

Santiam Recovery Long Term Recovery Group

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santiam Canyon Long-Term Recovery Group Launches New Resource for Santiam Canyon Fire Recovery Efforts

New website launched to guide survivors through the wildfire recovery process, direct potential donors and volunteers to opportunities and to aid in preparing for future disasters.

Stayton, Oregon – January 11, 2021: The Santiam Canyon Long Term Recovery Group (SCLTRG) is excited to announce the launch of the long awaited, single-source website to aid in the recovering, rebuilding and rising efforts of those affected by the Santiam Canyon wildfires. The new site, www.santiamrecovery.org, offers survivors information on everything from fire clean up to rebuilding their homes and community. It also aids volunteers in learning how they can help in the recovery efforts.

Several community partners, like United Way, The Ford Family Foundation, Marion County and Santiam Hospital helped make the launch of this site happen. Their generous contributions along with The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Oregon Governor's Office, and the Marion County Board of Commissioner's Office have assisted in the procurement of millions of dollars of federal assistance to make a sizable impact on helping the survivors from the 2020 Santiam Canyon wildfires recover and rebuild.

Steering the recovery ship is Kevin Dial, Recovery Manager. Dial joins the effort bringing his extensive work experience and skills gained throughout his career in the Army and Marine Corps. He has a proven success record for attaining the goals that he sets, and he has set a high mark for the SCLTRG.

"Residents of the Santiam Canyon are amazing and the road you have traveled towards recovery over the past year is inspiring." States Kevin Dial, LTRG Recovery Manager. "But recovery is a marathon, not a sprint and there is much work still to be done. Every day as we drive up the canyon, we see the recovery, rebuilding and rise of homes, businesses, and communities. Seeds are being planted for the future. I know on this journey each family has a different challenge, but you need to know you are not alone. We are stronger together and when you ask, the Long Term Recovery Group and our many volunteers are ready to assist." Dial concludes.

The SCLTRG organizes community volunteers, provides technical assistance to help survivors access community resources, and assists survivors as they determine the most effective and efficient recovery strategies. All these important functions have been broken down into smaller committees to focus on case management, unmet needs, volunteer management, construction, housing, communications and relations, spiritual and emotional needs, donation management, and forestry and agriculture. The Board of Directors includes the following: Deana Freres, Ed Diehl, Troy Gulstrom, Nick Harville, and Mary Lou Hazelwood.

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They actively work with the Disaster Case Management Services, co-located at Anthony Hall in Sublimity, to align survivor's unmet needs with volunteer efforts and financial support from numerous non-profit organizations including United Way MWV, Salvation Army, MWVCAA, Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund, Santiam Hospital Service Integration, Knights of Columbus, Stayton Area Rotary, Marion County, FEMA.

"The Santiam Canyon LTRG brings together a wealth of local knowledge, volunteers, and community partners with the goal of connecting survivors' recovery needs to the resources that are equipped to provide the support. Those involved in this effort are truly preservers of hope for disaster survivors," said Deana Freres, Director.

SCLTRG is actively seeking volunteers and material donations to support the recovery and rebuild efforts for the survivors of Santiam Canyon 2020 Wildfires.

To learn how you can help or to get involved, visit www.SantiamRecovery.org.

The SCLTRG Recovery Manager position is funded by generous grants from the Oregon Community Foundation and Marion County. With guidance and financial support from The Non-Profit Association of Oregon, SCLTRG entered a fiscal sponsorship agreement with the United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley to provide financial oversight of the organization.

"United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley is proud to be a part of the recovery process for the Santiam Canyon. As the fiscal sponsor and key supporter of the recovery effort, we remain committed to bringing resources whenever we can to assure there are opportunities for our families, friends, and neighbors to thrive.", said Rhonda Wolf, CEO of United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley.

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About the Santiam Canyon Long Term Recovery Group:

The Santiam Canyon Long Term Recovery Group's (LTRG) mission is to support the recovery efforts of residents, property owners, organizations and businesses affected by the Lionshead and Beachie Creek Wildfires in the Santiam Canyon region of Marion County and Linn County.

The LTRG is a registered Oregon Public Benefit Corporation and is honored to be a recognized member of the Non-Profit Association of Oregon.

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