



RE*IMAGINE
MEDICAL LAKE



Gray Fire Recovery Support Report

August 2023 - December 2025

Hello Neighbors,

*Re*Imagine Medical Lake was created with a mission focused on long term community vitality. Our goal has always been to help create a culture that supports business development, promotes community education, and welcomes citizen involvement. We believe meaningful progress happens when trust is built and strong partnerships are formed with government, businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations, and local residents. We believe, together, we can do more.*

While disaster recovery was not something we anticipated as part of our work, the Gray Road Fire of August 2023 required our organization to respond in new ways. The fire devastated homes across the community, including those of three of our board members. Many friends, neighbors, and partners were directly affected. In that moment, we knew we needed to step forward and extend our mission to meet the needs in front of us.

*Re*Imagine Medical Lake pivoted to become a central hub of support for those impacted by the Gray Road Fire. We worked to advocate for our neighbors, provide a trusted place for donations to be received, and steward resources coming into the community in ways that addressed both immediate and ongoing needs. Our focus was on coordinating assistance, distributing goods and gifts responsibly, and helping ensure support reached families in practical and meaningful ways.*

This effort required a significant investment of time, energy, and care from our board members and volunteers. The work was demanding, but it has been deeply worthwhile. We have seen steady progress as families rebuild, recover, and regain stability. There is still more work ahead, but we are so encouraged by the progress that has been made and the way our community pulled together. Because of that spirit, we are confident that Medical Lake will not only recover, but emerge stronger and better than ever.

*On the following pages, we provide a year by year look at the recovery effort. This includes our key areas of focus, the donations received, and how resources were distributed and expended. Our goal is to present this information in a clear and transparent way, honoring the trust placed in Re*Imagine Medical Lake and the generosity of those who have supported this work.*



*Gerri Johnson
Re*Imagine Medical Lake President*



In-Kind Support

In-kind support has played a critical role in the recovery of the Medical Lake community following the Gray Road Fire. Beyond financial contributions, individuals, businesses, and organizations stepped forward to provide goods, services, time, and expertise to support their friends and neighbors. These in-kind donations met real and immediate needs, helped families regain stability, and reflected the deep care this community has for one another.

The following list details many of these contributions and highlights the many ways the community came together to support recovery in practical and meaningful ways.

Amazon: \$6,000 in goods, empowering homeowners to select items such as rolling coolers, first aid kits, alarm clocks, medicine storage bags, fireproof document bags, printers, and heated blankets.

Starbucks: \$1,600 in gift cards, offering comfort and small moments of joy to recipients.

Christmas Stockings and Stuffers: 175 stockings valued at \$6,375, stocking stuffers valued at \$250, and 3 pillowcases valued at \$60 brought warmth to families during the holiday season.

Handmade Quilts: 32 (50"x70") quilts valued at \$15,100 and 29 extra-large quilts valued at \$60,000 provided by local artisans; Valley Assembly of God Quilters contributed additional quilts worth \$28,125.

Christmas Trees & Decorations: One Christmas tree valued at \$250 and 41 artificial trees from Airway Heights Walmart valued at \$1,845, plus \$1,500 in decorations from AgWest and \$4,000 in holiday decor from The Henry's.

Walkers Furniture: Donated furniture vouchers, with 184 redeemed for a value of \$82,200.

Laptops: 45 laptops donated, valued at \$36,000, to support education and work-from-home needs.

Ninja Nation: Donated a children's activity course valued at \$6,000 in September 2023, fostering community engagement and play.

Hero Event: Contributed \$4,440 for event staging, supporting gatherings and commemorative events.

Medical Lake Lions Club: \$1,000 in household cleaning bucket kits, aiding clean-up and recovery efforts.

Airway Heights Walmart: Donated various household appliances to help families rebuild their homes valued at \$1,202.

Lowe's: Donated a variety of tools valued at \$12,000, essential for repairs and rebuilding efforts.

Four Roots: Began as a gleaning project in November 2023 and expanded into a regular distribution site by February 2024, distributing approximately \$136,000 in food resources to those in need.

Dirt Worx: Provided dirt, burnt trees, buildings, and mitigation of property throughout the entire process. Providing employees. Machinery, and personal support.

Longhorn Barbecue: Fed our volunteers and homeowners for a volunteer tree removal effort. \$5,000

Financial Support

Re*Imagine Medical Lake received a total of \$304,417.28 in financial support for Gray Road Fire recovery efforts. These funds were deposited into a separate account from the organization's standard operating account and were tracked exclusively for fire related uses to ensure clarity and accountability.

No federal, state, or local government funds were received for this effort. Of the total giving, \$20,000 was received through two purpose driven grants from the Innovia Foundation, and \$150,000 was provided by Walmart through community grant support. The remaining funds were donated by churches, organizations, and individual donors who stepped forward to support their friends and neighbors during recovery.

On the following pages, we provide a year by year overview of the financial donations received and how those funds were deployed to support the Medical Lake community.

Community Support Strategy

With a large number of households impacted by the Gray Road Fire and total damages far exceeding the funding available, Re*Imagine Medical Lake focused on deploying resources in ways that provided the broadest and most immediate benefit to the community.

Impacted families registered for assistance through Re*Imagine Medical Lake and were vetted in coordination with the Salvation Army's vetting process. Through this approach, 151 impacted households were supported by Re*Imagine Medical Lake during the recovery effort.

Financial resources were deployed to address both urgent and ongoing needs. This included the distribution of gas and grocery gift cards to help meet immediate daily expenses, the provision of grants to assist with emerging needs, and support for community wide clean up efforts. In addition, Re*Imagine Medical Lake helped coordinate resources and support services for those impacted by the fire.

To provide a consistent point of connection, Re*Imagine Medical Lake established and staffed an office location where impacted residents could receive practical guidance, emotional support, and assistance navigating available resources. This space served as a hub for information, coordination, and encouragement throughout the recovery process.

For reporting and transparency purposes, all support provided has been grouped into four key expense categories. This structure allows for a clear view of how funds were distributed and supports a year by year summary of recovery efforts on the pages that follow.

-  **Gift Cards** - Gas & grocery gift cards given to impacted households to help cover immediate needs, travel costs, and food costs during recovery.
-  **Community Support** - Financial support for large events, community clean-ups, and recovery efforts that benefited the community as a whole.
-  **Homeowner Grants** - Specific grants and one-time funding provided directly to vetted and approved individual impacted households.
-  **Support & Resourcing** - This includes support costs such as software, staffing, storage, and reimbursements to other community organizations.

2023 Recovery Overview:

The Gray Road Fire struck on August 18, 2023 and caught the Medical Lake community off guard. During the fire, members of the Re*Imagine Medical Lake team were present at the Incident Command Post, assisting with response efforts. As soon as conditions allowed and the immediate danger passed, our focus shifted quickly from response to recovery.

In the days that followed, offers of help began coming in from across the region. Individuals, churches, organizations, and businesses reached out looking for ways to support those impacted. Re*Imagine Medical Lake worked closely with the City of Medical Lake and area churches to help organize incoming resources, coordinate communication, and support early recovery efforts. Together, these partners helped plan and host community events that raised funds, provided encouragement, and created opportunities for neighbors to come together during an uncertain time.

Throughout this initial phase, our team worked extended hours to coordinate recovery activities, provide timely and accurate information to impacted households, and help steward resources as responsibly as possible. We also established a visible and accessible presence for those seeking guidance, support, and direction as they began navigating the early stages of recovery.

During 2023, Re*Imagine Medical Lake received \$107,104.26 from generous donors within our local community and the surrounding region, along with \$20,000 from the Innovia Foundation and \$150,000 from Walmart. These funds were immediately put to work and deployed through homeowner grants and gas and grocery gift cards to help meet urgent needs. Knowing that the scale of loss far exceeded available funding, our priority was to get support into the hands of impacted families quickly to help them stabilize during the first critical months of recovery.

Total Donations:

\$277,014.26

Community Donors:

\$107,014.26

Innovia Foundation:

\$20,000

Walmart:

\$150,000

Total Expenses:

\$74,462.19

Gift Cards:

\$7,719.50

Community Support:

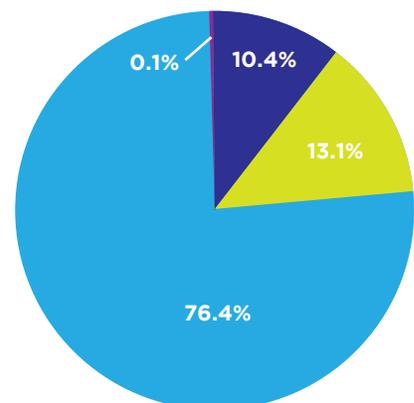
\$9,725.73

Homeowner Grants:

\$56,917.52

Support & Resourcing:

\$99.44



2024 Recovery Overview:

In 2024, the recovery effort entered a more complex and demanding phase. While donations began to slow, the needs of impacted households increased as families moved from immediate stabilization into longer term recovery and rebuilding. Many residents were facing ongoing financial strain, housing challenges, and emotional fatigue as the reality of the recovery process set in.

Re*Imagine Medical Lake expanded its role during this period by opening an office several days each week to provide ongoing case support. Impacted homeowners regularly visited the office seeking financial guidance, emotional support, and help navigating available resources. This consistent and accessible presence allowed our team to respond to individual circumstances and provide steady support during a challenging stage of recovery.

Advocacy also became a growing focus in 2024. Multiple board members joined the newly formed Spokane Region Long Term Recovery group to help advocate for the needs of Medical Lake residents and ensure the community had a voice in regional recovery planning and coordination efforts.

As efforts gradually shifted toward rebuilding, immediate needs remained significant. Our team worked daily with impacted homeowners, helping them understand next steps, access assistance, and navigate a recovery process that was often complex and overwhelming.

FEMA began providing initial assistance through disaster recovery centers in February of 2024. Re*Imagine Medical Lake took an active role in supporting this process by helping homeowners understand eligibility, prepare documentation, and advocate for themselves throughout the assistance and appeals process. This support played an important role in helping residents access available resources during the ongoing recovery effort.

Total Donations:

\$21,688.92

Community Donors:

\$21,688.92

Total Expenses:

\$171,093.43

Gift Cards:

\$59,100

Community Support:

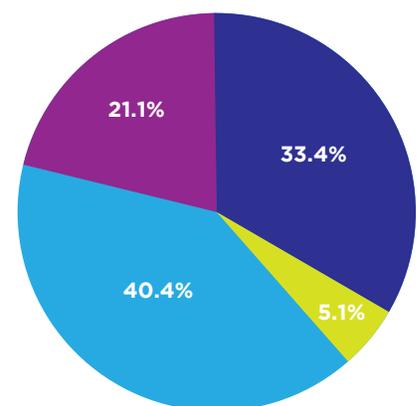
\$9,093.33

Homeowner Grants:

\$71,524.04

Support & Resourcing:

\$37,376.06



2025 Recovery Overview:

In 2025, recovery efforts continued to evolve as more homeowners moved further along the path toward rebuilding and long term recovery. As progress was made across the community, the pace of immediate needs and crisis level support began to slow. In response to this shift, Re*Imagine Medical Lake concluded its regular office hours while remaining responsive to ongoing needs.

To support rebuilding efforts, Re*Imagine Medical Lake reactivated a community tool library, which had been largely funded through a donation of tools from Lowe's. Many residents made use of this resource during active rebuilding periods. As usage declined over time, the remaining tools were distributed directly to homeowners through a drawing to ensure they continued to provide practical benefit.

By 2025, needs had become more specific and individualized. A greater portion of financial support was directed toward homeowners facing unique circumstances or ongoing challenges. Re*Imagine Medical Lake intentionally focused resources on those who had not yet recovered or remained far from stability, helping address both immediate concerns and longer term recovery needs.

While most donated funds have now been deployed, a small reserve remains. These funds are being used to support the Spokane Long Term Recovery Group's emerging needs roundtable, with the goal of providing direct assistance to Medical Lake households that are still navigating the recovery process. This approach allows Re*Imagine Medical Lake to remain engaged and responsive as remaining needs continue to surface.

Re*Imagine Medical Lake remains available by appointment to assist residents with emerging needs, provide guidance, and help connect individuals with appropriate resources as recovery continues. If you have needs, please reach out to your Disaster Case Manager.

Total Donations:

\$5,714.10

Community Donors:

\$5,714.10

Total Expenses:

\$35,390.49

Gift Cards:

\$0

Community Support:

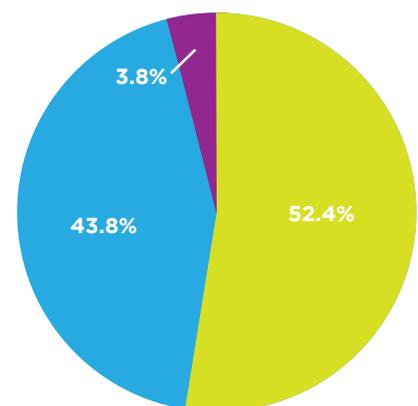
\$18,451.35

Homeowner Grants:

\$15,499.14

Support & Resourcing:

\$1,350



WELCOME

*You are
stronger than steel!*

H
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M
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*Thank you
all your
good things
strong!*

*Medical
Lake Strong
because you
stood by us.
Thank you!*