

DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICES

JANUARY 2023

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CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY AND OTHER HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The Christmas in the Valley event - a community gathering PRS hosted on December 10th with Northern Valley Catholic Social Service (NVCSS) as a new celebration reminiscent of the traditional Festival of the Trees - was held Saturday, December 10th. Approximately 30 families braved the snow to join us at Greenville Elementary School for a community tree lighting, pictures with Santa, ornament making, cookie decorating, a hot meal, and music including carolers. A tree decorating competition was also held with Greenville Girls Basketball Team taking 1st Place, Kimberley Price-Hunter taking 2nd Place, and Way Baby coming in 3rd! The competition trees were donated to families around the community.

PRS would like to thank the many supporters, contributors and volunteers for this event: Mary's German Grill, Region Burger, Crushabowl, Valley Grind, Plumas Unified School District, Kest Porter, Cheri Prior, Paul & Pam Harris, LeeAnne Schrammel, The Spot, PG&E, Portola VFW, Portola American Legion, Marsha Roby, Eva Gorman, Peter Strand, Kayla Wann, Ron Clark, Terry Jones, and Ken Cawley.

Hot meals from Christmas in the Valley were delivered after the event to families around the area who were not able to attend. PRS also collaborated with local partners to fill and deliver holiday baskets around Indian Valley and up to Westwood for both Christmas and Thanksgiving. In December we also had the unique opportunity to support one local family who got snowed in at their property at Antelope Lake, facilitating the delivery of donated winter clothing and the family's Christmas gifts via access from Janesville.



CLIENT SUCCESSES

PRS received a grant from American Red Cross which included funds for Client Stabilization - those things which are critical for getting survivors to a point of stability now so they have the breathing room and capacity to plan for recovery. Client stabilization funds in December provided a security deposit for an apartment, which allowed one client to secure their own safe housing. PRS provided another client with stabilization funds to access a U-Haul and fuel in order to pick up furniture acquired through a PRS referral; this client now has furnished safe and stable housing. A third client received stabilization funds from PRS to purchase a range for their kitchen to replace the one that was damaged beyond use during the evacuation. The financial burden of purchasing ready-made food was preventing the client from being able to support themselves financially; now that they can cook for themselves they are gaining greater financial stability.

ON THE FRONT LINES

*BRIDGETT BUSTAMANTE,
DISASTER CASE MANAGER*

Bridgett Bustamante, PRS Disaster Case Manager, has lived in Plumas County for most of her life. In 2014, she and her husband moved to Indian Valley with their family. They lost everything to the Dixie Fire, and they evacuated to Westwood where they now live in their rental house along with their daughter, 4 dogs, 2 cats, and flock of chickens. Their son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter live nearby.

Bridgett and her husband own a local landscape business, and you may see them installing landscape around the area during the summer. In the winter, Bridgett coaches the Greenville Girl's Varsity Basketball Team. She likes working with kids and teaching them both sports skills and life skills.

Bridgett became a Disaster Case Manager, because she knew she and others were on a long road to recovery. "I knew that this would be the aspect that I could help the most with," she says. Bridgett works primarily with the families in FEMA housing in Westwood, helping them access resources to meet their needs.

SERVICE UPDATES

The DCMP's Construction Cost Analyst, Dan Litchfield, is now hosting office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Dixie Fire Resource Center (DFRC). Dan also offers site visits by appointment (530-283-2735 x834 or dlitchfield@plumasruralservices.org). See page 3 for more information about how Dan can help you.

The DFRC has begun its winter hours of operation as of January 1. The DFRC is now open Tuesday - Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The DFRC will be open the third Saturday of the month from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM as well.



DCMP SERVICES

The Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) offers Dixie Fire survivors support in the recovery process. Our staff help you to clarify your needs, identify resources and assistance available to you, and help you apply for aid. The program helps those who were impacted by the fire, whether or not their home was destroyed.

The DCMP has new staff to help with the recovery process. Catherine Cruse was recently hired as an Intake & Referral Specialist/Disaster Case Manager (DCM). Our DCMs can help you determine what recovery looks like to you and then take the steps to get the federal, state, local and private resources to get you there.

Our Construction Cost Analyst, Dan Litchfield, helps those working to rebuild with understanding the permitting process, reviewing the checklist for the permit process, finding a contractor, reviewing contractor bids, etc. Dan will also conduct site visits to better answer project-specific questions.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

In December, PRS purchased resources to provide households around Indian Valley with winterizing supplies, heating support, warm winter clothing. We also received very generous donations from Sandy Maillard of winter clothing for fire survivors. Here are some of the things survivors can access at the Dixie Fire Resource Center (DFRC) or through a Disaster Case Manager (DCM):

- Winter jackets, snow boots, snow suits, gloves, hats, etc. (DFRC)
- Winterization supplies - window insulation, weather sealing, heavy duty pipe tape, pipe covers, insulating foil, insulation, heat tape, tarps, window film, etc. (DFRC)
- Region Burger Cards (DCM) - cards with 12/31/22 expiration date are still good
- More Gas Cards coming soon (DCM)
- Free mindfulness or trauma counseling sessions (DCM or DFRC)

JANUARY EVENTS

Monday, January 16, ~4/4:30 - 6/6:30 PM

Community Supper

Historic Taylorsville Hall (4322 Main St)

Saturday, January 21, 11 AM - 1 PM

Dixie Fire Collaborative Community Meeting

Greenville Elementary School Cafeteria

ENDING Saturday, January 21

[Downtown Greenville Development Survey](#)

Take this brief Dixie Fire Collaborative survey

2 FEET, 1 BREATH

MINDFULNESS TECHNIQUE

First feel one foot, then the other, and then take one conscious breath. Do this technique as often as you like throughout the day to bring your awareness back to your body.

DECEMBER SERVICE STATISTICS

DIXIE FIRE RESOURCE CENTER

Meals Served - 1,088

Households Provided Heating Assistance - 6

Clients Given Winter Clothing - 6

Survivors Counseling Sessions - 3

Stabilization Funds Requests Filled - 27

Value of Stabilization Support - \$12,582

DIXIE FIRE RESOURCE CENTER

Clients Triaged - 4

Survivors Served - 186

Cases Closed - 21

Client Referrals Provided - 66

Value of Client Referrals - \$19,437

Clients Approved for SHOP Funds - 4

SHOP Funds Awarded- \$4,851

CONNECT WITH US

530-283-2735

www.PlumasRuralServices.org

Facebook: @prs.social

Instagram: @plumasruralservices_inc

Twitter: @PRS_Inc



FUNDS DISTRIBUTED as of 12/31/22

SHOP Funds - \$40,450

Stabilization Funds - \$161,576

Simple Unmet Needs Funds - \$7,681



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



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.

