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**NATIONAL HEALTHCARE COALITION  
PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE**

*Visions of Progress: Sustainable Strategies for  
Emergency Preparedness & Resilience*

Presented By:



**MESH**

# Strengthening Emergency Response

Vital Role of Interstate Collaboration in Hospital Evacuation

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# Learning Objectives

1. Identify the strategies for enhancing situational awareness and synergy among stakeholders during interstate coordination, particularly for patient evacuation.
2. Assess the resilience of healthcare systems in different regions based on their level of cross-state coordination for patient evacuation.
3. Learn tools to structure a cross-state hospital evacuation workshop.
4. Analyze the potential barriers to effective interstate coordination and propose solutions to overcome them.





# Poll Question

What is your greatest asset during an emergency?

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# An Introduction To Us

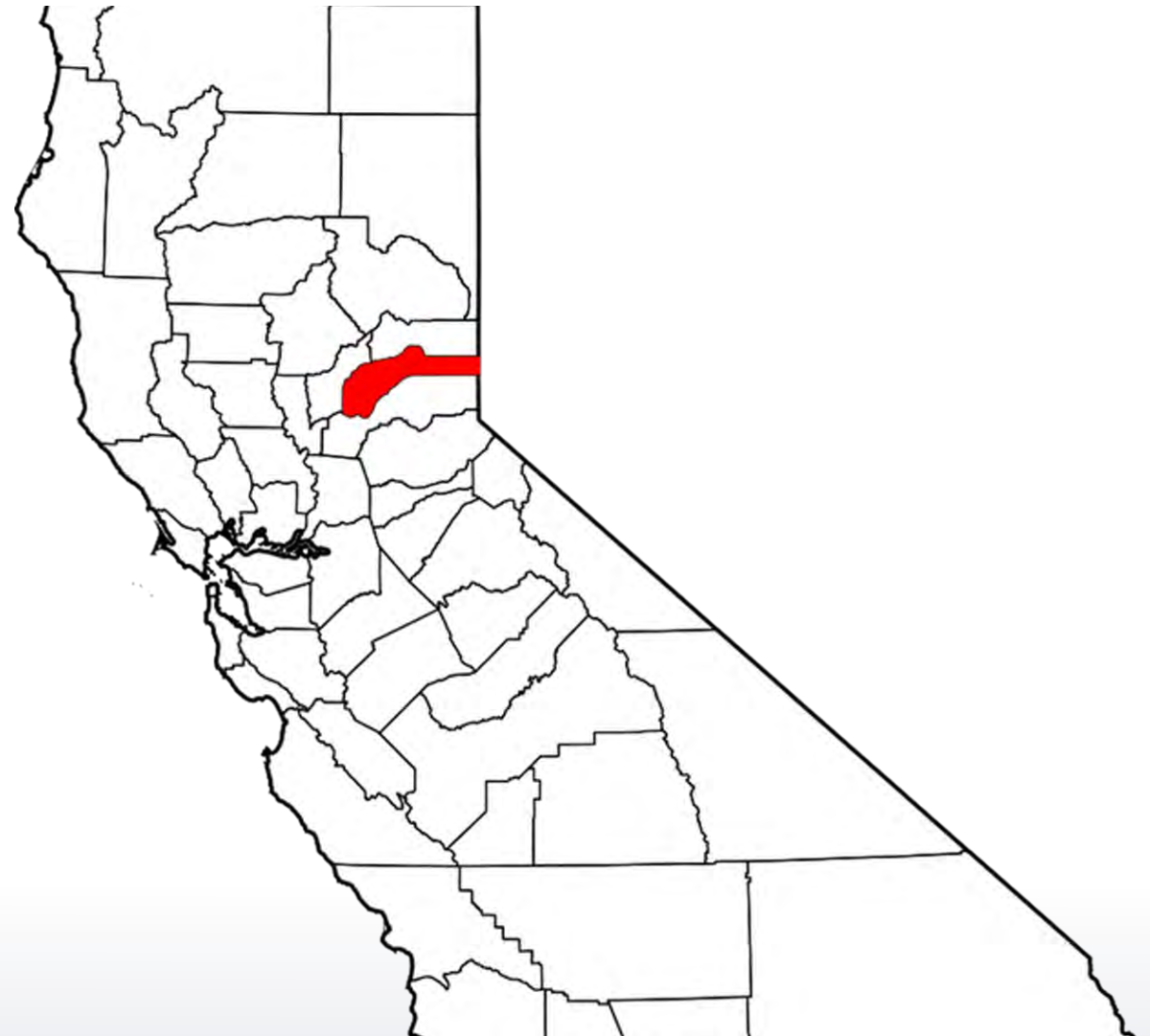


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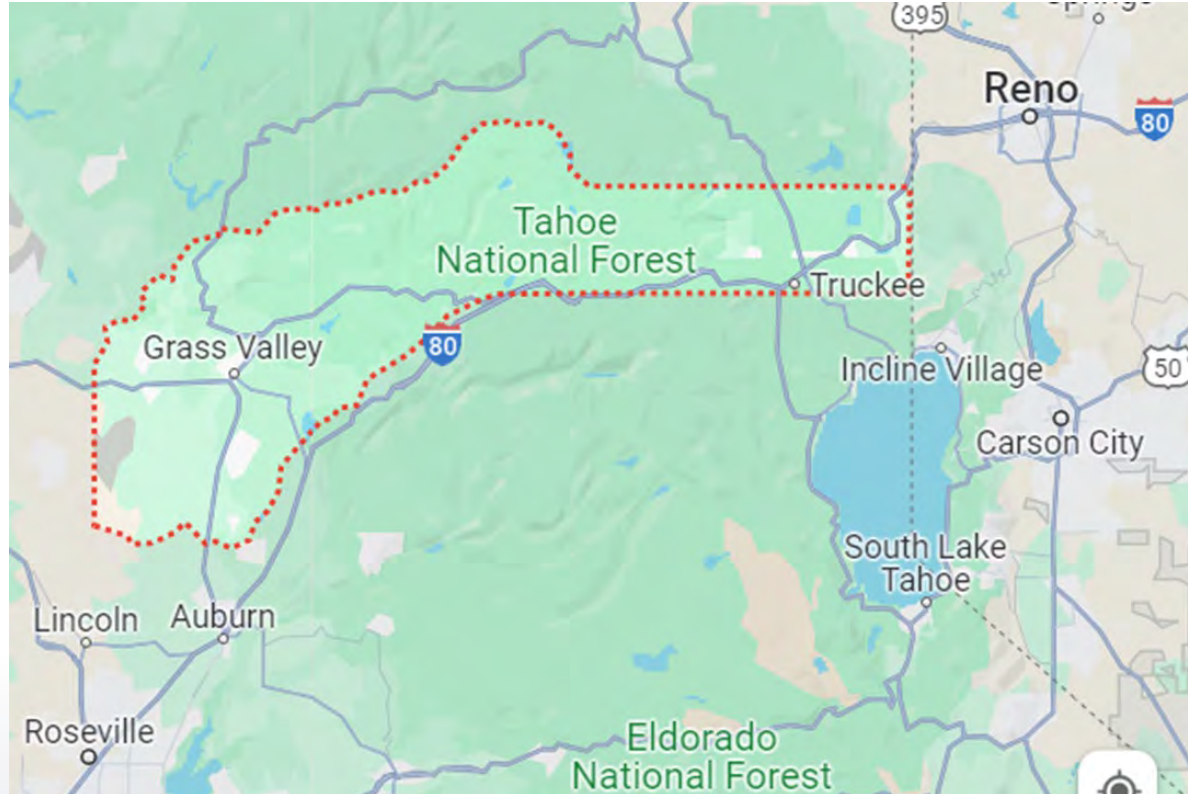


# Nevada County

- Rural community tucked into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains
- Approximately 103,000 people over 970 sq. miles
- Highest elevation is 9,152 feet
- 1 general acute care hospital on the west side, 1 critical access hospital on the east side, in Truckee CA
- Truckee is a tourist destination. Their population can quadruple during peak winter and summer seasons. They received 507,000 overnight visitors in 2023 alone.



# A narrow but critical border line...



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# Interstate 80

2023 I-80 statistics:

- In 2023, chains were required on 78 days
- Total snowfall: over 60 feet
- Full highway closures: 15 days



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# Yes, that Donner Summit...



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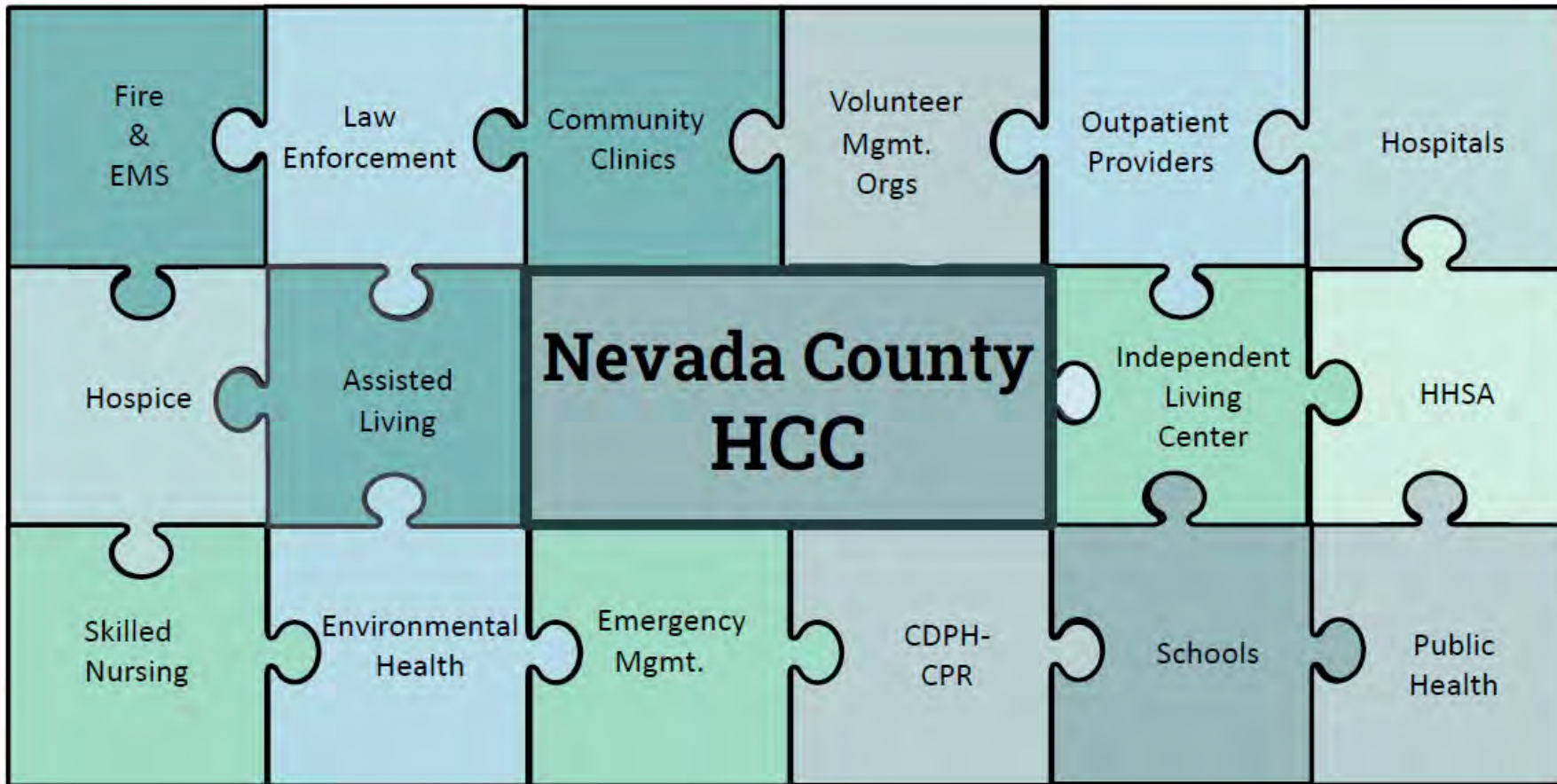
# Hazards- Nevada County

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## Nevada County Health Care Coalition (HCC)

EPIC is Nevada County's healthcare coalition. We are a cross-sector group of individual healthcare and response organizations with a common mission. We build disaster resilience amongst Nevada County's healthcare network through collaborative planning, joint exercises, resource sharing, and communication. This coalition is grant funded, County managed, and relationship driven.



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# Washoe County

- Borders California and Oregon
- Located on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains
- Approximately 497,000 people over 6,316 sq. miles
- Highest elevation is 10,785 ft.
- Tourists
  - In 2023, 3.9 million people visited the Reno-Tahoe area
- Hospitals:
  - 7 acute care hospitals
    - 1 Level II Trauma Center
    - 1 Level II Pediatric Trauma Center
    - 1 Level III Trauma Center
  - 3 Free-Standing Emergency Departments





# Hazards- Washoe County

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# Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council (IHCC)



Began as a partnership in 1985  
Officially became a coalition in 1994



Partners include EMS/Fire, healthcare facilities, school districts, emergency management, public health, and law enforcement



Purpose: Collaboration, allocation of resources, information sharing, community resilience



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# Cross-State Collaboration = Regional Resiliency

## The Need for Cross-State Collaboration

- There are no boundaries with emergencies
- Resource and information sharing
- Disaster-prone regions
- Critical care facilities may be unevenly distributed across states

## Impact

- Minimize disruptions in care delivery
- Optimize resource utilization
- Equitable access to life-saving interventions



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# Partnership Matters

- If your county or parish is along a state border, a relationship with your neighboring state is imperative.
- If you are a rural community and within two counties distance from a state border, a relationship with your neighboring state is imperative.
- If you are a county or parish that shares tourists with another state or has a major interstate running through your jurisdiction, a relationship with your closest neighboring state is imperative.
- **Valuable to EVERYONE!**



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# Strategies for Enhancing Situational Awareness



Partnerships



Cross-Training



Exercises



Debrief  
&  
Optimize





# Hospital Evacuation Workshop: 9 Steps For Success

1. Invite the right partners
2. Call it a "workshop"
3. Review your independent jurisdiction's med/health systems
4. Be candid about your assets and your gaps
5. Discuss the "bridge"
6. Learn from your experiences
7. Formalize the process
8. Exchange contacts
9. Make a plan for continued partnership opportunities



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# Invite The Right Partners



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# Call it a Workshop



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# Review Your Independent Med/Health Systems

## CA Medical & Health Disaster Response System Overview



## Washoe County Mutual-Aid Evacuation Agreement (MAEA)



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# Be Candid About Your Assets & Gaps



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# Learn From Each Other's Experiences

## Reality Check



2

**Area for Improvement 2.1:** Determine resource ordering and coordination responsibilities when an incident crosses state lines.

**Reference:** N/A

**Analysis:** As a California licensed facility, BHS utilizes the El Dorado County MHOAC as the primary contact for resource requests and emergency support. As this incident crossed state lines, and bi-state resources were needed, it was confusing and difficult to determine who could obtain or was responsible for obtaining resources to support the evacuation, locate available beds, and ensure placement of evacuated patients. It was also unclear if the MHOAC was still our primary contact during a multi-agency event with a unified command and liaison.

**Recommendation:** Strengthen or obtain MOU's with public and private resources in Nevada. A MOU will allow the organization to directly communicate with and obtain resources from these entities without state or local intervention.

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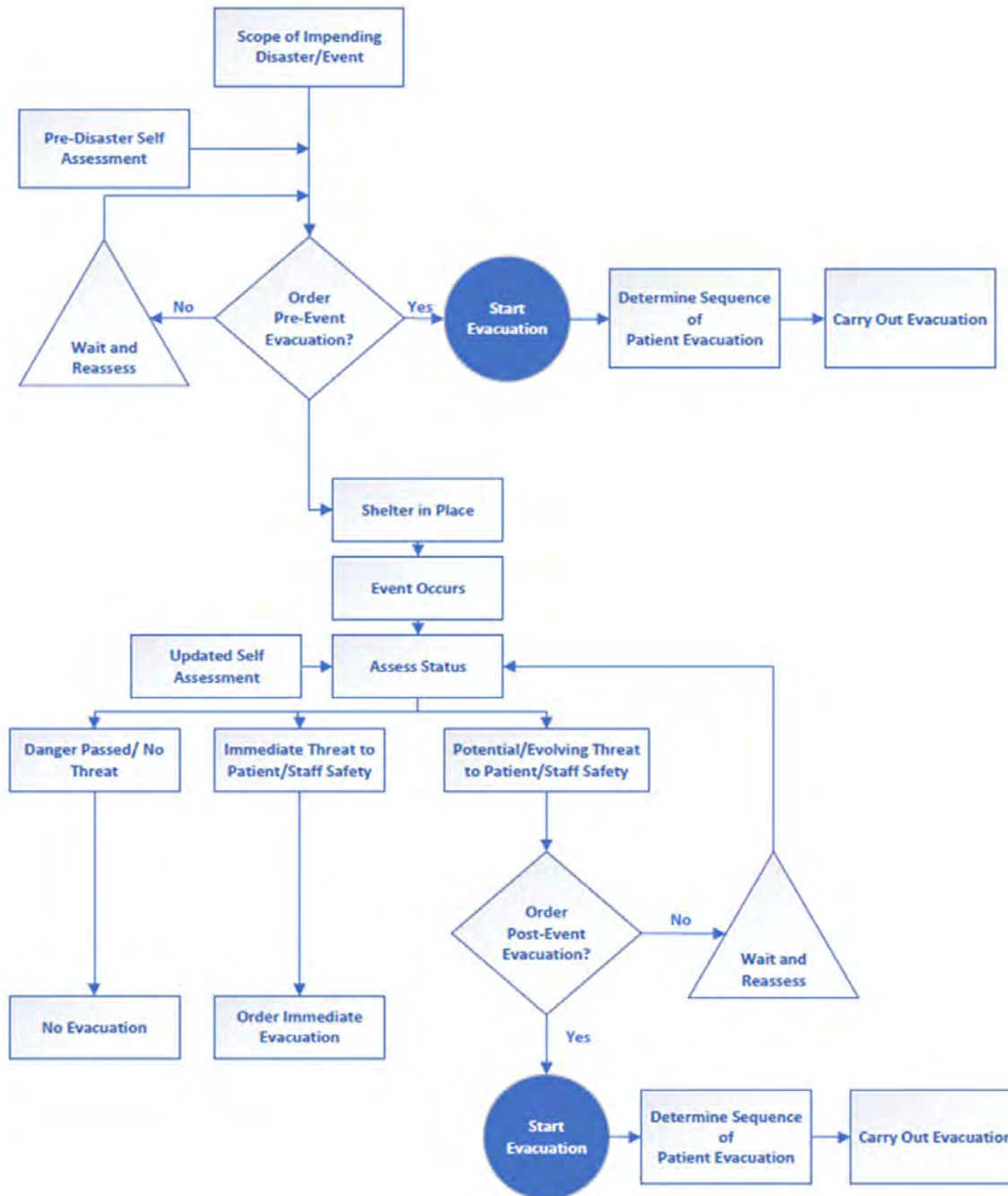


# Formalize the Process



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# Evacuation Algorithm





# Exchange Contacts



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# Make a Plan for Continued Partnership



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# Poll Question

What are some barriers to building relationships across



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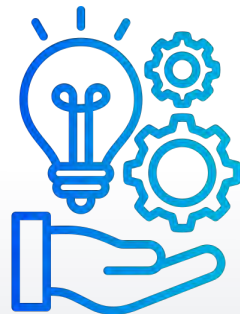
Nobody has responded yet.

Hang tight! Responses are coming in.

# Overcoming Barriers to Interstate Coordination

## Challenges:

- Funding
- Time management
- State-specific processes/procedures
- Legal frameworks and liability concerns



## Solutions:

- Cost-Sharing Agreements
- Pre-established Protocols
- Trainings and Exercises
- Cross-State Communication Platforms
- Mutual Aid Agreements
- Emergency Licensing Protocols
- A commitment to the marriage



# Call to Action: 5 Steps to Interstate Synergy

1. Start with the relationships. In person matters.
2. Extend invites and embed into exercises with frequency.
3. Promote each other's strengths.
4. Communicate frequently and help often.
5. Reflect and grow.



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# Thank You!

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