

FIRE LINES

The California Fire Foundation - assisting families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and the communities they protect.



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**CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION:
 HELPING HEAL CALIFORNIA**

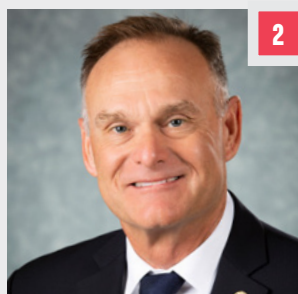
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 DIRECTOR**

Photos:
 Anthony
 Guevara/
 FOX26 and
 James Parr



BENEVOLENT ENHANCEMENT



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Benevolent Enhancement: A Time for Growth

As Chairman, I am grateful to be surrounded by a wonderful, dedicated board of directors that have a shared vision of success and growth of the California ...

“THE FIRE WAS TOO FIERCE, there was nothing that could be done,” said Fire Chief James Parr of the Pine Ridge Volunteer Fire Department (PRVFD).

On September 4, 2020, the Creek Fire started near Shaver Lake and burned 379,895 acres. James Parr was a street away from his home fighting a really fast-moving fire with 100-200ft flames. At the time he had no idea that while he fought tirelessly to protect a neighboring

community his own house was burning, and he would soon get word that it too was lost to the flames. The fire came through the Pine Ridge community in 30 minutes and 66 out of the 88 homes in the area were destroyed.

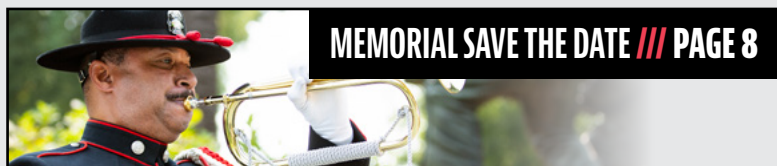
Fifteen out of the twenty-four volunteer fire personnel at PRVFD lost their homes that day. Many had lived in the area for decades. “We’re all basically friends and family up here and this ripped us apart. I had

to tell people that everything was lost,” said Fire Chief James Parr.

Just like the Pine Ridge Volunteers, thousands of California firefighters work tirelessly for our communities, day in and day out. When catastrophic wildfires or natural disasters strike, many of our firefighters remain on the front lines, even as their own homes are lost.

This is the brutal reality for California firefighters and is why in 2018,

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MEMORIAL SAVE THE DATE /// PAGE 8



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

BENEVOLENT ENHANCEMENT: A TIME FOR GROWTH

AS CHAIRMAN, I am grateful to be surrounded by a wonderful, dedicated board of directors that have a shared vision of success and growth of the California Fire Foundation. Our call for community action and to serve others is deeply rooted in all of us and as we brace ourselves for another year of wildfires, we are honored to announce the expansion to the California Fire Foundation's

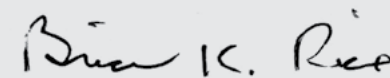
Benevolent Fund Program to provide additional aid to frontline firefighters.

With the continued support from the Foundation's donors and increased funding, we are working to further the mission of the Benevolent Fund to aid firefighters injured on the job or impacted by fire or natural disaster. This program is yet another way for us to help support our brothers and

sisters as they work tirelessly to protect our state.

As difficult as recent times have been, our mission remains the same – to provide emotional and financial assistance to families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and the communities they protect.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the California Fire Foundation staff we thank you. Your support makes the California Fire Foundation's work possible and for that we are truly grateful.



Brian K. Rice
Chair
California Fire Foundation

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COVER STORY CONTINUED

in response to the losses experienced by the firefighters battling the Camp Fire in Northern California and the Woolsey and Hill Fires in Southern California, the California Fire Foundation established the California Firefighters Benevolent Fund.

The initial aim of the fund was to provide support to firefighters that experienced damage or loss of their personal residence and assistance to firefighters that sustained burn injuries in the course of their employment providing them with a benefit of \$500.

The California Firefighters Benevolent Fund is one of our most vital programs. This year we



Photos: Anthony Guevara/FOX26



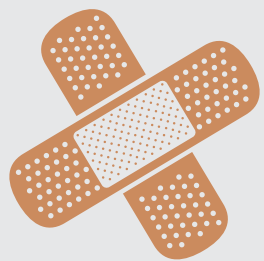
are enhancing the program and can now award a benevolent benefit of \$2,000 for firefighters who lose their homes and up to \$5,000 in the event of severe injury or death. This enhancement enables the California Fire Foundation to increase the support to firefighters and their families displaced from their homes due to disaster, line-of-duty deaths and line-of-duty injuries.

"We believe this enhancement illustrates our commitment to

helping our brave firefighters in their hour of need, just as they are committed to helping us in ours," said Rick Martinez, Executive Director of the California Fire Foundation. "We are truly thankful for all our donors, large and small, who have helped make this enhancement a reality for our deserving firefighters.

For more information regarding the Benevolent Fund visit www.cafirefoundation.org/benevolent

GRANTS AND DONATION NEWS



CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION: HELPING TO HEAL CALIFORNIA

Recent times have been unbelievably difficult for many. In California, communities were hurting not only from the COVID-19 pandemic but also the most unprecedented wildfire season in our state's history. Through our disaster relief programs and corporate funded grants from Edison International, Pacific Gas & Electric and Chevron, the California Fire Foundation offers grants for prevention, preparation and response to major events, including wildfires, floods and climate-caused disasters.

Over the course of this past year we were able to give a much-needed helping hand to community-based organizations across California disbursing over \$2 million in grants and related equipment to 130 fire departments, firefighter associations, fire safe councils and other community organizations throughout California. Here is just a small example of those we awarded funding to.



TRINITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The CFF provided grant funding to purchase pistol grip nozzles, chain saw, chaps and new hoses to replace ones burnt in a 2019 wildfire. "We greatly appreciate the funding from the California Fire Foundation that will prepare our small rural VFD for the wildland fire challenges that we will face" Carol Fall, Assistant Chief, Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department.



CERES COMMUNITY PROJECT

Grant recipient, Ceres Community Project, mentor teens to build food preparation skills and works with volunteers to deliver the food to people in need. In the aftermath of the Glass-Shady-Boysen Fire and LNU Complex Fire the Ceres Community Project delivered meals to evacuees staying at shelters.

"Ceres Community Project was the grateful recipient of a grant from the California Fire Foundation to support our response during the wildfires last year providing medically tailored meals to evacuees with serious health conditions."

- Evie Facendini, Ceres Community Project.

1 "Because of the award, we were able to purchase better quality and safer PPE for our personnel instead of the cheapest bare minimum gear."
- James Klyn, Fire Chief, Mi Wuk Sugar Pine Fire Protection District

2 "Your generosity has allowed us to outfit our volunteers in the proper gear and upgrade our communications. Our volunteers are now better prepared for the upcoming fire season."
- Dee Martin, Strawberry Fire Protection District (SFPD) Board President



TINY PINE FOUNDATION

The California Fire Foundation granted funds to the Tiny Pine Foundation to build four homes and much needed shelter for individuals and families displaced by the North Complex Fire. These tiny homes are 100% supported by volunteers and donations and provide those that lost everything to the wildfire a place to call home.

3 "The radios your gift provided will allow Hornbrook firefighters to direct resources where they are needed most and will help ensure that everyone goes home safe. We, and those we serve, sincerely appreciate your generosity."
- Tim Thurner, Chief, Hornbrook Fire FPD

4 "We greatly appreciate the funding from the California Fire Foundation that will prepare our small rural VFD for the wildland fire challenges that we will face!"
- Carol Fall, Assistant Chief, Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department

5 "This grant will ensure the men and women of the Dunsuir Fire Department will be able to effectively suppress wildland fires in a safe manner, with "state of the art" personal protective equipment."
- Fire Chief Daniel Padilla, Dunsuir Fire Department



EMERGENCY RV

EmergencyRV.org is a 100% volunteer-based nonprofit providing emergency and transitional RV housing to survivors of natural disaster. The grant awarded to EmergencyRV.org by the California Fire Foundation provided RV housing to more than 10 families. Many of those families and first responders were displaced by fires such as the Creek, North Complex, SCU Lightening Complex and Slater-Devil fires. "The generous grant from the California Fire Foundation helps fund our mission and we are delighted to be able to provide at least 10 families a safe place to call home while they get back on their feet. It is an amazing feeling to be able to give them hope," said Woody Faircloth, Founder of Emergency RV.



OJAI VALLEY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council were awarded funding to develop and support the first year of a community-based prescribed grazing program for vegetation management, fuels reduction and ecosystem enhancement in the Ojai Valley's wildland-urban interface. The proposed grazing program will increase treated areas by thousands of acres each year.

6 "With your support, we advanced a bold strategy in close partnership with our community partners to advance wildfire relief and recovery efforts. We spent this past several months helping impacted families in Sonoma and Napa Counties."
- Samantha Sandoval, Latino Community Foundation

FUNDRAISER SPOTLIGHT



Kyle Costamagna (second from right) and his friends

The California Fire Foundation is very close to the Costamagna family's hearts.

Twenty-two years ago, the family's world was turned upside down when Fremont firefighter, Larry Costamagna, died in the line of duty. Through the foundation's commitment to serving the families of our fallen brothers and sisters, Kyle and his brother Dylan both decided to follow in their father's footsteps and enter into a career in the fire service thanks in part to the Daniel A. Terry scholarship they were able to make their dreams become a reality.

This integral program awards scholarships to the children of fallen firefighters allowing each recipient a \$2,000 scholarship, renewable for up to four years, for a total award package of up to \$8,000.

With the assistance of the scholarship, Kyle graduated with a bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic Institute (Cal Poly) in 2013 and later finished paramedic

school. His brother Dylan's 2016 scholarship also helped him earn a degree from Cal Poly and, like his brother, he is hoping to follow in his father's footsteps, having recently graduated from the Allan Hancock College Fire Academy.

Now the family are giving back to the Foundation and in May 2021 held their own fundraising event in memory of their father. Fifty of Kyle's friends and family took part in a sponsored run/walk event and together totaled 322 miles and raised funds to help support the California Fire Foundation.

"It was absolutely amazing to have friends and family honor my dad in this way. To be able to have the people I love help to give back to the California Fire Foundation is something I am so grateful for, as the foundation has given my family so much," said Kyle Costamagna.

We want to hear about all your amazing fundraising events - please email cafirefoundation@cpf.org



Photo: Danny Giraud

FIREFIGHTERS IN ACTION

Firefighting partners and longtime friends (L to R) Engineer/Paramedic, Scott Bassett, Captain, Ken Babcock and Engineer/Paramedic Danny Giraud of Menlo Park Fire District taking a break from fighting the Carr Fire of 2018. We thank you and every one of our brave California firefighters.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMING OUT OF THE DARK

Dear Friends,

I am excited to bring you the inaugural issue of our California Fire Foundation newsletter and hopeful that you will find our

first edition informational and insightful.

This last year has brought extreme hardship and adversity to so many, but the California Fire Foundation remains steadfast in its commit-

ment to providing emotional and financial assistance to firefighters, their families and the communities they protect. Providing hope in the face of struggle and loss is at the heart of the California Fire



Rick Martinez
Executive Director
California Fire Foundation



Foundation's mission.

Many of our communities have suffered through not only the devastating effects of the pandemic but also some of the worst wildfires in our region's history, and through it all our California firefighters have been on the front lines facing these catastrophes head on, helping those communities in their hour of need.

Just as California firefighters were on the front lines, our foundation has been busy supporting communities heavily impacted by disaster, to include the direct and indirect impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we catch our breath from the challenges of the last year, we are mindful of the upcoming wildfire season and the likely impacts of another historically challenging year. As daunting as that seems, we are comforted by your support. It is because of your generous donations we will again be able to make a difference in the lives of those in need and the firefighters that serve them.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the California Fire Foundation staff, thank you for supporting us in our mission, we are eternally grateful.



Save
the
Date

**THE 2021
MEMORIAL CEREMONY**

is currently scheduled for
Saturday, September 25, 2021.
The families of the 2020 will be invited
as full participants in the 2021 Memorial
Ceremony, receiving full honors
along with those being
recognized in 2021.

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