

Crisis Counseling Program Plumas County Available for Dixie Fire Survivors



Plumas County welcomes Jake Fender with North Valley Catholic Social Services (NVCSS) and his team of Crisis Counselors who will be in our community to support Dixie Fire survivors with mental health services.

California Hope is the NVCSS-administered, state managed and federally funded program to provide emotional and material support for the recovery of Dixie Fire survivors. The NVCSS Cal Hope program began in 2018 in response to the Carr and Camp Fires, and over the last four years the program has served fire survivors in all six counties NVCSS serves – Butte, Glenn, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity for nearly a dozen wildfires since our programs first started.

Cal Hope teams will work in the community to provide and support community outreach, emotional support, public education and resource and service referrals for fire survivors at every stage of recovery. Workers are trained to be trauma informed and solution focused to motivate and support survivors working to rebuild their lives. Outreach workers will work closely with the Disaster Case Management Programs of NVCSS and St. Vincent DePaul, the Dixie Fire Collaborative and their Emotional & Spiritual Wellbeing Committee, in addition to supporting community partners, public and private, to further the recovery goals of individuals, families, and the communities affected by the Dixie Fire. The public will have the opportunity to meet Jake and his team at the monthly Dixie Fire Collaborative community meetings, and many community events going forward. Cal Hope will initially focus on support for those experiencing anxiety around the upcoming anniversary and other common triggers for emotional distress as we roll into fire season.

Counselors will also be available to provide presentations to community groups on disaster reactions, coping skills, stress management, and determine and provide appropriate service referrals and program information for families and individuals. They can also help assess people who require traditional mental health or substance abuse treatment, and make referrals to those agencies and programs.

NVCSS is currently reviewing applications for crisis outreach workers to support fire survivors across the footprint of the Dixie Fire, and they hope to be fully staffed by the end of May. The federal grant for Cal Hope provides funding for the program from May-October 2022. Please feel free to send questions and client referrals to Jake directly at jfender@nvcss.org, or (530) 864-8856.