

DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICES

AUGUST 2024

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TRANSITION TIME

Plumas Rural Services (PRS) would like to recognize the compassion and dedication of Dixie Fire Resource Center (DFRC) Coordinator Rena Moffet and DFRC Program Assistant Martha Vaughn. As indicated in our July Newsletter, PRS disaster services will undergo some changes in the month of August, including the closure of the DFRC as of Friday, August 23rd. Rena and Martha will continue to work in the month of August to distribute donated clothing and goods and support the community with resources and a space for accessing computing resources and community resources.

The FEMA funding for the Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) will also end in August. The program will continue with a smaller staff through February 2024 thanks to funding from North Valley Community Foundation and the Dixie Fire Collaborative. Clients of the program will continue to receive support as they work on their recovery plans from Disaster Case Managers Catherine Cruse and Adam Toler and Construction Cost Analyst Dan Litchfield.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

As PRS experiences changes in its disaster recovery services, the agency will be migrating the focus of this newsletter to more broadly cover the full services offered by PRS. Watch in the coming months to learn more about the wide variety of community and social services PRS staff provide to individuals and families in Plumas, Lassen, Modoc and Sierra counties.



Pictured, left to right: Larry Stites, Linda Dieter, Gaelynn Pearson (retired), Kelly McElwain, Wendy Nelson, Robert Ellis, and Mark Venable. Not pictured: Frank Augugularo, Mike Burson, Shauna Everton, Gary McFarland, and Johnathon Peroni. Picture from 2023 Celebration of Heroes award recognition.

TRANSIT TEAM STEPS UP

GOLD COMPLEX EVACUATIONS

The Gold Complex fires in eastern Plumas County in late July highlighted many ways our mountain communities come together to support each other when emergencies arise.

On July 22nd at about 6:15 PM, Transit Coordinator Kelly McElwain and Dispatcher Shauna Everton received a call from John Rix with Plumas County Senior Services asking if the Plumas Transit team could help evacuate a kids camp outside of Portola. Kelly and Shauna immediately gathered Plumas Transit drivers together at the yard and prepared the buses to go.

Plumas Transit staff left Quincy at 8:00 PM with 5 buses and the program's van. The amazing drivers jumped into action, got over 100 kids loaded along with their stuff, and safely delivered them all to Sparks, NV.

Exhausted, but gratified from a job well done, the drivers pulled into the yard in Quincy again at 3:00 AM. "I was overwhelmed with gratitude for our drivers and the hard work they put in last night and every day," said Everton.

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Plumas Transit Systems provides public transportation throughout Plumas County, including transit across the county, within communities, and Deviated Response up to 3/4 miles from established routes for individuals with disabilities, as well as connections to the Sage Stage bus to Reno and Susanville. At present, transportation on scheduled routes is provided free to the public.

CLIENT SUCCESSES

In the month of July, a PRS Disaster Case Manager was able to support a client in applying for and receiving funding to purchase a snowblower for their property. The client's family has a very long, steep driveway. Last winter when it snowed approximately 6-8 feet, the family could not get up their driveway. They had to park at the bottom of the hill and use sleds to transport food and items needed for winter survival up the steep incline. The family had used all of their PG&E settlement funds to purchase this home and did not have funds remaining to purchase the snowblower. Medical issues left the shoveling to the client's 15-year-old son who could not keep up with the amount of snowfall. Their situation also created a potentially life-threatening concern during the winter if crews could not access the home in the event of a medical emergency. The snowblower will enable this family to maintain access to their property during the many winters to come.

Another client had extensive damage to their roof during the Dixie Fire. Though their case was presented to the Unmet Needs Funders Roundtable, it was twice denied. The Disaster Case Manager worked with the the DCMP Coordinator and PRS's Interim Executive Director to identify another solution. An anonymous donor was identified who was willing to hear the client's story and fully funded the client's funding request. As a result of the perseverance of the client's DCM and the very generous donor, the client will be able to repair their roof.

AMERICORPS DEPARTS

The commitment and positive attitudes displayed by the AmeriCorps team were refreshing and fun to be around while they served Plumas County from June 18th through July 23rd.

From removing thorny locust trees in the burned out community of Indian Falls in the gardens of the Dawn Institute to chucking firewood down rocky slopes at the Heart K Ranch, it was all done with humor and strength. The team got to know what life is like in a fire-impacted community and what it looks like to rebuild a town.

The team attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Roundhouse Council facility and the Mountain Maidu ceremonial Bear Dance. Working at the small but mighty Indian Valley Thrift Store was a weekly effort to sort and price donations. They attended an all-day chainsaw safety and maintenance training with Plumas County Fire Safe Council, and many of them got hands-on experience bucking logs and using a splitter to process a pile of firewood to be donated to folks in need.

The team worked with Feather River Resource and Conservation District, learning the ecology of our forests and the challenges with managing the ongoing wildfire risk in the west. The team assisted with cleanup at the 4th of July Cowboy Pancake Breakfast and attended both the parade and Silver Buckle Rodeo in Taylorsville - for many of them it was their first Rodeo experience!

While the main theme of the team's visit was fuels reduction and firewood processing for donating to those in need, they also took the time to sit with locals and get to know the many residents that make up the community of Greenville. They were able to connect with many in our aging population in a genuine way, and that will forever be remembered.

AmeriCorps National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC) engages individuals ages 18-26 who want to gain experience while supporting climate change mitigation, building affordable housing, disaster

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response, and more. Team members travel the country, all expenses paid, and earn money for college while serving on a team full-time.

Fall is around the corner, and that means deadlines are approaching for anyone interested in applying to serve in the AmeriCorp NCCC Traditional Program with a 10-11 month term beginning in Winter 2025. You can learn about both Member and Team Leader positions, benefits and eligibility, and the application process by [clicking here](#). You can also register there for webinars upcoming in August about the program.

BENEFITS

WHILE IN SERVICE

- Living expenses (housing, meals, limited health benefit)
- Program-related travel
- Modest personal allowance
- Valuable training in leadership, technical skills, teamwork, and more
- Forbearance for federally backed student loans (interest accrued during service is paid at completion of full term of service)

AFTER SERVICE

- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award: over \$7,000 to use on future educational expenses or to pay back qualified student loans
- Competitive edge in job search, including access to network of Employers of National Service
- Additional opportunities for scholarships, application fee waivers and more through Schools of National Service

To learn more about AmeriCorps NCCC, go to AmeriCorps.gov/NCCC.

PRS and its partners are grateful for the team's short time in Plumas County and will remember their smiling faces for years to come!



FUNDS DISTRIBUTED as of 7/31/24

SHOP Funds - \$90,618

Phase 1 Funds - \$4,392

Stabilization Funds - \$280,103

Unmet Needs Funds - \$180,269

AUGUST EVENTS

Thursday, August 1, 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Mommy & Me Playgroup

Greenville Elementary Cafeteria, 225 Grand St.

Saturday, August 3, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Crescent Country Saturday Market

Crescent Country, 15771 Hwy 89, Crescent Mills

Saturday, August 10, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Nature Made Kids' Camp

Wild Plumas, 1323 Greenville Wolf Creek Road

pre-registration by August 2nd required, [click here](#)

Saturday, August 17, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Dixie Fire Collaborative Community Meeting

Greenville Elementary Cafeteria, 225 Grand St.

Monday, August 19, 4:00 PM

Community Supper, hosted by PRS

Historic Taylorsville Hall



August is the slow, gentle month that stretches out the longest across the span of a year. It yawns and lingers on with the light in its palms.

- Victoria Erickson

CONNECT WITH US

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THANK YOU FUNDERS!

