



NAPA VALLEY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CFSC Contact: Caitlin Childs

cchilds@sonomacf.org 707-303-9615 office 707-217-7397 cell

NVCF Contact: Terence Mulligan

terence@napavalleycf.org 707-254-9565 x 11

Report: 85% of nonprofit organizations in Sonoma and Napa Counties were affected by the fires

April 9, 2018 (Santa Rosa, CA) A new survey conducted by the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP), and commissioned by Community Foundation Sonoma County (CFSC) and Napa Valley Community Foundation (NVCF), reports that 85% of nonprofit organizations in the Northbay - spanning arts and culture, education and the environment, and health and social services - have been impacted by the October 2017 wildfires.

In February and March of 2018, CEP surveyed 468 current and former grantees of Community Foundation Sonoma County and Napa Valley Community Foundation, and received 184 responses for a response rate of 39 percent.

The results of the survey were clear: the fires that started six months ago had a broad impact on organizations of all sizes and all types. Among the key findings for nonprofits in the region:

- 81% reported needing to provide services to more individuals or organizations after the fires
- 78% had major donors or board members who lost their homes or suffered damage to their homes
- 73% reported adding new services or projects in response to the fires
- 41% said they had received less funding at year end in comparison to previous years.

The survey also asked organizations to report on the populations they serve, and how these populations had been affected by the fires. Unsurprisingly, the very significant physical and economic losses sparked by the disaster – and the emotional toll borne by Northbay residents as a result of the October wildfires – is showing up in the work of area nonprofits, particularly those that serve vulnerable populations like the working poor, the undocumented and the elderly. Nonprofits report that:

- 90% of their clients impacted by the fires have experienced emotional trauma
- 86% of their clients lost housing or suffered damage to their homes
- 72% of their clients lost jobs, business, or equipment related to their business.

“These results really bring home the message that the fires affected us all. In the wake of this disaster, the nonprofits in our region transformed themselves into a network of second-responders. Our community needed organizations to jump in and respond to the crisis, and they did, shifting staff to be of service -- even when some of their colleagues and board members were struggling with profound losses and extraordinary disruptions.” Terence Mulligan, President of Napa Valley Community Foundation.

“The message about our community’s needs is loud and clear. Nonprofit leaders across a wide range of organizations share the same concerns about helping individuals who have been impacted by the fires, the mental health needs of the community, and finding solutions to our housing problems. As we look at long-term recovery, our foundation is ready to support those needs with smart investments in these areas.” Elizabeth Brown, President and CEO of Community Foundation Sonoma County.

In the days after the fires started, Napa Valley Community Foundation and Community Foundation Sonoma County both established fundraising campaigns for fire relief and recovery, with over \$27 million raised between the two organizations. Both NVCF and CFSC are developing long-term grantmaking strategies to support fire recovery efforts. To read about NVCF’s short and mid-term recovery activities, please click [this link](#).

The full CEP report is available for download here: <http://www.sonomacf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CFSC-NVCF-Wildfire-Response-Final-Report.pdf>

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About Community Foundation Sonoma County:

Community Foundation Sonoma County is the hub of philanthropy for the county, connecting people, ideas and resources to benefit all who live here. Founded in 1983, CFSC has worked with donors to give over \$200 million in grants to support nonprofit organizations. The Foundation offers donors local knowledge and strategic support in managing their charitable giving and creating lasting legacies.

More information: sonomacf.org

About Napa Valley Community Foundation

Napa Valley Community Foundation helps donors transform their passion for giving into greater impact. Now celebrating nearly 25 years of service to Napa Valley, NVCF has served as a bridge between philanthropic families and hard-working nonprofit agencies since 1994, bringing people, ideas and resources together to enhance the quality of life in our community. From American Canyon to Calistoga, NVCF has distributed more than \$50 million in grants since it was founded, and currently serves as the philanthropic partner to 100 individuals, families, nonprofit agencies and corporations in Napa Valley.

More information: www.napavalleycf.org