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## **Community Foundation Sonoma County Distributes \$300,000 in Emergency Grants to Local Non-Profit Organizations**

October 20, 2017 (Santa Rosa, CA) Community Foundation Sonoma County (CFSC) announces emergency grants of over \$300,000 to help stabilize local non-profit organizations following the recent fires in Sonoma County.

Last week, in response to the disaster, CFSC launched the Sonoma County Resilience Fund. To date, they have raised over \$2 million and plan to distribute funds to support Sonoma County's mid- to long-term rebuilding efforts.

"The local agencies that make up the fabric of our non-profit community already support thousands of Sonoma County's most vulnerable people. Nearly overnight, the need and the number of people on the brink has skyrocketed. As a Community Foundation, it is our job to help support and sustain those agencies, these initial grants are the first step in what we know will be a much longer period of rebuilding." Elizabeth Brown, President & CEO, Community Foundation Sonoma County.

To date CFSC has given out \$300,000 in stabilizing grants to the following nonprofit organizations: 4C's (Community Childcare Council), California Human Development, Catholic Charities, Ceres Community Project, Community Action Partnership, La Luz, Petaluma People Service Center, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Sonoma Humane Society, UndocuFund for Fire Relief, Volunteer Center of Sonoma County.

"We have had hundreds of phone calls from people in the Spanish speaking community who have lost their jobs when the vineyards burned, or who have lost homes and need help to access services. For our undocumented community, there has been an added level of fear of not knowing whether it is safe to seek help. This grant has helped La Luz serve as translators, and navigators during this time." Juan Hernandez, Executive Director, La Luz.

"At Ceres we know first-hand that food heals and we are committed to being part of the healing for the families who have lost their homes or been impacted by the fires. Last week we mobilized to prepare 400 to 500 warm, nourishing meals each day for families and first responders. This funding from CFSC allowed us to move quickly and confidently to begin immediately supporting those impacted by the Sonoma County fires." Cathryn Couch, Executive Director, Ceres Community Project

Community Foundation Sonoma County's grantmaking expertise and local networks are vital in ensuring that donations to the Sonoma County Resilience Fund will be put to use where they are most urgently needed, now and in the future. Online gifts can be made at: <http://www.sonomacf.org/sonoma-county-resilience-fund/>

**About the 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 works with philanthropists to create plans that will make an impact in our community and become part of their family's legacy.

More information: [sonomacf.org](http://sonomacf.org)

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