

UpValley Family Centers Valley Fire - Final Report June 15, 2016



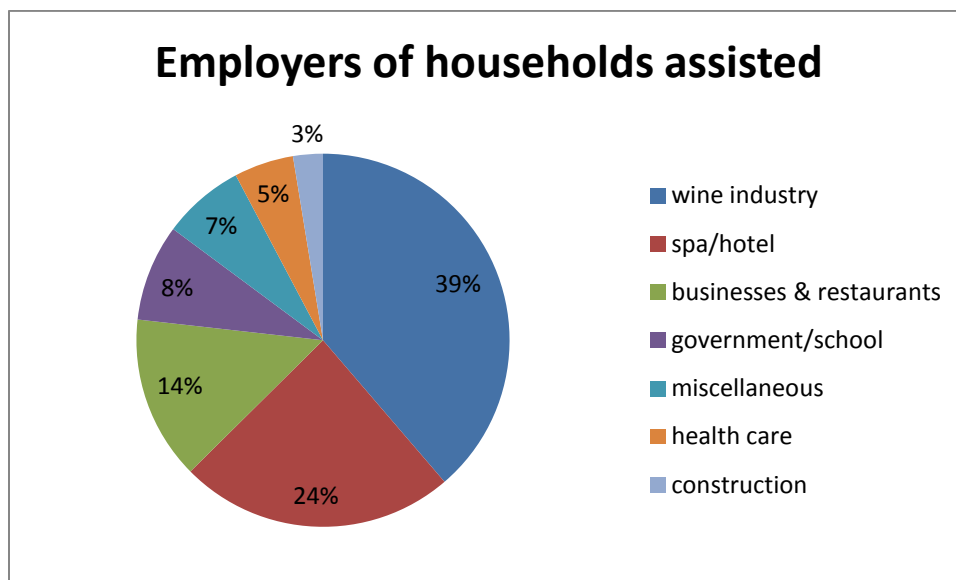
The UpValley Family Centers (UVFC) is pleased to provide you with a summary of the work undertaken by our organization in response to the Valley Fire. ***Thanks to the hundreds of other donors and volunteers, we were able to help over 1,500 victims of the fire begin a process of recovery.***

The Lake County evacuation began on the eve of September 12, 2015 and six of our staff voluntarily reported for duty at the Calistoga Fairgrounds as well as our Calistoga center, on Sunday, September 13. We began to immediately provide services and information to evacuees at the Calistoga Fairgrounds shelter. Our Calistoga offices added temporary additional staff for the next several months to respond to phone and in person inquiries and requests for assistance. Thanks to our existing Emergency Assistance Program, we had procedures and policies already established to guide us.

According to Cal Fire, 1,281 homes and 27 multi-family structures were destroyed in the Valley Fire. Thanks to your support, we helped a significant number affected by this crisis. UVFC received \$357,628 in donations from individuals, businesses, community groups, schools, foundations, and Napa Valley Vintners to provide emergency assistance to victims of the Valley Fire. We provided emergency assistance to 377 households reaching 1,543 individuals affected by the fire (1,166 adults and 377 children under age 18).

From September 2015 through April 2016, we issued \$307,500 in direct emergency assistance (86% of donations received). A total 135 households received financial assistance in the range of \$1,000-\$2,500 for housing related items like security deposits and rental assistance. We assisted 242 households with essential basic support items including food, gas, transportation, medical bills and utility bills. The remaining 14% funds supported increased staff time, materials and temporary help to accommodate the sudden influx of families requesting help, beyond our routine services.

Most households we served had working adults who were employed in the following sectors noted in the chart below (the vast majority employed in Napa County):



Client stories

- Rosa and Ociel (below) are long-time residents of Middletown, living there more than 45 years. They raised three children in the house that they owned for many years. Their two oldest children are married and have careers. Their youngest child was away at college when the disaster struck. Rosa and Ociel were forced to evacuate along with thousands of people, and came to the Calistoga Fairgrounds on September 12th. They received assistance from UVFC, including food and gas cards at the beginning of their stay at the shelter. About four days later, they learned that their house was completely burned down. Rosa is employed at a Napa County resort and heard about the opportunity to receive financial assistance and case management through UVFC. She applied, requesting funds for a down payment for a trailer that could serve them as a residence until they rebuild their home. They obtained a loan from their bank, and along with the financial assistance they received through our program, they purchased a trailer. They initially parked the trailer in the backyard of a local business woman's Calistoga residence, where they stayed until their property was cleaned of debris and cleared for return. They are now living on their property in the trailer, hoping to rebuild their home.



- Another of our clients is a young school teacher. She lost her apartment in the Valley Fire and was forced to evacuate to Calistoga Fairgrounds on September 12, 2015. She and her husband, a student at Pacific Union College, lost all of their possessions. Yet, this young teacher only took one day off from work despite their extreme circumstances. She came to her classroom, worked during the day and returned to the shelter in the evening. What an example of dedication! We helped this young couple with a security deposit and the first month of rent at temporary housing at Pacific Union College.
- Christina, a mother of two and owner of her own bookkeeping business, requested assistance to help buy household items for a small second-hand trailer the family purchased with money they received from their insurance company. Christina's husband was recently diagnosed with cancer and was just beginning cancer treatment. Their home and car were completely lost in the Valley Fire. They camped in the Calistoga shelter for many days before they were able to purchase the trailer. Once they obtained it, they parked it at a friend's backyard in St Helena. With the assistance, Christina was able to purchase a washer and dryer that fit inside the trailer, as well as other items needed for the kitchen.

The board and staff of UVFC are inspired by your generosity and concern for the Valley Fire victims.

Thank YOU for stepping up when our neighbors needed it most.