

Theme 2: Facilitators of rebuilding

Supports or resources that enabled survivors to rebuild or bolstered community recovery.

Support from family and friends



we signed up with the county cleanup, but you could see that a majority of the work was being done where there was more bang for the buck**So... I talked to a friend... I ended up talking to a friend, he's like, you know what, I got a guy that might be willing to help you do the cleanup.** And, he gave me the number. I called him. He came over on Saturday. He looked at our lot. He's like, you know, we normally don't do this, but I think we need to help you out. So, he gave me a bid for fifty grand to clear the property, grade the lot.

Sonoma County

I live in a community now of doers right. If you have a problem you don't like, if you have a problem with your well or something, your first call is not to the well person. **You call your neighbor and they come over** and if they can't fix it, then you call the well person. That's like a totally different experience for me. It's just a really cool neighborhood. A couple of those neighbors never left during the fire, and they saved a lot of stuff because they were just racing around with their bulldozer, cutting fire lines and stuff. These types of folks, they dive in and do it themselves every time...**Like it's very communal** with the neighbors that get along, anyways. It's super communal like people share equipment.

Butte County



...then about eight months after the fire, I happened to run into a local person... who was promoting cross laminated timber houses. And I had done, I had done research on this and knew that it was a very modern fire-resistant style of construction. So, and he said he was looking to build a couple of houses visible from the highway. I said, well, my property is visible from the highway. **So, you know, in about 20 minutes, we did a handshake deal,** and then he had the architect send me the specifications for the house, and then I looked at it and said, yeah, you know, this works. You know, I could be happy here. Regardless of what happens elsewhere and anyone around town thinks.

Plumas County



My friend, I knew him for 16 years when we lived there.... **we developed a relationship where I needed stuff done...**you know, building kind of construction stuff... His water system was falling apart, and he was in a mobile... he needed X amount of dollars... And so I was like, how about this? I'll be your bank, you work for me... So, you know... He would come over and he rebuilt my chicken coop and, you know, we put siding all around it and got rid of, you know, just cleaned it all out and then it was a good little storage shed.

Butte County



Finding help with construction

Our contractor...and so he made it, really...He and his wife, they actually made some decisions that probably normally aren't made by a contractor, **but it was kind of the way it had to be for us** because there were so many decisions to make and that was a frustrating part for sure was well, you know what kind of texturized, texture do you want on the walls? I mean, it's crazy. **All the decisions and our contractor ended up, and his wife really made a lot of decisions, and it made it easier.**

Lake County



Support from community



You know, there was something, just **the way the community came together.** They had, this huge room full of people like the DMV so you could go get, driver's licenses or whatever. And over here, you can apply to get your birth certificate and marriage license and all these other documents that were burned. And, over here, you know, you get free clothing, and you could just--there was a store there in Hidden Valley where you could just go and take what you needed kitchen utensils and stuff, and clothing. **And they really satisfied that need to get us going right away.**

Lake County



A young man and I think maybe a couple of associates who actually were from the Midwest and had come to California and they were doing homes that were sort of, not modular exactly... Analyzed construction... and not stick built, which is, you come here...I, and it seemed like in terms of what they were saying, that **you could do something that was faster and maybe not as costly** in terms of ... acre homes...That's a, that is the, we found out... ultimately, it comes on flatbeds , and it's almost like Lego... but it's already, it's, it's pre-made in the factory.

Sonoma County

Insurance and settlements



Fortunately, **our insurance company treated us quite well** and quite soon we had the resources to you know, purchase another house. So, that was really, I mean and during that time there were still people in, there still are people who basically are homeless or living under a bush or living in a tent or really substandard pickup truck, camper, shell or you know haven't been able to provide for their shelter needs.

Butte County



I never really expected that I was going to get anything from this PG&E suit. Yet finally I started to get some payments after I finished building the house, and I never expected, that, and I, I said something to that effect to those neighbors and [neighbors name] said, 'oh, I think it's, you know, this is just such a rip off and so on and so forth, and, and those people who didn't, who were not adequately insured are getting money, but, you know, they're not giving us anything ...So, it was like, 'oh, I guess maybe I'm one those...because I was not adequately insured', although I had no idea, I wasn't adequately insured.

Sonoma County