



Forward Together

from the North Bay Fires

Redwood Valley and Santa Rosa Community Recovery Fund

Dear Friends, Neighbors, Colleagues, Customers, and Suppliers –

Mendocino and Sonoma Counties were struck by **devastating wildfires**. The loss of life, property, and possessions is still being tallied and has already surpassed any modern recorded fire.

Our company and employees have long, deep roots in both counties. Many were impacted by the fires — at one point over 25 were evacuated, several lost their homes, and we heard many of the harrowing tales similar to the thousands displaced. **We are very grateful to our employees and the emergency response.** We offer our condolences for the loss of loved ones.

The recovery and restoration of homes and personal lives will take years. We want to assure the community — through our actions — we will be here **for the long haul**. We have considered how we can help the larger community where we live and work.

I have received many phone calls and inquiries — *“How can we help?”*, *“Where can we send money, supplies, resources?”* We have spent some time to consider **long-term support for communities** most affected by the fires. We lost more than homes and buildings. The wide and fast devastation was a fracturing shock to the community.

We ask you to join us in support of restoring things which **build community**. People lost gathering locations, community centers, ball parks, elder care centers; they lost pets and places to enjoy with their children. Teachers and emergency workers lost their homes and belongings. Community space, youth and elderly, teachers and public safety are the critical threads in the fabric of any community.

To that end, we ask for your support to help support the most impacted communities. Specifically:

- see reverse side

We have established the **Redwood Valley and Santa Rosa Community Recovery Fund** as a **Matching Challenge**. Every dollar you contribute we will put in a matching dollar.

- We will **match dollar for dollar** the first **\$400,000**.
- The money will be distributed in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.
- The funds will be directed to **youth, elder, educators, emergency workers, and animals** displaced by the Nuns, Redwood Valley, and Tubbs Fires.
- The funds will be distributed by the Community Foundation of Mendocino County via an **independent committee** and a **regular report of distributions** will be provided on our website until the fund is exhausted.
- The committee will consist of three (3) individuals — Carmel J. Angelo, Mendocino County resident, Buck Ganter, Mendocino County resident, Marty Olhiser, Sonoma County resident.
- **100% of the donations will be put to use. Our company will pay related administrative costs.**

Additional Company Actions:

- We are offering \$5,000 relocation bonuses to new employees who not only lost homes but livelihoods and \$1,000 referral bonuses to people who help.
- We will have our heavy equipment and operators licensed to participate in the clean-up. Any “disaster money” we receive related to this work, we will donate to the Recovery Fund.
- And importantly, we pledge to continue our “regular” community support. Each year our employees manage and distribute about \$300,000 in community action grants, ag education support, college scholarships, and matching capital programs to our communities for a wide range of charity. This will continue. It is important we remember these needs despite the immediate need for fire recovery.

Please see the **link below** to make your contribution today. And **please share with your community** to help ours. Redwood Valley and Santa Rosa need our support for the long haul.

We are all at our best when we work together. Thank you in advance for your support of this important effort. If you have any questions about the company or this letter, please contact us at www.MendoCo.com, or call me directly at the number below.

Sincerely,

Bob Mertz, CEO
(707) 467-3385

Mendocino Forest Products Company
Mendocino Redwood Company
Humboldt Redwood Company
Allweather Wood

CONTRIBUTE HERE:
<http://bit.ly/forward-together>

Make checks payable to: **Redwood Valley and Santa Rosa Community Recovery Fund**

Memo: **Forward Together**

Mail to: **The Community Foundation of Mendocino County**
204 S Oak Street • Ukiah, CA 95482



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www.MendoCo.com