SIERRA ROOTS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026

GREETINGS FROM SIERRA ROOTS

A Year of Change. A Mission That Continues.

Greetings from Sierra Roots! We realize we've been quiet lately, and we wanted to catch all of you up on where we've been and what we're doing.

This has been a year of transitions for our organization. Our former Board President and longtime devoted volunteer Dianne Weichel parted ways with the organization some months ago. Our Emergency Weather Shelter manager, Mike Cannatella, left that role for a full-time position at Hospitality House. Former Board Secretary Laura Williams is moving on to graduate school, and longtime Board member and Nevada County librarian Nick Wilczek has ended his long tenure with the Board as well.

First and foremost, we want to thank all of them for all the work they put in and all that they accomplished on behalf of Sierra Roots and the unhoused community of Nevada County. It's been a pleasure and a privilege to do this important work with such a wonderfully dedicated group of people, and we wish all of them the best as they move on to the next chapters in their lives.

Sleeping bags, blankets and other essentials ready to support community members.

SIERRA ROOTS IS STILL HERE - AND OUR CORE WORK CONTINUES.

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A NEW CHAPTER FOR SIERRA ROOTS

Sierra Roots is still very much operational and committed to our core work. Much of our focus over the past several months has been on strengthening and reconstituting our Board and navigating the organization's operational changes.

Susan Rice continues to be a constant, committed presence as our Executive Director and Board President. Matthew Osypowski of Kroeger Financial has taken on the Treasurer position, county social services employee Sarah Griffin-Boubacar has joined the Board as Secretary, and Tara Norton has joined as Member at Large.

We've also brought on National Hotel chef Joseph Bernard to coordinate our Thursday lunches, and we continue to rely on our wonderful network of volunteers in all sorts of capacities.

Board member Tara Norton delivers supplies as Sierra Roots continues its community outreach.

THURSDAY LUNCHES ARE ALIVE AND WELL

We continue serving lunches every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Beginning October 1, our winter lunch location will be First Community Church, 300 Main Street, upstairs. Doors open at 11:00 a.m., and lunch is served promptly at 11:30 a.m. Everyone experiencing food insecurity is welcome to come and enjoy a meal.

These are wonderful community gatherings, and we're grateful for both the individual volunteers and the fantastic local restaurants that offer their time, food and services.

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WE'RE HIRING FOR THE EMERGENCY WEATHER SHELTER

A warm, safe overnight space for community members and their pets.

We're hiring for the core Emergency Weather Shelter positions: Shelter Manager, Shelter Coordinator and support staff.

The job postings are on Indeed and can be found there by searching for Sierra Roots. Please spread the word. We'd love to hear from you if you're interested.

MIKE WILL HELP WITH THE TRANSITION

Mike, our wonderful shelter manager for the last four years, has moved on from the position but will be involved in the hiring and training processes as we prepare for the upcoming shelter season.

OUR HOTLINE IS TAKING CALLS AGAIN

We use this number as a central hub for people in need to get connected with services and essential supplies. It's up and running again after a brief hiatus.

Hotline: 530-751-3263

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING?

SERVE A MEAL

We can always use more hands helping to prepare and serve meals at our Thursday lunches. Please email Joe at bernardj2709@gmail.com if you're interested.

DONATE SUPPLIES

Supply donations are always helpful—sleeping bags, backpacks and other useful items. Call (530) 751-3263.

HELP AT THE SHELTER

We'll be looking for both paid and volunteer help for this year's Emergency Weather Shelter season. The most urgent need is for those able to offer late nights on short notice, but there's also plenty to be done in terms of food preparation, laundry and other support. To apply for a paid position, please do so through Indeed. Volunteer information will be posted on our website and social media once a Coordinator is hired.

MAKE A DONATION

Cash donations are always deeply appreciated and can be made at sierraroots.org/donate/ or by sending a check to PO Box 2086, Nevada City, CA 95959.

ABOUT SIERRA ROOTS

Sierra Roots is a small, independent Nevada City-based 501(c)(3) charitable organization serving the county's unhoused community.

We serve a free, hot lunch on Thursdays all year. During the warmer months we're in the BBQ area of Pioneer Park, by the creek behind the baseball fields and near the back parking lot. Everyone is welcome.

We also run an Emergency Weather Shelter in the winter. Openings are triggered by temperatures dropping below freezing, and the facility is in the basement of the Veterans Hall in Nevada City. This is a low-barrier shelter available to anyone in need, with no advance check-in or sobriety tests required. All we ask is that our guests are respectful of the shelter and their fellow guests. Food is provided.

Thank you for standing with Sierra Roots and our unhoused neighbors.