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Wildfire recovery group assists Estacada families

👤 Emily Lindstrand 📅 September 15 2021

The Clackamas County Long Term Recovery Group has been working with 17 families who were impacted by the Riverside Fire.



COURTESY PHOTO - The Home Builders Foundation presents a check to the Clackamas County Long Term Recovery Group.

(<https://pamplinmedia.com/images/artimg/00003714467133-0814.jpg>)

One year after the 140,000-acre Riverside Fire came within half a mile of Estacada city limits, the Clackamas County Long Term Recovery Group has raised more than \$1 million to aid the community.

The group has been working with 17 families impacted by the fire and expects to rebuild two homes by the end of November.

"Our amazing volunteers and donors have given everything from time, knowledge, resources, building materials and cash to help the LTRG move forward in its mission," said CCLTRG Chair Pat Olsen. "Our board and community partners have put in thousands of volunteer hours planning, working and organizing resources to those who need it most."

Assistance has been provided in additional ways such as replacing appliances, furniture and well or septic repair or replacement. In addition, partnerships with Catholic Charities, Energy Trust of Oregon and the Home Builder's Association of Metropolitan Portland have boosted outreach and helped ensure fire resilient homes are built on schedule and become the new standard.

"We've been here for 37 years, (our) kids grew up here. It wasn't an option to move or not rebuild somehow," said Robin Thompson, whose home was lost in the Riverside Fire and is being rebuilt with assistance from the long-term recovery group. "It's still tough when you think about the way it used to be. We were very happy with our life. Now we have the opportunity to get back to that, and that helps a lot."

One recent donation to the CCLTRG's efforts was a \$10,000 check from the Home Builders Foundation- HomeAid Portland. The Home Builder's Foundation has also donated kitchen cabinets, flooring and other construction materials to assist with construction.

Blue Mountain Community Management donated \$10,000, Milgard/MI Windows donated windows, Precision Truss and Lumber provided a discounted lumber package, and Pacific Crest Building Supply provided cabinets.

There were no fatalities from the Riverside and nearby Dowty Road fires, but 150 structures in the Estacada area were lost — including 50 homes. Sections of the Mount Hood National Forest remain closed as officials clear debris and ensure the area's safety.



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