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Ciara Emery at the Humboldt Library Foundation

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Ciara Emery

Humboldt Library Foundation

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WEBVTT

1

00:00:01.199 --> 00:00:12.000

Rebecca: Okay, so it's Friday 1:30 on Friday April 23 2021 I'm interviewing Ciara Emery from the Humboldt Library Foundation for the Humboldt in the Time of COVID project.

2

00:00:12.660 --> 00:00:26.220

Rebecca: The Humboldt Library Foundation is a nonprofit group that raises funds and makes grants to enhance programs and learning opportunities for libraries within Humboldt County. So to start off please tell me a little bit about yourself and your role at the foundation.

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00:00:27.030 --> 00:00:40.500

ciaraemery: Sure well thanks for doing this, my name is Ciara Emery and I am on the board of directors, for the Humboldt Library Foundation. I chair our public relations committee.

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00:00:41.280 --> 00:00:51.720

ciaraemery: which handles all of our press releases all of our social media PR newsletters some of our donor communications.

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00:00:52.470 --> 00:01:01.860

ciaraemery: For the Foundation, basically, I play an integral role and just letting people know what the Foundation is up to what grants were rewarding.

6

00:01:02.430 --> 00:01:19.530

ciaraemery: And and other stuff that we're doing to support the library it's it's really important to make sure that the community and the Foundation supporters are in the loop about what what we do here at the foundation to support the libraries, and so we try and do that as best we can.

7

00:01:20.370 --> 00:01:27.960

Rebecca: Awesome and then next question, how has your life how has your day to day life changed during the pandemic?

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00:01:29.610 --> 00:01:31.800

ciaraemery: Sure, and do you mean.

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00:01:32.850 --> 00:01:35.730

ciaraemery: In terms of my role with the Library Foundation?

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00:01:35.730 --> 00:01:57.690

ciaraemery: Yes, Okay, so we, the Library Foundation was founded in 1996 by, among other people by our current president Elizabeth Murgia and one of the one of the first things that Liz and the early supporters did was established the.

11

00:01:58.770 --> 00:02:04.290

ciaraemery: Eureka main branch. It's that beautiful building right on the right, on Humboldt Bay.

12

00:02:05.340 --> 00:02:10.140

ciaraemery: So this year is our is our 25th anniversary of being a foundation.

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00:02:11.430 --> 00:02:12.780

ciaraemery: Obviously the.

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00:02:13.950 --> 00:02:37.590

ciaraemery: first major thing that changed with the COVID restrictions were number one, the library's ability to have people come into the library facility itself and, as a foundation all of our board meetings were at that library facility so of course we had to move over to zoom meetings.

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00:02:38.730 --> 00:02:47.850

ciaraemery: As did everybody else during this time, so that was the first immediate impact and then as a foundation, we said well.

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00:02:49.080 --> 00:02:58.440

ciaraemery: This is going to be a big transition for the library, the library quickly started doing curbside service so folks could.

17

00:02:59.010 --> 00:03:11.400

ciaraemery: peruse the online catalog and either use those e-resources or reserve books in stock and come and pick them up curbside at the branches.

18

00:03:12.360 --> 00:03:32.280

ciaraemery: And so that's something that the library did pretty quickly to make sure that their resources were accessible to people, so the Foundation quickly said what what do we need to do to support the continuation of library services in a safe way during the pandemic.

19

00:03:32.520 --> 00:03:35.160

ciaraemery: Right, I think, is you know libraries.

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00:03:36.510 --> 00:03:41.220

ciaraemery: Libraries are essential for a lot of people.

21

00:03:41.670 --> 00:03:43.470

ciaraemery: Libraries offer wi-fi.

22

00:03:43.740 --> 00:03:55.740

ciaraemery: They offer different children's programming, different services such as language learning and resume workshops and other kind of skill building and they also facilitate.

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00:03:56.910 --> 00:04:00.750

ciaraemery: Continued learning for all kinds of populations.

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00:04:02.310 --> 00:04:10.980

ciaraemery: So the Foundation always works with the Director of the library and last year.

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00:04:11.430 --> 00:04:26.580

ciaraemery: The Director submitted a proposal for grants to the library and and that proposal in many ways, absolutely reflected the changing situation with with making sure that folks had access to services, while the branches were closed.

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00:04:26.820 --> 00:04:34.560

ciaraemery: The Library Foundation gave the library system \$131,000 grant

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00:04:35.790 --> 00:04:44.820

ciaraemery: That grant includes a lot of things, one of the things it does is it ramps up e-resources so folks had more of an e-resources

selection with that funding.

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00:04:45.780 --> 00:04:53.790

ciaraemery: It helped you know personal employee training opportunities it helped them purchase a.

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00:04:55.050 --> 00:05:05.910

ciaraemery: New language learning software that you can download from the library website it helped them facilitate a story walk program where.

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00:05:06.600 --> 00:05:25.320

ciaraemery: They placed big storybooks outside of some of the branches. Arcata was one of the branches that did this so kids this was during the summer so kids can go and and read each page, you know socially distant, you can see, the big picture, like a big picture book right.

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00:05:25.320 --> 00:05:25.650

Rebecca: yeah.

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00:05:25.830 --> 00:05:31.620

ciaraemery: And it's on stakes, and so they it was like a safe, socially distant activity.

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00:05:31.980 --> 00:05:34.260

ciaraemery: If you're on a walk with your family, you could.

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00:05:35.520 --> 00:05:39.540

ciaraemery: See those pages so so that was our big grant last year.

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00:05:41.040 --> 00:05:59.340

ciaraemery: And, and so that was one of the major ways that that we worked last year to help facilitate this transition from the library moving on to this year, you know right now we're really focused on a project to help the library purchase a van.

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00:06:00.060 --> 00:06:04.920

ciaraemery: A big cargo van, so that they can bring books directly to folks door.

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00:06:06.330 --> 00:06:13.380

ciaraemery: you've got seniors who still don't feel comfortable leaving in their house you've got folks who are disabled, who cannot leave their house.

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00:06:13.590 --> 00:06:13.860

Right.

39

00:06:15.420 --> 00:06:33.600

ciaraemery: Perhaps a branch is just a little bit too far, perhaps you can get around and walk but there's not a good way for you to get to the branch so we're trying to raise around 50,000 for this new cargo van and that's that's sort of our next thing to kind of help the library.

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00:06:34.860 --> 00:06:36.450

ciaraemery: continue with services.

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00:06:36.930 --> 00:06:38.640

ciaraemery: You know, during this difficult time.

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00:06:39.090 --> 00:06:41.700

Rebecca: yeah that's good i'm glad to hear it.

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00:06:42.720 --> 00:06:43.110

ciaraemery: yeah.

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00:06:43.320 --> 00:06:53.010

Rebecca: um would you say that the most challenging time for the Foundation right now is people not being able to go into the libraries, or have they reopened.

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00:06:54.180 --> 00:06:58.680

ciaraemery: Well, I want to be clear that the Foundation is a.

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00:06:59.760 --> 00:07:03.060

ciaraemery: Is a foundation that gives money to the libraries.

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00:07:03.240 --> 00:07:20.190

ciaraemery: Right, the day to day facilitation that is that's under the purview of the library system itself and and the director who is Chris Cooper so so we don't have a hand in the day to day decisions.

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00:07:20.580 --> 00:07:23.400

ciaraemery: Of the library system or the branches.

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00:07:23.940 --> 00:07:38.190

ciaraemery: The library system and the director Chris Cooper will come to us with funding needs he'll say hey we really want to do this project or we really want to purchase a cargo van, how can you help us get that off the ground.

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00:07:38.730 --> 00:07:38.880

Rebecca: Ok.

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00:07:39.090 --> 00:07:44.280

ciaraemery: And so, and so it can be confusing but that's that's the distinction there.

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00:07:46.350 --> 00:07:47.040

ciaraemery: So.

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00:07:48.660 --> 00:07:53.040

ciaraemery: The biggest challenge that the Foundation has had is.

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00:07:54.270 --> 00:07:59.370

ciaraemery: there's a lot of need out there there's a lot of nonprofits out there that are.

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00:08:01.020 --> 00:08:02.100

ciaraemery: in need of funding.

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00:08:03.180 --> 00:08:14.250

ciaraemery: The library system and and our support of library system of course is is always having that need, and so you know there's a.

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00:08:17.340 --> 00:08:29.400

ciaraemery: You just have to recognize and make sure that as a nonprofit that's raising money you want to make sure that you're not

taking up space that other nonprofits might need that money more.

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00:08:29.760 --> 00:08:33.000

ciaraemery: so so early on in the pandemic.

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00:08:33.480 --> 00:08:33.960

ciaraemery: You know.

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00:08:34.950 --> 00:08:56.340

ciaraemery: All the restaurants were getting shut down. All of the theater and arts and entertainment and recreational things I mean folks probably will not easily forget how jarring it was the first few months when everything started shutting down, unemployment went through the roof.

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00:08:57.360 --> 00:09:06.750

ciaraemery: And, and these these federal programs through the Small Business Administration and the paycheck protection program, the idle loans for businesses.

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00:09:07.890 --> 00:09:16.590

ciaraemery: Those were and a whole array of other community funds were just inundated by businesses looking for resources looking for money and so.

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00:09:17.190 --> 00:09:28.740

ciaraemery: The library made it made an early decision to make sure that if we were doing some kind of fundraising campaign that it wasn't going to be in competition with.

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00:09:29.100 --> 00:09:40.830

ciaraemery: Other funds or or other campaigns that that really needed attention immediately. One of those early conversations was the paycheck protection program which the library foundation qualified for.

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00:09:41.580 --> 00:09:47.010

ciaraemery: But that program was just inundated and restaurants and other businesses that really needed that money weren't getting in.

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00:09:47.400 --> 00:09:56.460

ciaraemery: So we made an early decision that you know from a from a fiscal standpoint, we are not in dire need of that money to support the library system.

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00:09:57.030 --> 00:10:02.220

ciaraemery: So we're going to let other folks access that fund and do that application ahead of us.

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00:10:02.970 --> 00:10:05.070

ciaraemery: But we didn't apply for those funds and so.

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00:10:06.300 --> 00:10:16.770

ciaraemery: You know, we have a large endowment for the library that's going to fund the library in perpetuity, and so we made sure that.

70

00:10:17.610 --> 00:10:33.750

ciaraemery: we're using the money that we have to make sure that the library can transition in whatever way, it needs to transition to serve populations, while also supporting our other nonprofits who were certainly more hard hit than we were.

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00:10:34.080 --> 00:10:34.860

Rebecca: Right.

72

00:10:36.870 --> 00:10:48.990

Rebecca: So the has your role changed at the foundation before the pandemic to after, like is there anything you miss about like day to day work.

73

00:10:50.130 --> 00:10:56.250

Rebecca: Before you know social distancing and all of that or were you working remotely.

74

00:10:57.540 --> 00:11:07.170

ciaraemery: Sure sure so so again I'm a board member, so this is a, this is a volunteer position that I do, and so that hasn't changed.

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00:11:07.650 --> 00:11:25.110

ciaraemery: yeah I think the thing that I'll say is I'm the youngest board member on the Humboldt Library Foundation board of directors and so you know one thing that I have helped facilitate is ramping up our

social media ramping up our digital presence ramping up.

76

00:11:28.350 --> 00:11:37.920

ciaraemery: You know, we transitioned to zoom like everybody else, and so you know, helping with tech issues, helping with social media issues that's sort of a role that I stepped in with.

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00:11:38.430 --> 00:11:48.480

ciaraemery: As a member, you know as a young millennial and a member of a different generation than many of my board members I helped to make sure that.

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00:11:49.530 --> 00:11:52.890

ciaraemery: folks knew that we were out there, folks knew that we were still helping.

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00:11:53.310 --> 00:12:00.090

ciaraemery: So a lot of that has been you know this year, especially the 25th anniversary, making sure that.

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00:12:01.980 --> 00:12:17.850

ciaraemery: we're celebrating all the work that we've done for the past 25 years and making sure that our social media reflect that, making sure our newsletter reflects that, making sure our website reflects that and so that's, a role that has definitely changed.

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00:12:21.930 --> 00:12:22.260

Rebecca: yeah.

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00:12:22.650 --> 00:12:24.600

Rebecca: yeah awesome.

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00:12:27.180 --> 00:12:37.980

Rebecca: So is there anything that COVID is making possible that you couldn't do before like you are doing more social media is that opening new routes for you or any opportunities?

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00:12:39.960 --> 00:12:50.070

ciaraemery: You know I would say it was an opportunity last year with the grants that we gave to the library it was an opportunity, an opportunity for the library to.

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00:12:50.670 --> 00:13:02.790

ciaraemery: really focus on, you know expanding that digital access expanding you know this curbside pickup situation and I'm not sure if they're going to keep that are not.

86

00:13:03.810 --> 00:13:06.900

ciaraemery: The cargo van project also comes to mind, and I think.

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00:13:07.920 --> 00:13:15.210

ciaraemery: That would not necessarily be an emphasis, without this.

88

00:13:18.240 --> 00:13:29.430

ciaraemery: Without this push to say there are people stuck at home, we should have been doing this before, but, but this kind of brought to the forefront of everybody's attention the need.

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00:13:29.430 --> 00:13:31.650

ciaraemery: To make sure that we're as accessible as.

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00:13:31.650 --> 00:13:32.220

possible.

91

00:13:33.510 --> 00:13:52.050

ciaraemery: You know the Library Foundation, about two years ago now, funded a big strategic plan for the library system. The library system hired some consultants and did some community surveys and the Foundation helped fund that and I just have they printed a.

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00:13:52.710 --> 00:13:54.510

ciaraemery: They printed a little booklet here that.

93

00:13:55.200 --> 00:14:07.920

ciaraemery: outlines the strategic plan and and one of those things is definitely making sure that we're reaching the communities, that the library system is reaching the communities that.

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00:14:09.480 --> 00:14:19.770

ciaraemery: That needs these resources, the most, and so this cargo van project fits in with the library system and the Library

Foundation's goals.

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00:14:20.760 --> 00:14:34.650

ciaraemery: But, would it have been an emphasis if we were not in a in a COVID 19 pandemic? I suspect, maybe not. I can't say for sure, but I think for every organization, the pandemic has highlighted.

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00:14:36.360 --> 00:14:47.130

ciaraemery: structural barriers and inequalities in our community and a lot of these things should have been an emphasis before but we're making sure they're an emphasis now and the cargo van project.

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00:14:47.520 --> 00:14:57.990

ciaraemery: And this home delivery program will hopefully be and we will push for it to be a regular program of the library system.

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00:14:59.490 --> 00:15:01.410

ciaraemery: outside of the pandemic currently.

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00:15:01.560 --> 00:15:05.250

Rebecca: Cool so.

100

00:15:06.840 --> 00:15:15.360

Rebecca: In that same kind of thought, after the pandemic ends, are there any changes that you would like to see, or do you think things will go back to the way they are.

101

00:15:16.680 --> 00:15:19.500

ciaraemery: Well, like I said I think the cargo van project is.

102

00:15:19.620 --> 00:15:21.300

ciaraemery: Absolutely, one of those things.

103

00:15:21.750 --> 00:15:27.750

ciaraemery: I think that that will stick around and that's just a great way to meet folks where they're at yeah um.

104

00:15:30.150 --> 00:15:42.840

ciaraemery: You know I think in terms of the the functioning of our board we've done a great job of continuing to reach new supporters and

new donors and that's what we're going to continue to do.

105

00:15:44.580 --> 00:15:55.140

ciaraemery: I think we all appreciate meeting each other in person, so I think as soon as we can we'd like to go back to those in person meetings at the big library building.

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00:15:55.980 --> 00:16:08.550

ciaraemery: That so many years ago Liz helped build because that's that's where we want to be. That's where the heart is and and our libraries are slowly slowly reopening.

107

00:16:09.000 --> 00:16:10.530

ciaraemery: Some of the branches.

108

00:16:12.060 --> 00:16:29.400

ciaraemery: So we want to get folks back in the library, we want to help facilitate the library system being able to do that, and they are going to present us with new funding opportunities probably next week or a couple weeks from now.

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00:16:29.820 --> 00:16:32.520

ciaraemery: And so we'll look forward to funding.

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00:16:32.580 --> 00:16:35.490

ciaraemery: Different programs that they have in mind this year.

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00:16:35.910 --> 00:16:37.920

Rebecca: yeah that's great um.

112

00:16:39.030 --> 00:16:46.050

Rebecca: This one wasn't really on my list, but I wanted to like interview you specifically and like.

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00:16:46.770 --> 00:16:56.430

Rebecca: I was my interest in libraries is because they are so essential to the community, and I know they were important to me, growing up, so I wanted to ask you what your interest was when you joined the board.

114

00:16:57.240 --> 00:16:59.310
Rebecca: And what really yeah.

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00:16:59.340 --> 00:17:06.780
ciaraemery: Well that's so right, I mean libraries are the backbone of a democratic society.

116

00:17:07.890 --> 00:17:19.920
ciaraemery: education and information should be open and free and you know a lot of people can't afford to go into their local bookshop and pay 25 bucks per book.

117

00:17:22.320 --> 00:17:26.100
ciaraemery: But but outside of a love of reading and outside of.

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00:17:28.620 --> 00:17:40.440
ciaraemery: Knowledge facilitation, libraries are community spaces and you know that's one of the things that that is also touched on by the strategic plan is other ways that the library can help.

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00:17:41.040 --> 00:17:54.600
ciaraemery: facilitate community and facilitate you know, things like resume workshops and making sure that you know there's free and accessible wi-fi for folks to to access what they need to access.

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00:17:55.800 --> 00:18:08.160
ciaraemery: People go to their libraries for everything from tax forms to assistance sending emails to doing local history projects or whatever it is, and so.

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00:18:09.240 --> 00:18:17.550
ciaraemery: As we sort of move forward into more and more digital spaces where, perhaps, the emphasis is no longer on.

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00:18:19.110 --> 00:18:22.050
ciaraemery: The need to check out hardcopy books.

123

00:18:22.350 --> 00:18:23.310
ciaraemery: Although I will say.

124

00:18:23.760 --> 00:18:28.440

ciaraemery: I really don't like this myth that young people don't read hardcopy books, I mean that's just not.

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00:18:28.440 --> 00:18:33.300

ciaraemery: True yeah yeah we we know how wrong, that is, in fact.

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00:18:33.360 --> 00:18:39.270

ciaraemery: Yes, people that I know who own kindles and such, they are not the younger generations.

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00:18:40.350 --> 00:18:43.470

ciaraemery: But, but you know outside of, outside of that.

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00:18:45.390 --> 00:18:47.190

ciaraemery: Like there are.

129

00:18:49.140 --> 00:18:57.630

ciaraemery: There is this shifting conversation about the opportunity for libraries to be that kind of last free domain space.

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00:18:57.990 --> 00:19:07.230

ciaraemery: For the community where you don't need to pay to use the bathroom, you know you don't need to, you don't need to have any sort of justification for being there.

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00:19:07.620 --> 00:19:08.010

Right.

132

00:19:10.410 --> 00:19:17.910

ciaraemery: So so that's why I'm really passionate about that. There are so few truly public spaces left.

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00:19:19.080 --> 00:19:31.080

ciaraemery: Where you don't need to purchase something to hang out you don't need to have any kind of capitalistic sort of motivation to be somewhere.

134

00:19:32.850 --> 00:19:48.480

ciaraemery: any and all are welcome and however the community can

assist with whatever the issue is, the library can be the backbone of facilitating those sort of Community conversations and it already does that and it will continue to do that.

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00:19:49.080 --> 00:19:59.370

ciaraemery: And our work, especially at the Library Foundation, make sure that our library system will be funded in perpetuity. That's what our endowment does.

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00:19:59.700 --> 00:20:07.050

ciaraemery: that's you know we raise money every year and we give money every year to the library system, but we also save a whole lot of money.

137

00:20:07.590 --> 00:20:24.450

ciaraemery: into this endowment fund to make sure that if there's a scenario where perhaps we're not around anymore, the library will be funded and that's what we're ensuring and so it's a really important thing that that.

138

00:20:25.680 --> 00:20:27.990

ciaraemery: Everybody in the community recognizes.

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00:20:28.380 --> 00:20:32.070

ciaraemery: So we've got a lot of great support and a lot of people who believe in that mission.

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00:20:32.670 --> 00:20:33.180

Rebecca: Oh good.

141

00:20:35.850 --> 00:20:37.350

Rebecca: This is really good Thank you.

142

00:20:47.100 --> 00:20:58.440

Rebecca: Is there anything, so part of the project is creating this archive so people like 100 years in the future can look back and see what life was like. Is there anything you want someone in the future to know about this time.

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00:21:00.030 --> 00:21:02.430

ciaraemery: I will say that I have been.

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00:21:03.720 --> 00:21:09.900

ciaraemery: Absolutely moved by the response that the north coast community has had to this crisis.

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00:21:10.590 --> 00:21:18.900

ciaraemery: And I don't I don't and I, and I mean outside of my role with the Library Foundation. We've had community partners who have stepped up.

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00:21:19.560 --> 00:21:37.410

ciaraemery: who have started their own COVID grants for local businesses who have, I'm thinking of the small business development centers that are federally funded where they have been integral and making sure that our local businesses that have accessed federal loans and local resources.

147

00:21:39.090 --> 00:21:47.130

ciaraemery: I'm thinking of even folks like Bill Chino, who is the owner of the Plaza Grill and.

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00:21:47.280 --> 00:21:52.950

ciaraemery: I believe The Basement as well, he may be the owner of that of the whole Jacoby Store House building but.

149

00:21:53.970 --> 00:22:04.710

ciaraemery: There were some, there was some pictures of him early on in the pandemic effort, offering \$10 meals to families and an early on he's in this hazmat suit you know.

150

00:22:04.740 --> 00:22:21.600

ciaraemery: he's in the suit and he's got this pole and this basket and people are taking the meals and he's grabbing the cash, but you know, it's \$10. That's an affordable, local meal that you're eating and and.

151

00:22:22.860 --> 00:22:33.600

ciaraemery: It was a way for the Community to assist him as well as a small business owner, but it was also a way for him to make sure that people were being fed and people were getting meals that they needed and so.

152

00:22:35.520 --> 00:22:38.940

ciaraemery: We have come together in so many different ways, and I think that.

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00:22:41.010 --> 00:22:49.260

ciaraemery: there's a lot of really bad stuff that has come out of this pandemic and a lot of inequality that has just been exacerbated by this pandemic.

154

00:22:49.800 --> 00:22:59.910

ciaraemery: And a lot of structural issues that have been on the forefront of people's minds and it's going to be really important for us to examine those and make changes as a society.

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00:23:00.540 --> 00:23:10.110

ciaraemery: But, but what I want to emphasize for people in the future, who you know who might be viewing this video or who might be studying this later on, is.

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00:23:10.710 --> 00:23:23.430

ciaraemery: You know, in times of crisis, despite all of our divisions, despite all of the inequalities and all the conflict, communities came together and communities helped people as best as they could.

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00:23:24.510 --> 00:23:26.820

ciaraemery: And that should be really inspiring.

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00:23:27.360 --> 00:23:32.550

Rebecca: Yeah absolutely. I didn't even know about some of that stuff that's really nice to hear.

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00:23:37.560 --> 00:23:39.060

Rebecca: So.

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00:23:40.260 --> 00:23:46.320

Rebecca: I do have this one, it's a little bit more like personal than relating to the library, but.

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00:23:47.400 --> 00:23:51.240

Rebecca: Essential is a word that we're hearing a lot, right now, what does essential mean to you?

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00:23:53.580 --> 00:23:56.520

ciaraemery: Well, that is a great question.

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00:24:00.390 --> 00:24:09.270

ciaraemery: I guess, I should, I have a disclaimer here. Outside of my role with the Library Foundation, I work in local politics.

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00:24:09.570 --> 00:24:17.550

ciaraemery: And the thing that comes to mind is this conversation about who is an essential worker.

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00:24:18.240 --> 00:24:28.020

ciaraemery: and who has access to things as an essential worker. And so you know, when vaccine was first becoming available.

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00:24:29.550 --> 00:24:36.120

ciaraemery: There was this conversation about Okay, we have been applauding our grocery store employees, our farm workers.

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00:24:36.450 --> 00:24:38.040

ciaraemery: for being essential workers.

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00:24:38.430 --> 00:24:45.300

ciaraemery: And yet those are some of hardest to reach populations for prioritizing and administering vaccines.

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00:24:45.570 --> 00:24:46.950

ciaraemery: So, so

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00:24:48.570 --> 00:24:54.450

ciaraemery: Essential this year has absolutely become a loaded term.

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00:24:55.050 --> 00:24:55.350

Rebecca: hmm.

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00:24:56.850 --> 00:25:01.290

ciaraemery: So you know the root of your question, you know what does it mean to you.

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00:25:03.960 --> 00:25:05.340

ciaraemery: I think that.

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00:25:08.010 --> 00:25:10.410

ciaraemery: From what I have seen from this community.

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00:25:11.520 --> 00:25:17.850

ciaraemery: Everybody has stepped up in different ways to help other people and that's an essential act.

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00:25:18.390 --> 00:25:18.870

Rebecca: Yeah.

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00:25:20.190 --> 00:25:20.910

ciaraemery: Folks.

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00:25:22.050 --> 00:25:38.820

ciaraemery: Who are grocery store workers, folks who are nurses, folks who are firefighters and our police they have stepped up every day to do the essential functions of our society that that we have needed done and and and that's great.

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00:25:40.170 --> 00:25:52.710

ciaraemery: But you know essential is also caring for your elderly neighbor who perhaps couldn't get their groceries. That's an essential act. And then if you've completed that act then that was an essential duty that you were doing for your community.

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00:25:53.760 --> 00:26:09.390

ciaraemery: So you know, I think, personally, through my work at the Library Foundation, through my work in local government and other places, you know just recognizing folks are stepping up in different ways, has been key because that's how communities help one another.

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00:26:11.700 --> 00:26:18.960

ciaraemery: And, and of course, I'm going to say that absolutely the functions of the library are always essential.

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00:26:19.260 --> 00:26:22.380

ciaraemery: And those duties and our director.

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00:26:22.680 --> 00:26:35.880

ciaraemery: making sure that we had curbside service and making sure that we were still offering things. Those were absolutely essential acts again to to aid those most in need.

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00:26:36.660 --> 00:26:37.140

Rebecca: Nice.

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00:26:38.640 --> 00:26:41.700

Rebecca: and I only have two more for you so we're.

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00:26:41.700 --> 00:26:42.030

Almost.

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00:26:43.860 --> 00:26:50.160

Rebecca: done. If somebody wanted to support the local libraries during this pandemic right now, what do you recommend that they do.

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00:26:51.360 --> 00:26:51.930

ciaraemery: Well.

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00:26:53.160 --> 00:27:02.490

ciaraemery: there's a couple different ways that you can support the library system first you can come visit us at the Humboldt Library Foundation. We have got

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00:27:03.690 --> 00:27:20.130

ciaraemery: We're on Facebook at Humboldt Library Foundation, you can find us on Instagram with information to donate. You can find us on our website Humboldtlibraryfoundation.com? .org I'm sorry.

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00:27:20.160 --> 00:27:21.960

ciaraemery: [Humboldt Library Foundation.org](http://HumboldtLibraryFoundation.org) I.

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00:27:21.960 --> 00:27:23.940

ciaraemery: always get confused.

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00:27:24.090 --> 00:27:24.600

Rebecca: No worries.

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00:27:25.470 --> 00:27:34.500

ciaraemery: Donating to us assures that you are supporting our endowment fund, but it also ensures that you're supporting things like the cargo van project.

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00:27:34.830 --> 00:27:38.160

ciaraemery: Like our regular grants and donations to the library system.

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00:27:38.640 --> 00:27:49.410

ciaraemery: And, and following us on social media and signing up for a newsletter on our website it's just a way that you can stay updated to to how your donations are are being used.

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00:27:51.600 --> 00:28:04.020

ciaraemery: Library branches also have friends chapters. So Friends of the Arcata library, Friends of the Eureka library and those chapters are a way that you can volunteer.

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00:28:05.160 --> 00:28:08.490

ciaraemery: They hold, they haven't done them in a while because of obviously.

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00:28:08.880 --> 00:28:12.000

ciaraemery: COVID restrictions, but they hold book sales and stuff like that.

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00:28:12.000 --> 00:28:20.790

ciaraemery: that support the library, and you can volunteer with them to help facilitate those book sales and things like that, and so that's a way you can get involved as well.

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00:28:21.960 --> 00:28:29.100

ciaraemery: And the other thing I would say is make sure that people know what resources are available.

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00:28:30.060 --> 00:28:37.170

ciaraemery: One of the one of the big things that the Foundation does is help the library system communicate.

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00:28:38.850 --> 00:28:44.310

ciaraemery: What they're offering so you know when we funded, for instance, this language learning software.

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00:28:45.360 --> 00:28:52.740

ciaraemery: We posted in our press release that this is one of the things that we funded. And a lot of people didn't even know that you can find that on the library website.

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00:28:54.120 --> 00:29:05.370

ciaraemery: And check out your county library website and see what resources are available and share those with your networks because everybody who uses the library system, supports the library system.

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00:29:06.840 --> 00:29:07.140

Rebecca: Nice.

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00:29:08.970 --> 00:29:14.970

Rebecca: And then my very last question, do you have any advice for students entering the.

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00:29:14.970 --> 00:29:16.920

Rebecca: workforce during this pandemic.

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00:29:19.140 --> 00:29:23.820

ciaraemery: Well, that is a tough one. And I, you know I just have to say.

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00:29:24.840 --> 00:29:36.330

ciaraemery: Oh, my gosh. You know, what a time to be graduating and entering, trying to enter the workforce, trying to think about your career, trying to think about who you want to be as an adult.

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00:29:40.050 --> 00:29:50.670

ciaraemery: What a difficult time. And the first thing that I that I always like to do is let's recognize that we are in and have lived through a global pandemic.

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00:29:51.150 --> 00:29:53.850

ciaraemery: and a whole lot of people did not live through it.

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00:29:54.330 --> 00:29:55.950

ciaraemery: And so you know.

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00:29:56.610 --> 00:30:03.780

ciaraemery: Many of us have been working from home for about a year now. Students have been learning from their homes.

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00:30:04.410 --> 00:30:15.780

ciaraemery: or learning from their apartments or their residence halls, and that is extremely difficult. Students are worried about their tuition and their future and their ability to pay their loans.

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00:30:16.650 --> 00:30:24.180

ciaraemery: All while worried about their health and their family's health from dealing with potential family losses due to the pandemic or other causes.

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00:30:24.630 --> 00:30:28.290

ciaraemery: So it's been a difficult time and just recognizing that.

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00:30:28.740 --> 00:30:36.210

ciaraemery: is so key. I'm one of those really hard workers and it's been really key for me especially to be like, look Ciara.

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00:30:36.810 --> 00:30:38.430

ciaraemery: This is a global pandemic.

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00:30:38.790 --> 00:30:40.680

ciaraemery: It's okay.

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00:30:41.580 --> 00:30:42.330

ciaraemery: If perhaps

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00:30:42.750 --> 00:30:44.910

ciaraemery: You didn't give it 110% today.

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00:30:45.540 --> 00:30:52.350

ciaraemery: And so I want to recognize that that first. You know this is out of your control and.

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00:30:54.480 --> 00:31:13.170

ciaraemery: Just you know, do the best that you can. But but, again, you know sort of the second message that I'll have is like I said there, there was a lot of community mobilization to really help local businesses, help nonprofits, help communities in need.

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00:31:14.280 --> 00:31:21.990

ciaraemery: Any way that you can find a way to connect with local organizations, you know connect with local nonprofits.

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00:31:23.220 --> 00:31:40.920

ciaraemery: That may not immediately lead to a job opportunity, but it can give you some really meaningful volunteer work to do, and it can give you a really meaningful sense of who's doing what and and networking has been key for me in my career.

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00:31:43.380 --> 00:31:44.790

ciaraemery: You know the flip side of that is.

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00:31:46.020 --> 00:31:50.670

ciaraemery: it's difficult to tell a graduating student with loans that they should volunteer for a while, so you know.

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00:31:50.760 --> 00:31:52.680

ciaraemery: I want to be cognizant of that as well.

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00:31:53.460 --> 00:32:08.790

ciaraemery: But sometimes you know taking a position that you may not expect that you, you might have to take, take that position and find different ways to get involved. So you can kind of build your network and build your contacts and build circles of support.

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00:32:10.380 --> 00:32:18.510

ciaraemery: But it's a difficult time, and all we can, we can hope is that people, people who are struggling will be able to bounce back.

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00:32:18.960 --> 00:32:21.120

Rebecca: Yeah absolutely.

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00:32:23.550 --> 00:32:27.720

Rebecca: Are there any last words that you want to add before I end the recording?

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00:32:28.800 --> 00:32:42.360

ciaraemery: Well, I just want to say thanks again, really appreciate what you're doing here. It it's definitely a historic time and so cataloging what's happening what's been happening here on the North coast and other places it's just so key.

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00:32:43.650 --> 00:32:48.720

ciaraemery: let's learn from our mistakes, because there have been many during this pandemic response.

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00:32:50.910 --> 00:32:58.650

ciaraemery: There's a lot of challenges ahead, but I think that we have seen ways that communities can come together and so.

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00:32:58.710 --> 00:33:00.600

ciaraemery: Hopefully we've learned some good lessons here.

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00:33:01.140 --> 00:33:06.840

Rebecca: Yeah and thank you so much for doing this. I really appreciate it I think you had a lot of great things to say.

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00:33:07.830 --> 00:33:08.820

ciaraemery: Great thanks.

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00:33:09.120 --> 00:33:09.450

Rebecca: Yeah.