# **Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund**

The Community Foundation is pleased to announce the new Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund, designed to create more far-sighted community resources in the face of future disasters. In the wake of the October 2017 Redwood Complex Fires and the 2018 Mendocino Complex Fires, the Community Foundation has been witness to the challenges our community faces when trying to recover from a natural disaster. By building a more prepared and resilient community before disaster strikes, we increase our ability to recover. The Community Foundation's Board of Directors created this fund with a lead gift of \$25,000 and is seeking matching funds to help build a stronger Mendocino County.

### What is the purpose of the Community **Resiliency and Preparedness Fund?**

Developing a resilient and prepared community is key to our future success to recover from natural disasters and is the final step in a tiered recovery program. It is also the first step in preparing for the next disaster. Resiliency builds in systems to help communities

recover emotionally, physically, and socially, and allows them to respond more efficiently and with less trauma to future disasters. Preparedness takes concrete steps to mitigate disaster hazards, such as fire-safe building and landscaping. To achieve these goals the Community Foundation is introducing a new fund, the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund, to help us be better equipped for emergency events in the days and years to

# What type of assistance will be given?

For the 2017/2018 Community **Enrichment and Community** Support grant programs, the Community Foundation awarded over \$40,000 to support disaster preparedness and resiliency efforts. The October fires quickly drew grant requests from local fire departments to provide such

things as renovations for an emergency shelter, installation of generators, emergency response pagers, a solar panel system, and new fire hoses. The programs also supported rebuilding and fire safety meetings. Establishing the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund will provide a resource exclusively for these kinds of efforts, freeing up Community Enrichment and Community Support funds for other important community projects and programs.

#### Where will the funding come from?

In addition to the lead gift from the Community Foundation board, we are looking for partners to build the fund at various levels. Back Roads Productions (the Kate Wolf Music Festival) has already made a generous partner donation in excess of \$10,000. A match of our board's gift (\$25,000)

> would make the donor a co-sponsor of the fund. There are also opportunities to give at the \$5,000, \$1,000, \$500 and \$100 level. Any and all gifts are appreciated.

# Who should I contact if I have questions?

If you would like to learn more about how to become a partner or co-sponsor of the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund,

contact Megan Barber Allende at (707) 468-9882 ext.102.

# Who should I contact if I want to apply for funding?

If you are a non-profit organization wanting to apply for funds, contact Michelle Rich at (707) 468-9882 ext. 105.



#### **Recent Resiliency Grants**

Piercy Fire Protection District \$7,500 Comptche Volunteer Fire Dept. \$10.000 Covelo Fire Protection District \$7.000 Mendocino Volunteer Fire Dept. \$10,000 \$5.000 Hopland Volunteer Fire Dept. Coming Home Rebuild Expo \$1.000 Heroes for Health & Safety Faire \$1,000 "How to Create a Fire-safe Neighborhood" public meeting \$1,000

TOTAL: \$42,500



# Community Foundation of Mendocino County Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund

The Community Foundation's goal in developing the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund is to look beyond just funding existing programs, but to also consider the next steps needed to prepare our community for future disasters. To establish resilient infrastructures that will support us through recovery efforts for years to come. By opening the conversation, with money to contribute to solutions, the Foundation is initiating a far-sighted multi-pronged approach to creating real solutions by engaging county-wide agencies in the discussion to build a collaborative response to disasters.

The fund focuses on two pathways - Community Resiliency and Disaster Preparedness. Along with the existing Disaster Fund, these two pathways create a holistic approach to protect and nurture our community by preparing before the disaster strikes, responding in the days and years following to rebuild, and to recover as a stronger and more resilient community.

#### What Is Disaster Preparedness?

Disaster preparedness refers to measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters. That is, to predict and - where possible - prevent disasters, mitigate their impact on vulnerable populations, and

respond to and effectively cope with their consequences. This work essentially involves reducing the vulnerability of households and communities in our disaster-prone areas and improving our ability to cope with the effects of disasters. The goal of the Community Resiliency and Preparedness Fund is to support effective, realistic, and coordinated planning, reduce duplication of efforts and increase the overall effectiveness

of disaster preparedness activities in our communities. These efforts can help minimize the impact of disasters on our community and result in saving more lives and safeguarding livelihoods during any disaster situation, enabling our affected neighbors to return to a normal lifestyle as quickly as possible.

#### What Is Community Resiliency?

Resilience is the ability of communities to withstand and recover from community stressors (i.e. weather-related disasters, economic downturns, violence, or environmental issues) as well as to learn from past

stressors to strengthen future response and recovery efforts. A resilient community can:

- Determine what it needs to reduce damage and to use its assets or resources wisely.
- Not only bounce back quickly, but take the opportunity to continue to strengthen health, social, and economic systems.
- Learn from past emergencies so that it can be better prepared for

the next response.

Different communities are stressed by different things. Whatever the stressors are, we all want to deal with them quickly and effectively. We don't always know when the next stressor is going to happen, but it's going to happen.

# Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience are differing, complimentary approaches:

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS APPROACH:	COMMUNITY RESILIENCE APPROACH:
<b>Individual households</b> and their readiness to respond to emergencies.	Community members working together to respond to and recover from emergencies.
Disaster-specific functions.	Synchronizing of community efforts that address social, economic, and overall health.  Diverse network of government and non-governmental organizations in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disaster.
<b>Government's response</b> in the first few days and weeks after a disaster.	
Emergency plans and supplies.	
Self-sufficient individuals or households.	Collaboration and engagement of the whole community for problem-solving. Self-sufficient community through neighbor-to-neighbor connections and strong social networks.