BIO: KRISTINA CARTER
CAMPFIRE W.I.S.H. Director

I am a Chico girl who left for college and a career, then returned to Chico to raise my kids. I have 5 kids and only one at home who goes to Chico High and plays basketball. My career started at Marigold Elementary when I would observe Loma Vista special education students on the play ground. From the 5th grade on I knew that I wanted to work with special populations. Much of my career has been in Special Education and management on non-profits. After staying home with kids for a number of years, I went back to work part-time for Chico State teaching Public Health Administration. After 8 years of teaching, I am now full-time and teach a few different classes and advise for the Public Health program. For the last 4 years I have been active in the Chico Area Interfaith Council and have served as the president for three years and am now the vice president starting this August. Last Friday was my last day training students on street outreach and in a wound care clinic that has been offered at the Jesus Center for the last year. As a former Torres board member and the summer 2017 interim Executive Director, I have a big pull to be instrumental in the solution for those experiencing homelessness.

Since the Campfire I have been on the Long Term Camp Fire Recovery Group, most specifically the SEW committee (spiritual emotional wellness) group. Even before the Long Term group formed, I planned the Memorial service for the lives lost in the fire on Feb 8, 2019 at the Paradise Performing Arts Center. Like many, I wanted to support my community after the fire so I created the SEW Directory of Services Handbook and also put on the Chico City Plaza 85-seconds of silence on Nov. 8, 2019. The 85- seconds of silence was my idea to unite our community and assist with the healing, so I worked with my amazing students to promote the silence.

The most rewarding program as been the Camp Fire WISH program. The idea was that of the Interfaith Council's media secretary, Crystal Trimble. I took her wonderful idea and ran with it. Thus far, Camp Fire WISH has granted almost 70 wishes! The program's name, WISH stands for; Working to Inspire & Support Happiness. The program is for youth 12-21 who are Camp Fire survivors. I run the program with the support of the Chico Area Interfaith Council and my Chico State students.