Stepping up in times of crisis

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These physician assistant and nursing students volunteered to provide relief at last year's devastating Camp Fire.

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616-5270

tel. (530) 754-1100
fax (530) 754-2294

give.ucdavis.edu

Dear [informal salutation],

When unhealthy air quality from last year's devastating Camp Fire caused UC Davis to cancel classes, physician assistant student Shannon Watson MHS '20—who also is a registered nurse and a former Butte County resident—put studying aside and headed north to help.

"Shelters overflowing, medical needs rampant, and 50,000 evacuees made for a type of chaos like I've never seen before," said Shannon, despite years of experience in disaster relief.

That's when Shannon reached out to her fellow P.A. and nursing students at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing. Dozens of them joined her on the scene, where they provided crucial assistance and gained strength and compassion as providers that will benefit the communities they serve.

Supporting rural and underserved communities is central to the School of Nursing's mission. Your gift helps educate dedicated professionals and leaders who make a difference in communities who need it most.

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"To me, this is what our school is all about. I am heartbroken for the devastation this has caused. But simultaneously my heart is full knowing I have colleagues who will drop everything to go care for our neighbors in the north state."

— SHANNON WATSON MHS '20, RECIPIENT OF THE SUSAN L. ADAMS LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH POLICY AWARD