# 18 Months of Impact

## An Eaton Fire Housing Assistance Program Retrospective

**When the Eaton Fire devastated our community in January 2025**, Door of Hope stepped in with a clear purpose: to prevent very low-income families who lost their homes from experiencing long-term homelessness.

**Over 18 months later, your partnership has made an extraordinary difference**. Thanks to supporters like you, alongside The Change Reaction, The American Red Cross, and Pasadena Community Foundation, we have provided critical financial assistance, housing navigation, and disaster case management to families facing unimaginable loss.

As we enter the final chapter of our fire response, **we want to share what our work will look like through year's end and how we'll support families in the future**.

## Impact of the Program Since Inception • $2.4 Million in Direct Assistance

**200**
Families served

**1,733**
Case management sessions

**$13,650**
average aid per family

**94%**
secured long-term housing by program completion

**100%**
of graduates retained housing at 6 months & a year

The Eaton Fire destroyed more than 6,000 homes.

## What's Next...

Since the program began, Door of Hope has served 200 families through our Eaton Fire Housing Assistance Program and provided temporary shelter to 20 fire-affected families. We continue to support 86 families displaced by the Eaton Fire through case management and rental assistance, while an additional 7 families are currently residing in our transitional shelters as they work toward securing permanent housing.

Approximately 95% of the families we served were renters, for whom relocation outside Altadena was often the only realistic option. Through your generosity, we have helped these families navigate an extraordinarily difficult housing market, secure affordable housing, and begin establishing stability in new communities.

But housing stability is not the same as recovery. Many families are still grieving the loss of their homes, neighborhoods, and communities. For some, the immediate crisis has given way to the difficult work of rebuilding finances, finding community, and adjusting to a new normal they never wanted.

While most of our work has focused on renters, we have also assisted homeowners, including some who will need our support over a longer period as they navigate rebuilding. We have partnered with nonprofit home-building organizations to help connect these families with resources and expertise beyond our own.

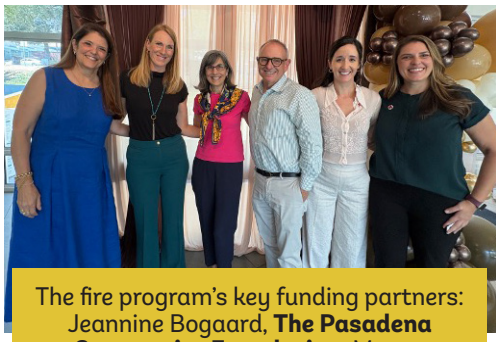
As our fire-specific assistance winds down, our commitment to these families will continue. We will offer alumni care, invitations to our twice-yearly alumni gatherings, and opportunities to stay connected. Families experiencing future financial hardship or housing instability can also turn to our Homelessness Prevention Program for more intensive support.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership. Together, we have helped hundreds of families avoid the additional trauma of long-term homelessness, even as their larger journey of recovery continues.

# A Celebration of Hope, Healing & Resilience

The families of the Eaton Fire Housing Assistance Program.

On Friday, June 26, at the Altadena Community Center, survivor families, donors, and community partners gathered for the **Hope, Healing & Resilience Celebration**—a chance to reflect on the lives being rebuilt through your support and to celebrate the resilience of the families we have the privilege to serve.



The fire program's key funding partners: Jeannine Bogaard, **The Pasadena Community Foundation**; Megan Katerjian, **Door of Hope CEO**; Lisa Cleri Reale, **FireAid**; Glen Friedman, **The Change Reaction**; Denny Newhouse, **The American Red Cross**; and Jacquelyn Clites, **The American Red Cross**

CEO Megan Katerjian reminded guests that **the Eaton Fire response was never simply about disaster relief—it was about walking alongside families for as long as recovery takes.**

The evening's most powerful moments came from survivor families Jessica Bird, Patricia Hicks, Elvia Soto, and Dina Perez, who courageously shared their experiences of loss, healing, and hope. Their stories served as a reminder that **recovery is about so much more than replacing what was lost—it's about restoring lives, relationships, and a sense of home.**

"Your support did not just help us recover from what happened to us. It helped us remember what is still possible for us," **shared Jessica, whose family moved 26 times in the aftermath of the disaster.** "We came through the fire, the displacement, the loss the waiting, and the uncertainty—and we are not just surviving. We are thriving."

The program also recognized the generous donors, community partners, and local vendors whose compassion has helped make this work possible, including remarks from Glen Griedman of **The Change Reaction**: "Since the fires, we've helped **220 specific requests through Door of Hope, impacting 785 individuals for over $1.5 million**. All of it happened because of the advocacy and work of the DOH team, and we continue to be very fortunate and blessed to be partners with DOH."

## Supporting Businesses in the DOH Family

Two small business owners rebuilt their businesses after the Eaton Fire with support from Door of Hope. Their perseverance and success are a testament to the transformative impact of donor generosity and the resilience of the community.

**Char-cu Who? Boards & Bites** elevated the guest experience with beautifully crafted individual charcuterie boards. April Hicks' exquisite presentation and attention to detail created a memorable culinary experience that made attendees feel especially welcomed and celebrated.

Danielle Valdes' business, **Jo Alexandra Events & Decor**, transformed the celebration space with elegant event design and meticulous styling, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere that beautifully reflected the spirit of the evening.