

“Look Well to the Growing Edge”

As I drove to work this morning I noticed in the sunlight, that the rain had brought seeds of grass to life, green shoots were breaking from the blackened fields. I thought of the line from Howard Thurman, “Look Well to the Growing Edge”

All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit reopens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new lives, fresh blossoms, and green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason. the source of confidence when worlds crash and realms whiten into ash....Look well to the growing edge!

This week we began to give out gift cards for food and supplies to our families and clients that lost their homes in the Paradise Camp Fire. These cards were funded by the good wishes of friends and strangers alike through our “GoFundMe Account. We are as one giver stated, “we are a Village”. “ Look Well to the Growing Edge.””

Where are we?

Still stunned, but we are putting one foot in front of the other, we are looking to the “growing edge”. FEMA checks are starting to arrive, but far too many of our clients do not have shelter. FEMA is working with our Supported and Independent living providers to begin the footwork for transitional housing for these individuals. It is our hope that FEMA trailers will arrive in the next several weeks.

Many people have decided that they must leave the area, and are finding new lives in neighboring regional centers. Many adult clients have returned to family until new services can be up and running again. Many people live in hotels, hoping for something better.

Some of our residential care homes that serve the medically fragile population find that their homes did survive the fire. It is their hope that they can return to the Ridge within several months and bring their clients back from where they are being cared for.

We extend much gratitude to our service providers who never give up, who give and give to keep the folks we care about safe and hopeful... They have gone to extraordinary measures to help keep the rhythm of life beating for our families and clients. They look to the growing edge.

What do we need? Housing, a place to call home. That is what we will be working towards. We lost 18,800 homes in the Camp Fire! If you have a “mother-in-law” unit, there is someone who could live there that is currently in a hotel or sheltered somewhere. Let us know, and we will help find the right person who would love to live there.

Thank you to those of you who have reached out to help us. We are a strong community, we believe in ourselves and what we have to share with the world. Sierra Nevada Brewery has created a new beer called Resilience, 1,200 breweries around the world will be making the beer. All proceeds will come to Chico to help recover lives. What an idea! “Look Well to the Growing Edge”