Care After a Disaster". The training provided new information and reminders of the emotional timeline as it relates to disasters. This knowledge is helpful for DCMP staff as they continue to work with and care for fire survivors.

In coordination with the Dixie Fire Collaborative and Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, DCMP staff hosted a "Mock Intake" for ReCoverCA Grant (see below) applicants in Greenville. Community members had the opportunity to ask questions, and staff collected intake documents. Some attendees applied for the grant online, some by phone. The "Mock Intake" was a service to community members and DCMP clients to help them understand the grant eligibility and receive a checklist of the documents needed with their application.

RECOVER CA GRANTS

The California Department of Housing and Community Development is providing funding through ReCoverCA Housing Programs to homeowners affected by the Dixie Fire. Homeowners and landlords (willing to rent to low-to-moderate income households) may be eligible for up to \$500,000 to repair and reconstruct their homes or up to \$50,000 for wildfire mitigation retrofits to reduce risk and improve resiliency in the future.

On Thursday, April 11th, from 10AM - 2PM you can attend a public application intake event at 127 Crescent St, Suite 2 (DFC Office, Greenville) to learn about the program, eligibility criteria, the application process, and documentation needed. You can also get help filling out and submitting an application. If you want to start an application or work with a case manager at the event, make an appointment by calling 619-614-3772. (Walk-ins seen as time allows.)

For more information: www.hcd.ca.gov/recoverca.



APRIL EVENTS

Concert tickets



Thursday, April 4, 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Mommy & Me Play Date
Greenville Elementary Cafeteria, 225 Grand St.

Thursday, April 11, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

ReCoverCA Application Intake & Information
DFC Office, 127 Crescent St., Suite 2, Greenville

Friday, April 19, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Corinne West Concert: "Transformations in Song"
Seating limited for this FREE EVENT
Tickets required ([here](#) or at the QR code above)
Methodist Church, 4264 Nelson St., Taylorsville

Saturday, April 20, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Dixie Fire Collaborative Community Meeting
Greenville Elementary Cafeteria, 225 Grand St.

GARDENING ON THE MIND

April often brings about a new surge of energy for activities like spring cleaning. It's also an excellent time to practice new ways to get mental rest that we can't do over the winter.

Gardening is an excellent activity to relax the mind and get some much-needed mental rest. The often repetitive actions of gardening - sowing seeds, weeding - are a form of 'active rest': your mind stays just active enough to complete the task, but not so active that it feels stressed.

Gardening is an excellent way to deliberately practice mindfulness, focusing on how the soil feels, the textures and smells of the garden, the noises of birds and the breeze, and the colors all around that change as the garden blooms. There's no better time to get your hands in the dirt!

DFRC NEWS

**NOW OPEN ONE SATURDAY PER MONTH
BY APPOINTMENT**

The DFRC is now open by appointment only on the third Saturday of the month (Dixie Fire Collaborative Community Meeting day). Appointments must be made by 3:00 PM on the Friday before the DFC Community Meeting; you may contact your Disaster Case Manager or call the Resource Center (530-871-9700) to make an appointment.

The Dixie Fire Resource Center (DFRC) is launching a 'Mommy & Me Playgroup' on the first Thursday of the month from now through August 2024. The playgroup aims to bring parents and caregivers together to support one another in raising children, sharing ideas, and bonding. DFRC received a donation of healthy snacks from "No Child Goes Hungry" for the playgroups which start on Thursday, April 4th, from 3:30 - 5:00 PM at the Greenville Elementary Cafeteria. Snacks and activity supplies for the playgroups will be provided.

The DFRC still has gently used and new clothing available to anyone in need. Stop by the DFRC in Crescent Mills Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.



Our spring has come at last with the soft laughter of April suns and shadow of April showers.

- Byron Caldwell Smith

MARCH SERVICE STATISTICS

STABILIZATION RESOURCES

Gas Vouchers Distributed - 2
Stabilization Funds Requests Filled - 3
Value of Stabilization Support - \$1,056

DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT

Clients Triaged - 5
Survivors Served - 133 *(723 total to date)*
Cases Closed - 13
Client Referrals Provided - 22
Value of Client Referrals - \$2,601,103
Phase 1 Applications Funded - 1
Amount of Phase 1 Funding Awarded - \$166

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED as of 3/31/24

SHOP Funds - \$90,618
Phase 1 Funds - \$3,540
Stabilization Funds - \$265,783
Unmet Needs Funds - \$115,185



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