

A new year has begun!

A look back to 2018 brings to mind many events which made an impact in our community.

Thank you to the many non-profits and service groups that stepped up to make life a little easier for those in need, providing clothing, food, shelter and monetary help.

St Joseph Heath Community Benefits Committee granted \$300,000 to 25 non-profit organizations, reaching out to many areas of Humboldt County.

Since 1971, Humboldt Sponsors, an organization that “makes good things happen for local kids” has raised nearly 2.3 million dollars. In 2018, \$110,000 was granted to over 76 different non-profit youth programs to support their individual needs.

Many generous businesses continue to support community organizations, as well as our schools, funding field trips, school supplies, music and art programs, to name a few. Humboldt Area Foundation, The Lytle Foundation of Ferndale, Humboldt County Farm Bureau, Rotary, Kiwanis, and Soroptimist service groups honor students from our local high schools by providing thousands of dollars of educational scholarships.

Many in Humboldt County reached out to aid Butte County during the Camp Fire Devastation, from the first responders traveling to assist in the emergency, to South Fortuna Elementary students collecting coins in their “Pennies for Paradise” fundraiser to send to the Elementary School in Paradise. A true learning experience in kindness for the Kindergarten- 4th grade students.

The Eel River Valley supported the 37th Benefit Ball for Redwood Memorial Hospital by raising \$250,000 to purchase much needed equipment to assist the medical staff.

McLean Foundation generously provided 2 million dollars and assisted in raising 3 million dollars to complete the dream of the new Fortuna Community Health Center for the Eel River Valley.

Youth Engaged in Philanthropy, (YEP), a group of Fortuna high school students, explored what is important in their community by interviewing their families, peers, and community members and discovered that the environment was a

major concern in the Eel River Valley. These students raised and granted \$6000 to two worthy organizations, River Life Foundation and The Ecology & Art Education Program to further their mission of protecting our local environment.

Humboldt County is truly a unique area that we all should be proud of. Families helping families, communities helping communities. Let us continue to support each other and feel lucky to call Humboldt home.

This is **Becky Giacomini** for Community Comment