

Julie Atwood - HALTER BIO

Julie Solomon Atwood, Founder, The HALTER Project.

Julie has lived in rural California all her life, and a Sonoma County resident for nearly 40 years. Julie is widely known for her unique architectural designs, and for over 20 years, her signature hospitality events helped define “Wine Country” entertaining.

A lifelong horsewoman, in 2013, an emergency involving one of her ranch horses motivated her to develop resources for helping animals in emergencies in her neighborhood. What started as a small local project to help first responders acquire Animal Technical Rescue (ATR) skills, evolved into a “Train the Trainer” and scholarship program that now reaches the entire state, and beyond. Today, First Responders in the Fire, Animal Control, and Law Enforcement services, emergency managers, veterinarians, and numerous local NGOs are better able to collaborate in local emergencies and regional disasters to achieve safer response and more happy outcomes. In 2019, ATR Awareness and Technician training became a requirement for every CA Municipal Fire Department, and as a result of HALTER Project support and mentorship, training resources are now locally available.

Since 2014, the HALTER Project has produced four “Home & Ranch Readiness Symposium” multi-day events in Sonoma County, featuring national and international experts on animal disaster safety, preparedness and response. In June 2017, the event was the subject of a feature documentary, regularly televised nationally.

The HALTER Project does not accept donations, but helps connect donors with organizations whose missions align with their philanthropy goals. It provides micro-grants to purchase rescue equipment, help equip animal disaster response trailers, and fund pet safety supplies for senior living and other underserved communities.

HALTER Project volunteers contribute more than 8,000 service hours each year to local and regional agencies and non-profits, including disaster response, and it provides free education materials to any group requesting them.

Visitors to dozens of Community Preparedness and Wellness events visit HALTER Project outreach booths throughout the year, and learn through HALTER Project Preparedness Workshops at Senior Residential Communities and service group gatherings.

The HALTER Project has a grass-roots mission: To inspire animal owners to be emergency and disaster-ready and able to help others, by providing resources for Preparedness education and outreach. HALTERproject.org is recognized around the world as a reliable, go-to source of information for individuals and organizations.

CREDENTIALS, RECOGNITION & AWARDS:

Julie:

- Member of the Bodega Bay, Marin, and Napa County CERTs
- Credentialed Animal Disaster Service Worker in 5 CA jurisdictions, serving in multiple deployments.
- Recognized in 2018 by Cal EMA for ongoing volunteer service with the UC Davis Student Veterinary Emergency Response Team (s-VERT).
- 2018 Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce “Women in Leadership” Award.
- 2019 North Bay Business Journal “Best of the North Bay” Gold Medal
- Featured Speaker at the 2017 BARTA International Conference on Animals in Disasters

The HALTER Project:

- 2016 recipient of two FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards, presented at The White House.
- 2014 Sonoma City Council Proclamation of “HALTER Project Sonoma Ranch Readiness Day”
- 2016 Sonoma County Gold Resolution and Declaration of “Sonoma County Home & Ranch Readiness Week”
- 2018 Congressional Recognition, Congressman Mike Thompson
- 2019 Featured Presenter and Mounted Track Trainer, SAREX (CA Search and Rescue Expo)

CONTACT:

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MORE INFO:

HALTERproject.org
RanchReadinessDay.com