

A close-up photograph of lavender flowers in shades of purple and pink, with green foliage. The image is used as a background for the top section of the page.

# DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICES

JUNE 2023

[WWW.PLUMASRURALSERVICES.ORG](http://WWW.PLUMASRURALSERVICES.ORG)

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## LOCAL HEROES

### *RECOGNITION FROM NEAR AND FAR*

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities and Far Northern Regional Center's Celebration of Heroes Committee recognized Plumas Rural Services Disaster Case Management Program (PRS-DCMP) as a 'Team Hero' for their outstanding work in embracing inclusion and creating acceptance and opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities and their families in the North State Community.

The Celebration of Heroes Committee acknowledged PRS-DCMP with an award and a letter sharing reflections from a Plumas County community member to the Committee about the program:

"The Disaster Case Management Team at PRS goes above and beyond to talk to community members from all walks of life. They do not discriminate whether working with a property owner, renter or homeless person. They work with many Federal, State, County and Community agencies to support fire survivors and help them move forward in recovery from the Dixie Fire. Everyday (sic) they see teamwork and including outside resources as the best way to serve their clients (sic) needs. I am very grateful to be working alongside a group of individuals from all walks of life. They have made it their mission to work together on one main goal and keep that goal held high so everyone in the county is benefitted."

Also in May, Dan Litchfield, PRS Construction Cost Analyst, was recognized as April's Winner of the Yasso Game On! Heroes program. This program spotlights and celebrates the work of volunteers, coaches and any community leaders that are inspiring health and wellness in their neighborhoods. Dan was recognized for his role in developing and launching the Nature Made youth program (see Nature Made, page 3). In recognizing Dan, Yasso is making a \$1,000 donation to Nature Made in his honor.

# ON THE FRONT LINES

## CATHERINE CRUSE, INTAKE & REFERRAL SPECIALIST

Born and raised in Graeagle and Portola, Catherine Cruse is a native of Plumas County. She left briefly for college and then returned when her family bought Gumba's Family Pizza. She originally intended to help them for about a year, but soon realized she really enjoyed her life here.

Catherine had a son in 2021 and began looking for employment with more conventional or flexible hours. She knew people who worked for Plumas Rural Services and learned about the position as an Intake & Referral Specialist for the Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP).

With this position, Catherine has found a work-life balance that permits her to be home in the evenings and be around her family more. She particularly likes working in the DCMP, because she enjoys serving her community. She grew up going to Greenville and Chester for sports, including softball, soccer, tennis, and basketball, which makes her feel connected to the areas affected by the Dixie Fire. Catherine has always had a heart for helping others, and that's a huge part of this job.

"I have always had a passion or calling for helping others," Catherine says, "and I'm thankful that this work gives me the opportunity to do that both for clients and for our communities in the county." Catherine also works to connect resources from Portola and Graeagle where she grew up to Greenville and Chester, which she finds rewarding.

When she's not working, Catherine can be found coaching softball. She has coached in the past and sees it as another way to give back to the community, helping young women develop through the game. Capitalizing on the natural beauty of Plumas County, Catherine can also be found golfing, hiking, and paddle boarding in local lakes.



*Catherine Cruse*

## CLIENT SUCCESSSES

May was another busy month for PRS supporting survivors of the Dixie Fire. We were able to successfully advocate for one client who is disabled to receive Simple Unmet Needs funding to complete a bathroom renovation to make it ADA-accessible; this was the final step for the home rebuild itself and will allow the client to now reside at home with all she needs for her health and to continue her home-based business.

We provided assistance to a client for home repairs and renovations necessary to refinance their home for an affordable payment. Another client needed fill dirt delivered to their property, and our DCMP program staff assisted with preparing the property for delivery, including weeding and moving lumber, plants and rugs. The Isaiah 6:8 Crew and Mark Swaim helped a client move into their home during May.

Two clients received furniture in May that was funded through SHOP applications. PRS provided another client with volunteer labor to move furniture into their home that they received from Assist International (see Assist International, page 4). In addition to these supports, PRS helped 6 clients to cover utility bills, aided with rent for 2 clients, provided 5 clients with gift cards to cover critical needs, and distributed 39 gas cards.



# NATURE MADE

## YOUTH PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Saturday, May 20th, saw the launch of the Nature Made monthly outdoor program in Greenville for K-12 youth. Hosted by Plumas Rural Services and Wild Plumas, a local glamping campground owned by Dan and Josie Litchfield, the event welcomed 40 local youth for a day full of wall climbing, gold panning, guided meditation, metal and rock art. The kids enjoyed snacks from Riley's Jerky and lunch from Samantha Prior at Crushabowl.

Nature Made was envisioned and developed by Dan Litchfield, who is also PRS's Construction Cost Analyst for the Disaster Case Management Program. After fleshing the program out with Dan, PRS began looking for funders. The program is made possible financially by the Dixie Fire Collaborative, The Almanor Foundation, the North Valley Community Foundation and the Wildfire Relief and Recovery Fund.

The next Nature Made event will be held Friday, June 16. More information and a link to pre-register can be found [here](#). Pre-registration is required in order to have enough snacks and lunch available.

# LITTLE DOZER THAT DID

"The Little Dozer that Did" is a children's coloring book conceived and created by Ken Donnell. The book offers kids a creative way to interact with a story about a wildfire and process the emotions they may have felt themselves during and after the Dixie Fire. Rotary District 5190 donated funds to the Dixie Fire Collaborative's Emotional & Spiritual Wellness Committee to have 2,800 coloring books produced. These are now being distributed to Plumas County children at a variety of events, beginning with the Wildfire Preparedness Fair in Quincy on Saturday, May 13th (hosted with the Plumas Children's Fair). Volunteers are also distributing the coloring books to Plumas County schools before the school year ends.



# HANDS-ON GROUNDING

When we are anxious or have nervous energy inside, it can help to have a physical technique to keep us grounded. Here are two options that may help:

**Clench your fists and release:** Focus all the negative and nervous energy to your hands. Clench them into fists, squeeze as hard as you can, and let go. Do this 10 times in a row and think about how your body feels as you release the tension. Feel the blood flow back into your fingers.

**Rub your palms together:** This is another way of channeling energy to your hands. Rub them together as fast as you can and generate heat through friction, focusing on expelling anxious energy through that heat.

Adapted from [www.choosementalhealth.org](http://www.choosementalhealth.org).



# JUNE EVENTS



## **Tuesdays, June 13 & 27, 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

Group Share & Guided Meditation

Plumas Bank Building, 121 Crescent St., Greenville

## **Wednesday, June 14, 3:00 - 4:00 PM**

CTTP Community Workshop

CTTP Office, 30 Harbison Ave., Quincy

## **Friday, June 16, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Nature Made Outdoor Youth Program

Wild Plumas, 1323 Wolf Creek Rd., Greenville

## **Saturday, June 17, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Dixie Fire Collaborative Community Meeting

Greenville Elementary Cafeteria, 225 Grant St.

## **Sunday, June 18, 4:00 PM - 'til the crowd leaves**

Greenville Community Picnic

Greenville Community Park on Hot Springs Rd.

## **Wednesday, June 28, 12:00 - 2:00 PM**

Permitting Workshop

Plumas Bank Building, 121 Crescent St., Greenville

# ASSIST INTERNATIONAL

Our clients are successfully using the Assist International resource to get important home furnishings and other items. Assist International is a nonprofit organization in Ripon, CA, that distributes new or gently used store-bought goods to families and individuals in need. Locally, they serve disaster victims and partner organizations who serve people in need through their community:assist program. Assist International warehouses goods in Ripon, and disaster survivors can apply directly for support. Awardees receive a pallet/small truckload of items that they must arrange to pick up at the warehouse. Whatever they don't use from that load they can then donate to other disaster survivors.

Dixie Fire survivors can apply directly to Assist International [here](#). Your Disaster Case Manager may be able to help you coordinate a rental truck and fuel to pick up the goods. Contact your DCM for more information about this program.

# CTTP TRANSPORTATION

## *NEW NATIVE SUPPORTIVE SERVICE*

The California Tribal TANF Partnership in Plumas County (Plumas CTTTP) is offering a Supportive Service for Native Community members through a Plumas County Public Health Agency Health Equity Mini-Grant. Supportive services available include vehicle repair assistance, oil change, vehicle alignment, car registration, tire assistance, and \$40 gas cards. Applications are accepted through 6/30/23 or until funding is depleted. Eligible applicants are (1) employed single-parent households with Native youth in the home or (2) Native Elders age 50 and older. You must apply in person at the Quincy CTTTP office (30 Harbison Avenue, Quincy).

On Wednesday, June 14th, from 3:00-4:00 PM, CTTTP will be hosting a community workshop at the Quincy CTTTP office. A local, certified mechanic will be providing a one-hour car maintenance workshop for participants and community members. Plumas County Public Health Agency will be available to provide car seat assistance and information on qualifying for a free new car seat or booster seat. Snacks will be provided along with an incentive drawing for two workshop participants.

# DFRC HAPPENINGS

The Dixie Fire Resource Center (DFRC) is grateful for the abundance of community donations it has received. Sierra Institute for Community and Engagement donated Evergreen gift cards in May for fire survivors. PRS's partner in the Disaster Case Management Program, Northern Valley Catholic Social Service, donated pet food for clients. Lake Almanor Ace Hardware donated rakes for distribution at our Fire Prevention Booth at the Plumas Children's Fair and Wildfire Preparedness Fair on Saturday, May 13th. An electric stove was donated to the DFRC that was then provided to a fire survivor in need, and the Isaiah 6:8 Crew headed up by Mark Swaim donated a 55" flat screen TV to be given to a client in the Disaster Case Management Program.

# MAY SERVICE STATISTICS

## STABILIZATION RESOURCES

Gas Vouchers Distributed - 39

Stabilization Funds Requests Filled - 22

Value of Stabilization Support - \$15,273

## DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT

Clients Triageed - 152

Survivors Served - 416 *(721 total to date)*

Cases Closed - 24

Client Referrals Provided - 80

Value of Client Referrals - \$68,040

Clients Approved for SUN Funds - 1

SUN Funds Awarded - \$9,860

Clients Approved for SHOP Funds - 1

SHOP Funds Awarded - \$3,137

## FUNDS DISTRIBUTED as of 5/31/23

SHOP Funds - \$72,277

Stabilization Funds - \$204,815

Simple Unmet Needs (SUN) Funds - \$43,889



# A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

## CONNECT WITH US

530-283-2735

[www.PlumasRuralServices.org](http://www.PlumasRuralServices.org)

Facebook: @prs.social

Instagram: @plumasruralservices\_inc

Twitter: @PRS\_Inc



American Red Cross



### Thank you to Dixie Fire funders

Thank you to the 13 organizations that have jointly funded grants totaling nearly \$200,000 for Dixie Fire relief. We are working together to stretch the dollars that were donated to help relief and recovery efforts in affected communities. Together we are stronger.

