

Back the Build

Seneca Hospital to Build State-of-the-Art Facility



Architect's Rendering

The Almanor Foundation has opened a "Back the Build" Fund for monies raised for Seneca Hospital's new state-of-the-art facility.

The future of the Seneca Healthcare District Hospital is at a crossroads.

The existing building is now over 69 years old, and is nearing its end of life. Seneca's exceptional staff provides the quality health care residents and visitors to our area deserve. However, according to Senate Bill 1953, the aging building does not meet current seismic safety building standards. Renovating the existing structure to bring it up to current requirements would cost as much or more than building a new facility.

Now is the time to be forward-thinking to meet the health care needs of our community today and into the future.

DONATE TO "BACK THE BUILD"

AlmanorFoundation.org

In This Issue

- Seneca Hospital "Back the Build"
- Dixie Anniversary
- Consortium on Housing
- Dixie Fire Grants
- Social Safety Net
- Chester Town Plaza
- Logging Jamboree
- Home Town Hero
- Back the Build Rib Cook-Off

525,948.967 Minutes Since the Dixie Fire Began

As of July 13, it has been 525,948.967 minutes since the Dixie Fire raged through Plumas County and surrounding areas destroying close to 1,000,000 acres and lasting over 60 days. We refer to minutes since during this fire, many lived minute to minute not knowing what direction the fire would go next, how quickly it would move, and most importantly, when or if it would knock on their door.

Sadly, it knocked on the doors of many communities, two, which were leveled.

Though this has been a tragedy for all, there is always something to be learned. Even more so, is it possible that good can come of something such as Dixie that left so many of us shell-shocked? In the case of our community, the answer is yes.

Within five days of the fire, the newly formed Almanor Foundation started the Wildfire Relief Fund for those in need -- from housing to gas to food to the basics of "just living," -- finding a place to stay during the many days of evacuation to how they might get home to those who lost their homes and wondered, "What will we do?"

While the fire roared, everyone worked together. In its aftermath, those working in relief and recovery became even more committed. We now look to improving and building upon ideas that will enhance the quality of life in our communities while creating more opportunities for economic development.

Would anyone say having a forest fire cut a path of destruction through your community is a good thing? Absolutely not! But what we can say is the resilience, dedication, commitment, and the ability to band together has been heartwarming, amazing, encouraging and allowing us all to recognize that where we call home is more than special . . . it has our heart and soul.

[Help the recovery effort, make donations to almanorfoundation.org/donate/](https://AlmanorFoundation.org/donate/)

HOUSING CONSORTIUM

"We had a housing crisis pre-pandemic and pre- Dixie Fire. We now have a housing emergency."

On March 23, over 50 members of the community representing a variety of economic sectors and government agencies gathered together to begin the process of addressing the urgent housing crisis in the Basin. The shortage of housing and shortage of affordable housing threatens the livelihood and character of our region, our community members, and our businesses.

What We Learned

Attendees from all sectors agreed that lack of available housing is putting a chokehold on economic recovery, business growth, and hiring in Plumas County. This shortage also negatively affects hiring for government agencies, reducing the effectiveness of local government. It was also determined that the traditional home ownership model is unattainable for most of the local workforce.

Challenges to Building New Housing

The many challenges facing solutions are: local developers are not available or do not exist, local contractors are booked for two or more years, material costs, supply-chain issues, and lack of skilled workers. Familiar (for-profit) development models may not work given these challenges and the rural environment of Plumas County.

Moving Forward

A housing committee is being formed with the participation of local business leaders and public agencies. The Almanor Foundation is looking to contract with housing consultants and grant writers to assist in planning, land acquisition, design, and development. If you are interested in taking part on this committee, please contact Susan Bryner at susan.bryner@gmail.com.



The goal of The Almanor Foundation in partnership with the Almanor Area Chamber of Commerce is to be the conveners who bring people together to accelerate solutions to achievable local housing, supporting short-term and immediate action, while focusing on long-term solutions.

THE DIXIE FIRE FUNDER'S ROUNDTABLE

The Almanor Foundation, in collaboration with the Dixie Fire Funders Roundtable, recently approved five grants for \$190,700.

- Greenville Rancheria Fire Crew, Vehicle, Equipment and Supplies, \$100,000
- Sierra Institute and Dixie Fire Collaborative, Infrastructure for Pop-Up Business District in Greenville, \$78,700
- Integrative Medical Clinic Foundation, "Imagine You" Training for Second Responders, \$12,000
- Plumas Strong, Greenville Wildfire Recovery Planning Process, Phase 0, Discovery \$123,665
- Morrison, Plumas County Social Safety Net Needs Assessment, \$31,957 (see article next page)

A list of all grants funded by The Almanor Foundation in collaboration with the Funders Roundtable can be found at: <https://almanorfoundation.org/wildfire-relief-fund/>



Greenville Rancheria Fire Crew, Courtesy

Members of the Dixie Fire Funders Roundtable collectively vet and approve grants submitted to them and individually choose those they will participate in funding.

SOCIAL SAFETY NET TOP THEMES

Based on research provided in the Plumas County Social Safety Net Report, commissioned by the Dixie Fire Funders Roundtable, the top safety net issues in Plumas County are: housing, capacity building, economic development, and behavioral and mental health.

The report's recommendations are for philanthropy, government, and other stakeholders to consider as we move forward. It is going to require all sectors to work together to strengthen the fragile social safety net in Plumas County. Requests for a copy of the report can be sent to:

Admin@almanorfoundation.org.



Housing

Already a concern pre-fire, the housing market was made significantly worse

01



Capacity

Agencies and organizations are understaffed or experiencing burnout

02



Economic Development

This is intertwined with housing and the need for tax revenue to support services

03



Behavioral & Mental Health

Need for services has increased post fire, and following COVID-19

04

CHESTER TOWN PLAZA, AN ECONOMIC INITIATIVE



The Almanor Foundation and Lake Almanor Area Chamber of Commerce have worked with Plumas County for several years exploring the potential for a public private partnership to renovate, utilize, and maintain Chester Park.

The Plaza committee will bring the project before

the Board of Supervisors in August with a request to work on needed zoning and terms of an agreement.

The Town Plaza is an initiative for the advancement of community health, education, and cultural and recreational opportunities. The Plaza will be a community destination that will feature year-round activities, educational events, music, festivals, craft fairs, children's activities, cultural performances, and public art.

As an economic development driver, it will contain a public market space that will create opportunities for various food and retail entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses. As an event and year-round activities location it will become a regional destination that will bring local residents as well as travelers into the town of Chester, stimulating the economy of the town. Emphasis will be put on developing activities for the areas shoulder seasons.

HOT SAWS, AXES, AND CHAINSAWS ... OH MY!



The Big-Time Logging Jamboree hosted by the Maidu Summit Consortium and in partnership with The Almanor Foundation arrived in Chester with chain saws roaring and axes flying! A crowd of 300+ spectators who bundled-up and braved the weather came out to see 24 competitors put their skills to the test at this first-time event held at Chester Park on June 4th. Monies raised from the jamboree will go to purchase seedlings to begin the reforestation of the land devastated by the Dixie Fire.

BABY BACK THE BUILD



RIB COOK-OFF

Save the Date! Saturday, October 1 at Plumas Pines Resort for a Rib Cook-Off to benefit the build of Seneca Hospital's state-of-the-art facility. Tickets go on sale August 1st. Check website events page for details.

HOMETOWN HERO

"The hero's journey is not scripted." Bex Pezzullo

The donors, patrons, volunteers and directors of The Almanor Foundation carry the conviction that something good can and will arise during difficult times. Since the Dixie Fire, many individuals and leaders have arisen to inspire and empower the good things that can happen. We honor one of these leaders here, Trina Cunningham, Executive Director of the Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC).

All who have met Trina and have had the experience of working along side of her are deeply struck by her knowledge, perspective, and quiet strength.

The Maidu are the ancestral authority of the upper Feather River Watershed and as the Executive Director of MSC, Trina's role is to steward the people and natural lands of the Mountain Maidu.

Trina was hands on during the Dixie Fire, working incident command from July 18 - September 2 to protect the Maidu community's cultural sites. After the fire, her non-stop energy and ingenuity continues as she focuses on repairing the damaged lives and lands of the Mountain Maidu. For these reasons and for all that she does Trina has been chosen as our Hometown Hero.



Laurie Dana, Courtesy



The Almanor Foundation is A 501c3 charitable foundation.

There is much work to be done to rebuild, restore and revitalize our communities. We are dependent on one another to make this happen. The Can-Do-Community needs your talents, skills and financial assistance to honor our motto.

THOSE WHO STEP-UP, MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Thank you for your generosity and support.

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AlmanorFoundation.org/donate

