



# Disaster Recovery Report

## December 2019



Legal Aid of Sonoma County  
144 South E Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
(707) 542-1290  
[www.legalaidsc.com](http://www.legalaidsc.com)



**82 People  
improved their housing stability**

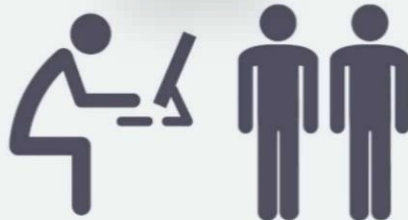
**11,411  
client contacts**

**\$5,480,000 in funds  
for survivors**



### **318 Fire Clients**

These clients received in-depth legal services to address fire related issues. Fire clients have been insurance; housing; and, Federal Emergency Management Agency.



### **5,440 Attendees**

People came to town hall meetings and public venues and received information, updates and tools to better advocate for themselves.

Jack is 93-years old and lived at the Journey's End Mobile Home Park. He lives on a small fixed income, receiving only SSI benefits and Medicare. Although his mobile home was not destroyed, the destruction of the park's infrastructure made his home uninhabitable.

Jack's insurance company argued that no "physical damage" existed beyond loss of use, so they refused to pay his claim. While Legal Aid worked with Jack to ensure the insurer paid his claim, Legal Aid helped Jack get \$13,000 in FEMA funds to initially support him. Then, after months of negotiating with the insurance company, Legal Aid obtained the full policy amount of \$132,000 for Jack!

Because of our help, Jack is housed and not homeless.

R & G are Journey's End residents whose home burned. The Legal Aid helped R & G get their initial insurance funds and stabilized their temporary housing with FEMA support.

Legal Aid helped them obtain a Veteran's Administration Housing Voucher and receive their remaining insurance funds.

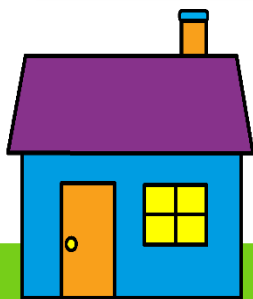
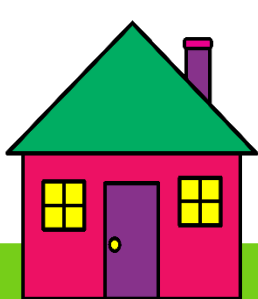
Our social worker obtained financial support from a private donor, to help them cover increased living costs, and helped R & G negotiate down their debts.

Finally, our legal team assisted R & G with a small-claims suit against Foremost, obtaining them the \$10,000 they were owed.

Jack received  
the funds  
needed  
to recover



"We now feel like  
we have reason  
to get up in the  
morning" – R & G





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KPIX CBS 5, October 10, 2018

[Battle Begins to Extend Deadline For Wine Country Wildfire Survivors Living In FEMA Trailers](#)

Press Democrat, October 2, 2018

[Fire survivors from Santa Rosa's Journey's End feel 'like we've been abandoned'](#)

KGO ABC 7, February 11, 2018

[Santa Rosa mobile home park residents in limbo after North Bay Fires](#)

The Press Democrat, February 9, 2018

[Sonoma County fire survivors struggle to secure aid from FEMA](#)

KPIX CBS 5, February 9, 2018

[FEMA Rejects Applications for Aid by Wine Country Wildfire Victims](#)

KPIX CBS 5, January 19, 2018

[Wine Country Survivors victimized by skyrocketing rents](#)

Los Angeles Times, January 1, 2018

[After the flames, allegations of rent-gouging fly in devastated wine country communities](#)

KPIX CBS 5, December 21, 2017

[Santa Rosa residents who escaped wildfires receive eviction notices](#)

Press Democrat, January 23, 2020

[Group of fire survivors in Santa Rosa's Coffey Park accuse contractor of errors, incomplete work](#)

Press Democrat, November 4, 2019

[Some ways to get help in Sonoma County after the Kincadee fire](#)

