

# REBUILD PARADISE FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



 [www.rebuildparadise.org](http://www.rebuildparadise.org)

 a 501(C)(3) Nonprofit Organization, EIN 83400562





# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Have you ever tried solving a puzzle flipped over and backwards? It's really hard to put the pieces together when you can't see the picture. That is what our recovery is like- it's like a 1 million piece puzzle being done flipped over, you have no instructions, no picture, the task seems daunting, almost impossible. In fact, people have told you: there is no hope, it can't be done -You stare at the 1 million pieces and don't even know where to start." Rebuild Paradise Foundation is one of the puzzle pieces that has played a big part in our recovery- providing needed resources and reducing barriers to reconstruction so people can come home.

I was honored to represent Rebuild Paradise Foundation and our community by speaking on the steps of the state capitol as we reflected on 5 years after the devastating Camp Fire- one of the many great things we did in 2023.

# LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR

It is hard to believe that over five years have passed since the day that reshaped so many lives. Our community is forever stronger, but still fighting through our long recovery. The "5 Year" mark brought back so many memories. It also brought with it some much needed attention that all too often falls away after a disaster. This attention in the media, with researchers, onlookers, cheerleaders, and former residents hopefully showed just how far our community has come in five short years... Houses built and occupied, businesses returning, roads being repaved, power lines being undergrounded, schools growing- all show the progress.

For Rebuild Paradise Foundation, our focus and determination to support this recovery has never waned. We adjust our sails to meet the ever changing and unimagined challenges that continue to pop up. Our team puts all their hearts and minds into the programs and community projects you will read about in our Annual Report. Myself and our board could not be more proud of our mighty team at Rebuild Paradise Foundation. Also, on behalf of all of us, I would like to extend the highest level of gratitude to all of our partners, funders, friends, people we have served, and our community. Without you, none of this would be possible.





# PROJECTS

- **Grants**
- **Master Floor Plan Library**
- **5 year anniversary**
- **Handprint Mural**
- **Firewise**
- **Mapping/Drones**
- **Telling our story**





# GRANTS

**OVER 2.3 MILLION DOLLARS AWARDED TO OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS REBUILDING**

## MISSING MIDDLE

Reimburses up to \$5000 for lot surveys, architect/engineering fees, permit fees, and water expenses

As of 31 December 2023

- We have awarded over \$1.4 Million to 380 households
- We were able to change the guidelines to allow more residents to receive the max grant award of \$5000 by including permit fee reimbursement.
- This grants helps to reimburse costly reconstruction expenses: surveys, architect and engineering fees, water hook up, and building permit fees.
- We predict this grant will wrap up in March 2024.



## SEPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Reimburses \$3500-\$7500 for septic related expenses

As of 31 December 2023

- We have awarded over of \$900,000 in septic grants to over 235 families.
- We were able to modify the guidelines to allow greater funds distributed to low income families.
- The Septic grant awards between \$3500-\$7500 for reimbursement of septic related expenses to those rebuilding in the Camp Fire footprint.
- Need for this grant continues and we look forward to continuing this program into fall of 2024.

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# MASTER FLOOR PLAN LIBRARY

The beginning of 2023 was a big change for our Master Floor Plan Library program. The state of California required new building codes for all new construction and our original master plans no longer met these codes.

Working with two design professionals, the Town of Paradise, and Butte County over the course of the year we were able to remaster 9 floor plans.

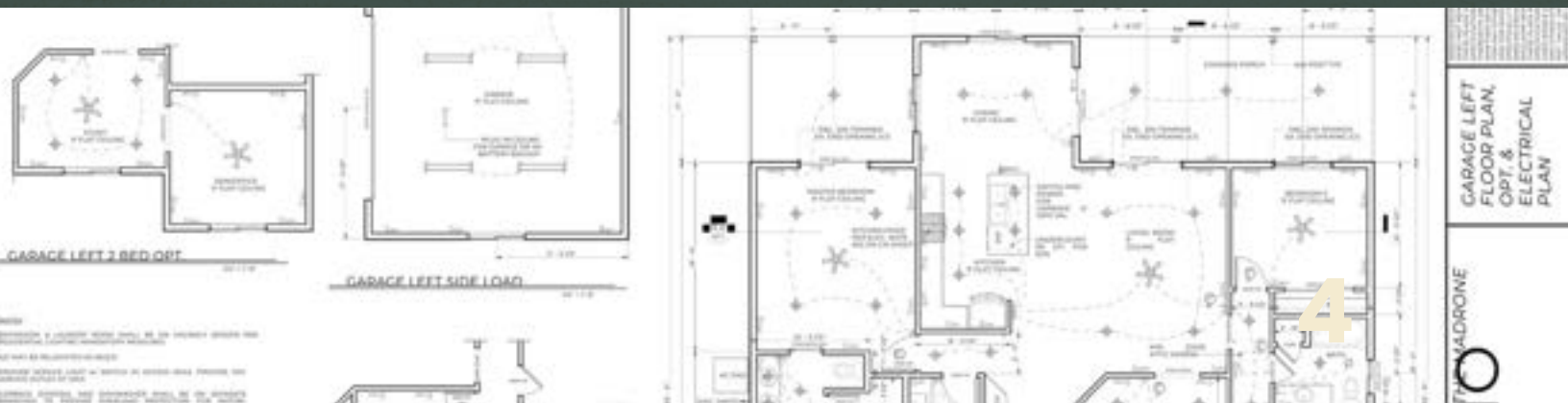
This update allowed for 5 brand new plans that we saw fit for our community needs and better versions of existing plans.

The program has three major impacts: It reduces costs for those rebuilding by \$5,000-\$10,000, it reduces the amount of time it takes for design and permitting by about 6 months, and it relieves the mental burden of having to design your home.

By the end of 2023 there were over 220 homes permitted from this program and over 100 built to completion.



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# 5 YEARS AFTER THE CAMP FIRE

We have come so far, yet we  
still have so much to do



- **Speaking at the State Capitol**

Advocating for our community

- **Media Coverage**

Telling our Story

- **Community Daffodil Planting**

Donating over 1000 bulbs to residents

- **Handprints of all Ridge Kids**

Showcasing how far we've  
come by showing how many  
kids live on the Ridge



# HANDPRINT MURAL

The Idea: to create a long-lasting public art installation commemorating the 5-year anniversary of the Camp Fire, while also highlighting the growth of our community by showing the number of kids living on The Ridge, 5 years post fire.

A sunset-themed ceramic tile mural, in an visible public location, will display the handprints of the approximately 2,500 children living in the Camp Fire footprint in November of 2023



## WHAT WE DID

- Local artist Emily Farmer designed a paint by number tile mural.
- We visited 15 Ridge schools (Paradise, Magalia, Concow).
- Captured over 2500 handprints of TK-12th grade students on ceramic tiles.
- Coordinated over 70 volunteers.
- Partnered with countless community organizations.
- Raised over \$60,000.

## NEXT STEPS

- Firing of tiles at Butte College
- Permission and permitting of wall at Paradise Community Park
- Construction of cinder block wall
- Install tiles to create sunset mural





# FIREWISE

## First Firewise Community in Paradise

With the insurance crisis looming over our community and insurance policies going up as much as 1000 percent, we wanted to step in and help with any tools or resources to combat this crisis.

One way to help was by creating a Firewise Community through the National Fire Protection Association.

Firewise Communities not only make our town safer, but there is a mandatory discount required of insurers.

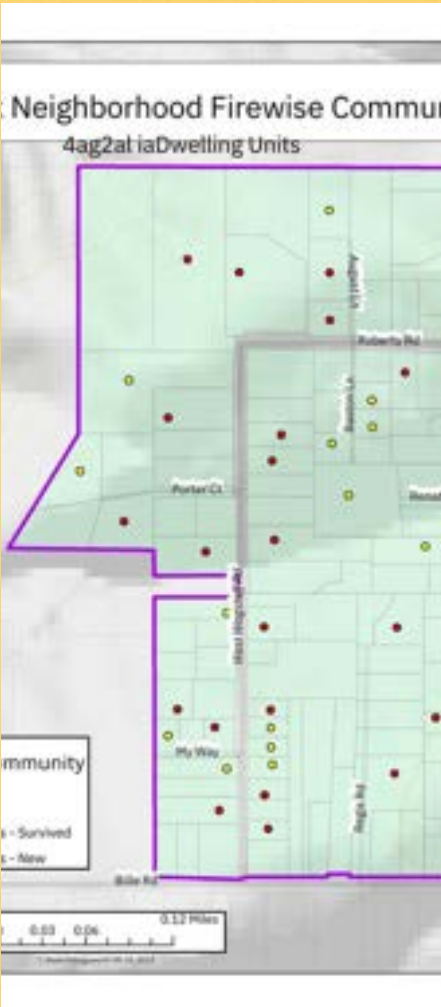
In August 2023 Rebuild Paradise Foundation was able to spearhead the first Firewise Community in Paradise in hopes to inspire and help others to do the same.

Because of our efforts, there are now 17 Firewise Communities working to get certification in the Town of Paradise.

[www.NFPA.ORG](http://www.NFPA.ORG)



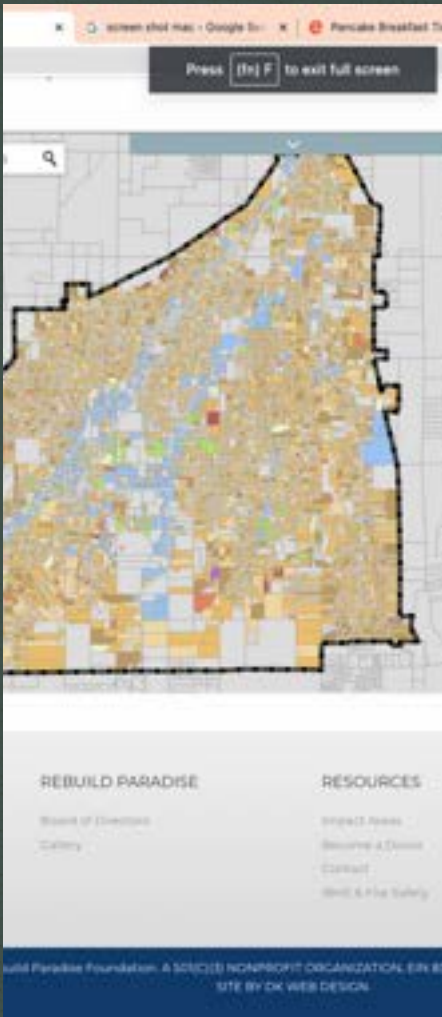
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# MAPPING & DRONES

## MAPPING



- We continue to offer our digital mapping resource that serves the needs of the community in the following ways:
  - Septic Layer: Shows the capacity of septic tanks & where they are located on the property. This tool is used daily by the community.
  - Survey Layer: Shows if a property has a record of survey and who performed the survey.
  - SPZ Layer: Shows the special permit zones (flood zones) that require extra measures for rebuilding.

## DRONES



- Our drones continues to showcase the unique perspective and story of our recovery.
- In addition, our drones are still utilized in correlation with our Master Floor Plan Library to help our design professionals site plan & pass along cost savings to residents.



# STORY TELLING

It is important for us to help change the narrative of our community. From a town once lost, to a town recovering and full of opportunity. We utilize social media platforms, news/media outlets, and creative marketing to show our incredible progress and inspire and encourage others to consider making The Ridge home.



## OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

- Over \$10,000 in community sponsorships
- Organizer for the Community Career Expo
- Leader for Make a Difference Days
  - 2 community wide volunteer clean-up days annually
- Advocate for our community with media and research
- 1000 daffodil bulb Giveaway
- Marketing/Showcasing our community



# CONTACT INFORMATION



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