



# MENDOCINO COAST CHILDREN'S FUND

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## WINTER WARMTH

November—December, 2017

Dear Neighbors,

For 25 years, we have been saying yes to infants and children, thanks to you, our wonderful community. We have a quarter of a century's worth of experience of being our community's relief agency for children and families when misfortune strikes.

Thanks to you, when the catastrophic Mendocino County Valley fires exploded in October, we jumped into action. We gave Sonoma and Mendocino County fire evacuees who fled to the coast every sleeping bag we had and shared all the new clothing items that we had initially acquired for 2017 winter holidays.

Folks were grateful for clean socks, underwear, and warm sweatshirts. We then purchased and distributed thousands of dollars in gas, food, and gift cards to let people know our community cares.

We provided motel stays and immediately located additional sleeping bags, cleaning supplies, and masks to protect people from toxics as they clean up. We then sent hundreds of masks inland to protect people from smoke and toxics. We are collaborating with the inland grassroots neighbor-led efforts to get Redwood and Potter Valley folks back on their feet. We are using your donations and our twenty-five years of disaster experience to assist them.

We want to thank you, our caring community, for trusting us to step up and help. MCCF is all of us—neighbors, friends, old-time families and new—gathering to make life kinder for children when families face hard and difficult times. MCCF is there for the premature baby being helicoptered to UCSF and for the high school student who needs shoes for her first job. We are there for children, from diapers to diplomas, thanks to your generosity.

Now as days get colder, wetter, and darker, we need your help so we can once again provide Winter Warmth sleeping bags, warm jackets, and rain boots to local children in need here on the coast. A warm sleeping bag can prevent a child, sleeping cold in a cold house, from becoming ill.

We want to make sure that the magic of the holidays includes all children who might not make it onto Santa's list for needed clothes, dreamed-of toys, creative art supplies, and holiday joy. We have names pouring in and, like the little blue engine that could, we know we can, we know we can, if you join us.

This year with your help, we are celebrating our 25th anniversary by providing 450 free tickets to young children and their families to attend performances of Mendocino Ballet's *Nutcracker Suite* and *Clara's Dream* at Cotton Auditorium the evening of December 9, 2017. We hope we will see you there!

Here is what one donor said to us recently: "Every year my mailbox overflows with holiday requests. The one envelope I look forward to seeing is the one from MCCF. In this uncertain time, I know MCCF is going to help community children not just now, but 365 days a year. And, I know that every penny I donate will go to the kids. I enjoy my own good fortune more, and sleep a lot better, knowing I have sent you this check. MCCF makes me proud to live here on the coast. Thanks for providing an extra envelope so I can donate again and best wishes for a great holiday to you and your volunteers."

In turn, we thank all of you for being there for us. We are so grateful to you for believing in MCCF and our mission of serving our community's youngest members.

One hundred percent of your money goes directly to families in need. Legacy bequests and donations cover our necessary expenses so that we can keep that promise. For 25 years, we have been saying all kids matter.

Please join us in saying yes to local infants, toddlers, youth and teens 365 days a year. More highlights of how your donations fund miracles year-round are on the other side of this letter.

Happiest and safe holidays to our beloved community on behalf of our board and amazing team,

*Tanya Ayala, Heather Baird, Zida Borcich, Tracey Coddington, Margaret Fox,  
Suzan Garcia-Wells, Annie Liner, Lucresha Renteria, Yadi Sanchez, and Ui Westley*

## Our Community Partners

The Children's Fund is proud to partner with many agencies and schools that work with at-risk kids who need help. MCCF provides the funds so our community professionals who work with kids can address children's needs quickly and accountably. When you support MCCF, you support requests for kids from:

- Albion Elementary School
- Arena Union Elementary
- AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)
- Camp Mendocino (Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco)
- Caspar Children's Garden
- City of Fort Bragg
- Community Center of Mendocino
- Community First Credit Union
- Comptche Elementary
- Dana Gray Elementary
- Early Start
- Family and Children's Services (CPS)
- FIRST 5 Mendocino Commission of Mendocino County
- FLOCKworks
- Fort Bragg Food Bank
- Fort Bragg High School
- Fort Bragg Library
- Fort Bragg Middle School
- Fort Bragg Unified School District
- Head Start Preschool
- Hospitality House
- Jug Handle Nature Day Camp
- Law Enforcement and Local Fire Departments
- Manchester K-6
- Mendocino Coast Clinics
- Mendocino Coast Youth Soccer
- Mendocino County Child Welfare Services
- Mendocino County Health & Human Services Administration
- Mendocino County Youth Project
- Mendocino High Schools
- Mendocino K-8 Grammar School
- Montessori Sprouts Day Care
- Noyo High School
- Point Arena High School
- Project Sanctuary
- Redwood Community Services
- Redwood Special Ed State Pre-School
- Safe Passage Family Resource Center
- Three Rivers School

## Mendocino Coast Children's Fund Programs

The vision of the Mendocino Coast Children's Fund lives on and grows stronger each year.

This is our 25th year serving children from Westport to Gualala and inland to Comptche.

Join your neighbors and friends so we can make life sweeter and kinder for kids who need a hand:

- Bridge Project: teen summer internships.
- Back-to-School clothing swap and shoes for 200 students.
- Ten days of busy activities and overnight adventures for 35 campers at Camp Mendocino on the Noyo River.
- Camperships for 52 young children to Pam Huntley's amazing Nature Day Camp.
- Flynn Creek Circus Camp scholarships.
- Field trip fees for hundreds of kids to visit museums, colleges, ropes courses, and historical sites.
- Diapers for babies, for times when there are more days in the month than dollars.
- Nutritional aid for children over the summer and holidays when schools are closed.
- Healthy after-school snacks for kids who are living in tenuous situations.
- Pre-school and daycare assistance in emergency situations so parents aren't at risk of losing their jobs.
- Travel expenses for local families dealing with children hospitalized in San Francisco.
- Dance, art, sports, swim, and recreation opportunities for dozens of aspiring youngsters.
- Rent and utility assistance to keep children from being homeless or cold.
- MTA bus passes so teens do not have to hitchhike to school and back.
- Emergency funds when high risk babies are born and need UCSF iCU care.
- Financial aid and facilitation when tragedy occurs.
- Warm, snuggly cotton pajamas and sleeping bags for hundreds of little kids to sleep warm in winter.
- Emergency SOS funds for counselors and teachers serving kids with urgent needs.
- Funds for after school programs for kids grades K-8.
- Toys – for when a teddy bear is the best medicine.

## Join us at these upcoming events!

### December 1 – 14 | MCCF Giving Trees

Mendocino Hotel, Harvest at Mendosa's, Harvest at Boatyard Center, Community First Credit Union.

Come select a child's Giving Tree tag and play Santa. Giving Tree tags and instructions will be at all four locations.

### Saturday, December 2 – 7 PM | FBFD/Nor Coast Rodders' Lighted Truck Parade – Main and Redwood Streets, Fort Bragg

A community event to light up the holiday season for all ages, benefiting MCCF.

### Sunday, December 3 – 2:00 to 4:00 PM | Cookies and Cocoa and Santa at the Mendocino Hotel for all little ones to meet Santa.

### Saturday, December 9 – 7 PM | Mendocino Ballet's Nutcracker Suite and Clara's Dream at Cotton Auditorium.

Holiday Carolers Free MCCF Concerts – Monday, Dec 18, 7:00 PM at the Mendocino Presbyterian Church and Tuesday, December 19, 7:00 PM at the First Baptist Church in Fort Bragg.



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