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California Strong Distributes First Round of Grant Money to Fire & Borderline Victims

Thousand Oaks, CA -- [California Strong](#), a nonprofit organization in partnership with the Southeast Ventura County YMCA, distributed its first round of grant money to victims of last year's fires and Borderline Shooting. Over 150 applicants in Southern California received individual grants from California Strong on February 8. Another check disbursement will take place in Northern California. Altogether, over \$1 million has been distributed directly to those affected by the recent tragedies in California.

On hand to help pass out checks were California Strong co-founders Christian Yelich, Ryan Braun, Mike Moustakas, and Mike Attanasio.

"It is very meaningful to be able to distribute funds directly to the victims of these recent tragedies," said Braun, a resident of Malibu and outfielder for the Milwaukee Brewers. "We are so grateful for everyone's support of the campaign."

California Strong received requests for assistance from people across the state of California affected by the Borderline shooting in Thousand Oaks, the Camp Fire in Northern California, and the Woolsey and Hill Fires in Southern California. Applicants were then vetted before funds were released.

California Strong is committed to providing immediate financial support to victims whenever a disaster strikes anywhere in the state both now and in the future. Money is being raised through direct monetary donations, sale of merchandise, online auctions, and events including a recent celebrity softball game at Pepperdine University.

"We want California Strong to be a permanent resource whenever there is an immediate need after a disaster," said Yelich, a Thousand Oaks native and outfielder for the Milwaukee Brewers. "We are in a unique position to be able to distribute funds quickly to people who have suffered a tremendous loss and need help with the basics such as replacing personal items, paying rent or covering bills."

The Southeast Ventura County YMCA quickly agreed to partner in the effort. "California Strong's mission closely aligns with the YMCA's mission to build relationships, impact lives and strengthen our community," said Ronnie Stone, Southeast Ventura County YMCA President & CEO. "We are touched by the outpouring of support we have received from donors across the nation. Our donors' generosity is truly amazing."

For more information about California Strong or to donate, visit www.ca-strong.org or call Southeast Ventura County YMCA, 805-497-3081.

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