

Theme 4: Reliance on others

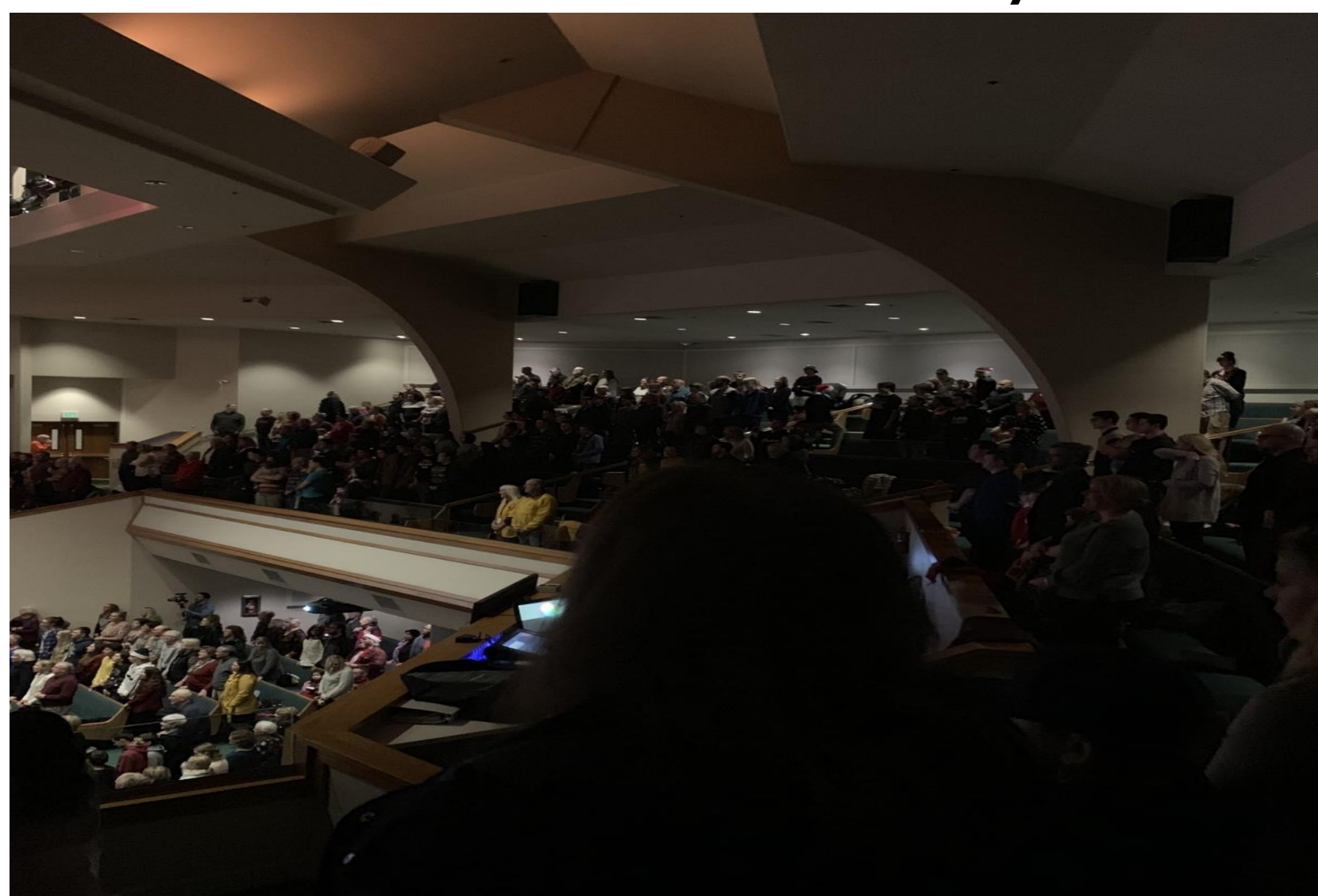
Help from friends and family, neighbors, organizations, and strangers that facilitated the recovery process.

Connections within the community



I belong to what's called the Love Paradise Committee... And as soon as I heard about it, I thought, why don't we have one of these in Paradise?... This last work party that we had two months ago, we had over 105 people who split up into a variety of different groups to do all kinds of thing... **They fixed doors, they fixed windows. They did paintings, they fixed the bleachers that were splintered, all in a three-hour period with a dozen people that had known about the meetings ahead of time.**

Butte County



Christmas that year was a very big deal because that's ...when we realized we didn't have any of our Christmas stuff. So, people didn't even want to like, we're not going to celebrate Christmas... the Christmas Eve service back at the CMA church, which was the church that didn't burn. And that Christmas Eve was like Whoville on Christmas Eve... And like none of these people lived in Paradise. I mean, maybe twenty of them maybe had a Magalia house or something that didn't burn down. **This was the whole community driving from hours away just to come.** It was packed every day singing Christmas carols. It was so beautiful. **And it's just like, oh, this community's not dead. Oh, no. Right. It's like these people is very important to be here in community.**

Butte County



everybody's thinking about wildfire preparedness **and all my neighbors and I complimenting each other on our forest management practices.** And what one neighbor does is like there is a sense of the commons, unlike I've ever seen before and it's really positive. **And we're sharing tips and we're sharing who are the great people or what's the best way to pull out time of year to pull out Scotch broom.** I feel like I have an obligation to my neighbors to maintain forest because it doesn't just impact us, it impacts our 102 year old neighbor and her wife who live in the yurts next to us. I think that's cool.

Sonoma County

Help from acquaintances

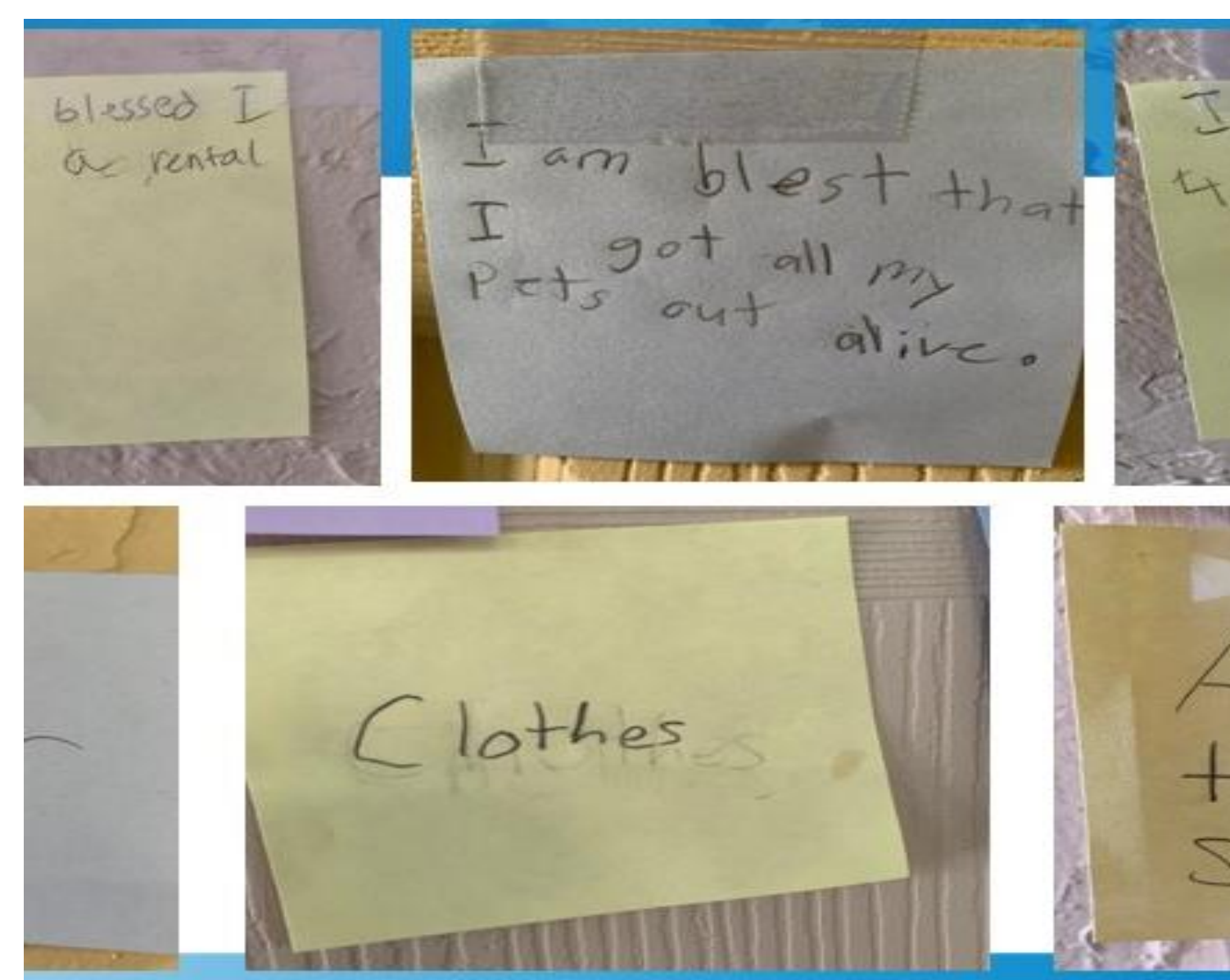


This is Plumas Strong... The one project that I really loved, one of our alumni who lives in [another state] now, deep ties to the community, his whole family. He put out on his Facebook page and it got pushed to a bunch of different alumni Facebook pages. It was called, it was just the alumni fund. We sent out \$80,000. I personally wrote \$80,000 worth of checks to alumni from all different classes... That was really satisfying though, because when you had nowhere to go and you had to go get a rental, getting \$1,000, that's like a first or last or a downpayment. **Plumas County**



My college roommate's mother gave me like a big chunk of money. But I had no idea when I made [my gofundme], if I would get much or what I would get and I hated to ask for it. It's awkward. But then you find that people just give, like they really care. **And it was surprising like one day you feel like you lost everything and the next day everyone's like just so kind...** I always say they--like people adjust to disasters. But I think like emotionally, people just like really care.

Lake County



We had this idea that we wanted to inspire people to rebuild and come back because my predecessor, the supervisor, he was just like, 'oh, this place is never coming back.'. But we wanted to, and a lot of people wanted to do things... But then some people were just so overwhelmed they couldn't even think about it, **so I wanted to have this... called a Rebuild Expo and invite like everybody, every component of a house.** People weren't allowed to sell anything

...And so when you walked in the door, you got this bucket. And then this was the sticker that had all the sponsors, and we gave you a hammer and some other things that people donated to put in there. And so, you got that as soon as you walked in the door, and then you could go around and start. I just wanted people to start getting excited. Get their minds flowing. And so that was really, really successful.

Lake County

Peer Support Community... it's a small Facebook group, obviously for people who've lost their houses...And like, I lost an earring that I was wearing the night of the fire. Just lost it over the summer. And I was completely devastated... Like an earring. Not that big of a deal, but I really was devastated. It was like, and I had a friend was like, "don't you have a, what did your counselor say about this? You know, are you guys working on that?" Blah, blah. I'm like, we work on anxiety, like and worrying about things but not on losing yet another thing. On top of other, everything else that was lost. **But like I posted in that group, and they all got it. Just got it.**

Sonoma County



Wildfire Home Loss Peer Support Community

Private group · 793 members

Help from organizations



I didn't really know what to do, and so I thought, well, what can I do? So, I went seeking help to see what kind of help was available. And **fortunately, habitat accepted me and they helped me to put this manufactured home here, which was really wonderful.** And I was fortunate because soon after that, I wouldn't say the same year. But then following year or two, there were other horrendous fires, in fact, one that was much worse. So there are a lot of people who needed help and of course not

everybody was that fortunate. I feel really fortunate and I'm very thankful... I try to appreciate it. I mean, I do appreciate it just upkeep it, but for 81-year-old person, it's difficult.

Lake County

My house was the last property to be done in my area because they [Army Corps of Engineers] didn't have a bridge, they couldn't get in [for debris removal]. And Army Corps of Engineers...went on for at least probably six to nine months... finally they said, we're sorry... Which was the best thing that ever happened for me, because then... **the state office of Emergency Services stepped in, they said, 'we'll take care of this,** but we'll only take

care of it with our subcontractors and our plan.' And their [CalOES] subcontractors were fabulous... So what they did is they put a temporary bridge down in the creek with abutment, and you don't meet our criteria, and they brought in this group from Southern California who were fabulous. And they came across this Ford that they, the bridge that they created in the creek, and they did my debris cleanup. **Sonoma County**

