



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

2025 Annual Report



LIFT LINE



Dear Community Bridges Supporters,

We are at a pivotal moment—one marked by extraordinary uncertainty requiring our unwavering resolve. Community Bridges is confronting mounting challenges: stagnant and disappearing government support, federal policies that undermine our core values, and rising community needs that stretch our resources thin. For nearly 50 years, we have been part of the social safety net across the Central Coast—and today, that net is straining under historic pressures.

And yet, in the face of these challenges, our mission remains clear and our work more critical than ever.

We have been able to meet these moments because of you. Your belief in our mission has powered our ability to serve children, families, and older adults across Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties. Your advocacy, generosity, and partnership have carried us through every storm, helped us grow, and made Community Bridges the trusted resource it is today. Thank you for standing with us—for being the reason we’re still here, and the reason we are ready for what’s next.

Over the past year, Community Bridges has achieved remarkable growth, strengthening our ability to meet the evolving needs of the Central Coast. We’ve expanded transportation access across North Monterey County and Santa Cruz County, more than doubling Lift Line ridership through new services and partnerships. We fulfilled our commitment to help Pajaro families recover from the devastating 2023 flood, surpassing \$2 million in distributed economic aid.

Across the organization, we’ve reinforced leadership and stability—including a major milestone for our Meals on Wheels program, where we proudly welcomed Dana Wagner, a seasoned leader with more than three decades of experience in nutrition education and program management with WIC, as Senior Program Director. We also secured a two-year lease extension with the Live Oak School District, providing critical time to secure a permanent home for Meals on Wheels and ensure its continued service to our community.

We recognize that this progress is unfolding during unprecedented times. Federal actions and policy shifts are creating deep uncertainty, pushing some families further into the shadows and placing even greater strain on the social safety net—evidenced by the fact that walk-in cases at our family resource centers have more than doubled since the previous year. Meanwhile, climate-related crises continue to challenge our community’s ability to respond to sudden disruption and displacement. With nearly 50 years of capacity building, Community Bridges is uniquely positioned to meet these emerging needs—wherever they arise.

But together, we can face these challenges with the same courage, compassion, and creativity that have defined Community Bridges for nearly five decades. As we approach our 50th anniversary, I am deeply inspired by the dedication of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the countless individuals who believe in the power of community to overcome adversity.

Your support—whether through advocacy, donations, or sharing our story—makes this work possible. Thank you for investing in our mission and for helping us continue to build bridges of hope, resilience, and equity for everyone who calls the Central Coast home.



In solidarity,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ray'.

Ray Cancino, CEO
Community Bridges

Board & Executive Team

Leadership Team



Raymon "Ray" Cancino
Chief Executive Officer



Douglas Underhill
Chief Finance Officer



Tyler Smith
Human Resources
Director



Tony Nuñez
Marketing &
Communications Manager



Erika Rodriguez
Senior Program
Manager, Child & Adult
Care Food Program



Lisa Hindman Holbert
Program Director, Early
Education Division



Mayra Melendrez
Program Director,
Family Resource
Collective



Dana Wagner
Senior Program Director,
Meals on Wheels for Santa
Cruz County and Women,
Infants & Children (WIC)



Lois Sones
Program Director,
Elderday



Jesus Bojorquez
Program Director,
Lift Line

Not Pictured

Michelle Miller
Director of Business
Operations

Board



Jack Jacobson
Board Chair



Silvia Morales
Vice Chair



Ryan Friedrich
Treasurer



Sara Siegel
Secretary



Brenda Griffin



Stephanie Ruhl



Mary McMillan

Not Pictured

Aloke Mukherjee

Map & Programs



FAMILY RESOURCE COLLECTIVE

Our compassionate staff build a warm, friendly, safe place for the Pajaro Valley, Live Oak, San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley, Lower Ocean and Beach Flats communities and residents to access resources that offer stability and hope for the future.

La Manzana Community Resources, Watsonville
521 Main Street, Suite Y | 831.724.2997

Live Oak Community Resources, Santa Cruz
1740 17th Avenue | 831.476.7284

Mountain Community Resources, Felton
6134 Highway 9 | 831.335.6600

Nueva Vista Community Resources, Santa Cruz
133 Leibrandt Avenue
711 East Cliff Drive | 831.423.5747

Pajaro Long-Term Recovery Center, Pajaro
14 Porter Drive | 831.724.2997

SENIOR & TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Elderday Adult Day Health Care
501 Main Street, Watsonville | 831.458.3481
We empower elders to live with greater independence and dignity. Here, adults in our community profit from health care services, respite and companionship.

Lift Line
545 Ohlone Pkwy, Watsonville | 831.688.9663
Providing door-to-door rides to seniors & people with disabilities; allowing these Central Coast residents to maintain their independence.

Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County
1777 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz | 831.464.3180
Enhancing lives through healthy meals and friendly human contact. Nurturing elders at one of five dining sites, or providing meals delivered to the home.

Highlands Park Senior Center Dining Site
8500 Highway 9, Ben Lomond | 831.336.5366
London Nelson Community Center Dining Site
301 Center Street, Santa Cruz | 831.427.0901
Watsonville Senior Center Dining Site
114 E. Fifth Street, Watsonville | 831.724.2024

CHILDREN & NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Child & Adult Care Food Program
521 Main Street, Suite R, Watsonville | 831.688.8840
A nutrition assistance program that reimburses food for licensed caregivers, providing healthy meals to support both children and adults in our community.

Early Education Division
The first five years of a child's life are critical to their health and success. Our six centers provide nurturing and affordable early education.

Watsonville
Fairgrounds Center: 2667 E. Lake Avenue
831.400.1150
Vista Verde Center: 1936 Freedom Boulevard
831.400.1130

Santa Cruz
Sycamore Street Center: 121 Sycamore Street, Ste. 100
831.400.1120

Nuevo Dia Center: 135 Leibrandt Avenue
831.400.1140

San Lorenzo Valley
Redwood Mountain Center: 7103A Highway 9, Felton
831.400.1160

Highlands Park Center, Ben Lomond
8500 Highway 9, Ben Lomond | 831.400.1170

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
WIC is a safe place for families to receive a sense of hope, comfort and security, allowing women, infants and children to thrive.

Watsonville
18 W. Lake Avenue, Suite A | 831.722.7121
Santa Cruz
1105 Water Street | 831.426.3911
Felton
6134 Highway 9 | 831.426.3911

Accomplishments

Lift Line's Continued Expansion

Lift Line's "Access for All" initiative continues to break down regional transportation barriers with an innovative, on-demand app-based system allowing any Santa Cruz County resident with a disability to travel to any destination within the county for a low flat fee—eliminating income and eligibility obstacles to accessible transit. This year, Lift Line also expanded into North Monterey and San Benito Counties, now proudly serving Pajaro, Las Lomas, Aromas, Castroville, Prunedale, and Moss Landing. With nearly 50 years of trusted service, Lift Line continues to be a vital link for elderly and disabled residents to stay connected to their communities through our friendly, door-to-door service committed to safety, accessibility, and reliability. And our fleet is now 28% electric—and growing.



Family Resource Collective Disaster Response

Our Family Resource Collective (FRC) remains a key player in long-term disaster recovery in our region. Since the 2023 Pajaro flood, La Manzana Community Resources has distributed \$2 million in direct aid to 618 flood-impacted families—supporting virtually every household in Pajaro as they rebuild. And following the 2024 ocean swells that damaged the Santa Cruz Wharf and Harbor, Nueva Vista Community Resources teamed up with Community Foundation Santa Cruz County to distribute \$133,000 to affected workers and Harbor residents. The FRC team worked tirelessly through the holidays to support 285 individuals with rent, groceries, and essential needs. These coordinated, rapid-response efforts highlight the FRC's leadership in delivering swift, equitable, and dignified relief. Drawing from past emergencies—from the CZU Fires to COVID-19 and the 2023 winter storms—we continue to mobilize resources for those who need them most in the face of increasingly frequent disasters resulting from climate change.

Women, Infants & Children Program Diaper Distribution

For 50 years, our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program has supported growing families with nutrition education and resources. Children ages 0–5 receive monthly health evaluations, while parents gain tools for healthy eating and development. In response to the rising costs of living, our team took action to address a critical unmet need—diapers. Without access to hygiene products, families may be forced to skip work, school, or childcare, compounding financial hardship. This year, WIC partnered with donors and funders—including Santa Cruz Gives—to launch a Diaper Bank, distributing a pack of diapers at each family's monthly visit. In 2024, we provided 49,920 diapers to help nearly 1,500 families meet their basic needs with dignity and community support.



2024-25 Accomplishments

People Served: 20,486

8,715 children **5,570** teens **3,190** adults **3,011** seniors



Children's Services

1,805,701 meals reimbursed **25,075** days of child care **49,920** diapers distributed



Youth Services

1,583 hours of parenting classes **1,770** hours of youth activities **5,339** summer lunch meals



Family Services

88,111 bags of food distributed
13,433 crisis support visits
863 mental health counseling visits



Current Trends

110% increase in crisis support visits
61% increase in unhoused clients
45% increase in seniors over age 75
30% increase in mental health counseling



Senior Meals & Care

207,021 senior meals served **178,815** home delivered meals
28,206 congregate dining site meals
14,419 days of elder care



Transportation

109,489 door-to-door rides **51,840** medical rides
57,649 shelter rides

Funding Partnerships

Recognizing grants & contracts July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

\$1 million & above

Federal Funds
California State Funds
Seniors Council of Santa Cruz County

\$500,000 – \$1 million

County of Santa Cruz
County of Monterey
Measure D Santa Cruz County

\$100,000 – \$499,999

Central California Alliance for Health
City of Santa Cruz
First 5 Santa Cruz County
Kaiser Permanente
United Way of Santa Cruz County

\$50,000 – \$99,999

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| City of Capitola | Monterey Peninsula Foundation |
| Community Foundation for Monterey County | Santa Cruz County Office of Education |
| Community Foundation Santa Cruz County | |

\$10,000 – \$49,999

California Association of Food Banks
California Fire Foundation
Central Coast Community Energy
Sunlight Giving Foundation
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Palo Alto Medical Foundation

Up to \$10,000

California Healthcare Foundation
California Emerging Technology Fund
City of Scotts Valley
City of Watsonville
Dudley-Vehmeyer Brown Foundation
East Bay Community Foundation
Parks California

Supporter Spotlights

State Farm Agent Fernando Lopez Team “Team Flopez”

The devastating flooding in Pajaro in March 2023 was preceded in January by flooding in nearby Bridge Street neighborhoods on the north side of the levee. That’s when our Family Resource Collective team first mobilized, walking door-to-door distributing information and conducting damage assessments to get resources to households as quickly as possible.

That’s also when Lisandro Albor, Jr., Account Representative at State Farm Insurance, experienced the destruction of the historic storms first-hand as his family home was flooded multiple times. When the levee ultimately broke and inundated the town of Pajaro— displacing more than 600 households— Lisandro and State Farm Agent Fernando Lopez rushed to help. Rallying their fellow employees into action, “Team Flopez” asked affected neighbors who they could trust to partner in delivering assistance. Community Bridges came highly recommended by residents experiencing the response efforts on the ground.

Team Flopez hosted a community BBQ fundraiser, raising over \$6,000 to provide direct economic relief to Pajaro families recovering from disaster. The following year, they continued their support by raising \$3,000 at their 10-year anniversary celebration to provide meals for seniors through Meals on Wheels and hosting a toy drive for families served by WIC.

“We’re proud to serve our neighbors,” Lisandro said. “Partnering with Community Bridges is a win-win—it helps us give back and support those in our community who need it most.”

Mountain Community Resources “Pantry Posse”

The food pantry at Mountain Community Resources has been run almost entirely by volunteers since it was launched in 2012 with a commitment to ensuring food access for San Lorenzo Valley residents.

Lovingly named the “Pantry Posse” by one of its founders, the late Rick Roberts, the pantry offers not just food at its weekly farmers market-style gatherings, but camaraderie, compassion, and good cheer as volunteers distribute up to 200 bags of food each week.

“It’s necessary to cultivate humor and rapport to do what we do,” said Paul Machlis, volunteer pantry manager for the past 10 years. “This is as much for us as it is for them,” added Pantry Posse member Kelso Ingraham.

Today, MCR Food Pantry remains one of just two no-cost food distribution points for the San Lorenzo Valley’s 30,000 residents. In the past year, the Pantry Posse distributed 7,400 bags of food to 1,048 residents—representing 3,030 household members, including 788 children.



If you or someone you know is inspired to make a difference, we invite you to visit **CommunityBridges.org/Volunteer** and learn how you can join our family of volunteers. Together, we can continue to ensure every resident has access to the essentials they need—and the dignity they deserve. Thank you for being the heart of our community.

MCR Pantry Posse: Mike Fresco, Tia Verches, Rosalinda Lameira, Jan Verinsky, Chris Edmonds, Kelso Ingraham, Renee Tomer, Elaine Blasing, Mira Haslam, Wendie Roberts, Helen Tomililo, Steve Ferro



Team Flopez: Yuri Andrade, Lorena Ayala-Pacheco, Edgar Ayala, Fernando Lopez, Lisandro Albor Jr, Gabriela Gomez (left to right)

Financials

Statement of Activities for Year Ended June 30, 2024

| Support and Revenue | |
|--|--------------|
| Government Grants | \$16,701,466 |
| Foundation and other Institutional Grants | \$1,407,563 |
| Individual and Business Contributions | \$1,133,033 |
| Service Fees | \$2,348,934 |
| Interest and other | \$317,648 |
| Total | \$21,908,644 |
| Expenses | |
| Child & Adult Care Food Program ¹ | \$4,241,664 |
| Women, Infants & Children (WIC) ² | \$2,466,325 |
| Early Education Division | \$2,756,400 |
| Meals on Wheels | \$2,100,523 |
| Lift Line | \$2,700,040 |
| Elderday | \$1,878,124 |
| La Manzana Community Resources | \$1,849,862 |
| Mountain Community Resources | \$618,999 |
| Nueva Vista Community Resources | \$462,323 |
| Live Oak Community Resources | \$431,454 |
| Management General & Other | \$2,721,216 |
| Fund Development | \$660,107 |
| Total | \$22,887,037 |
| Excess/(Decrease) of Support over Expenses | (\$978,393) |
| Increase in Grant Funded Assets | \$980,732 |
| Depreciation | (\$553,870) |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets | (\$551,531) |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | \$13,693,915 |
| Net Assets, End of Year | \$13,142,384 |

Statement of Financial Position at June 30, 2024

| Assets | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$4,262,811 |
| Investments | \$1,264,582 |
| Grant Receivables | \$2,547,738 |
| Other Receivables | \$1,151,251 |
| Inventories | \$20,000 |
| Prepaid Expenses | \$329,677 |
| Deposits | \$68,550 |
| Property and Equipment, net | \$13,480,649 |
| Total Assets | \$23,125,258 |
| Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses | \$1,391,073 |
| Salaries and Benefits Payable | \$1,172,488 |
| Refundable Advances | \$1,856,678 |
| Notes Payable | \$5,172,217 |
| Reserve Fund | \$390,418 |
| Total Liabilities | \$9,982,874 |
| Donor Unrestricted Net Assets | \$12,640,911 |
| Donor Restricted Net Assets | \$501,473 |
| Total Net Assets | \$13,142,384 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$23,125,258 |

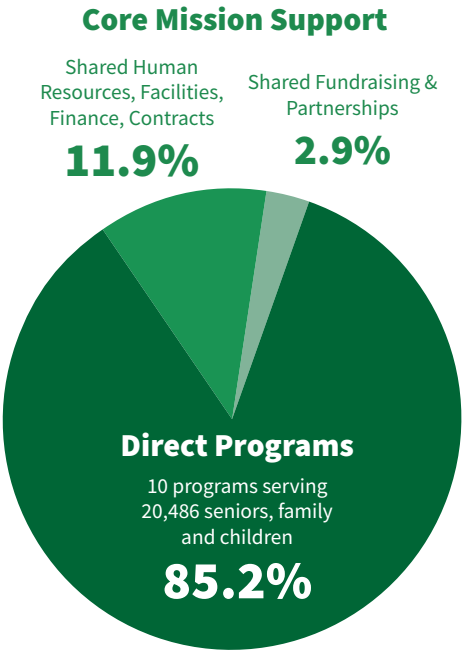
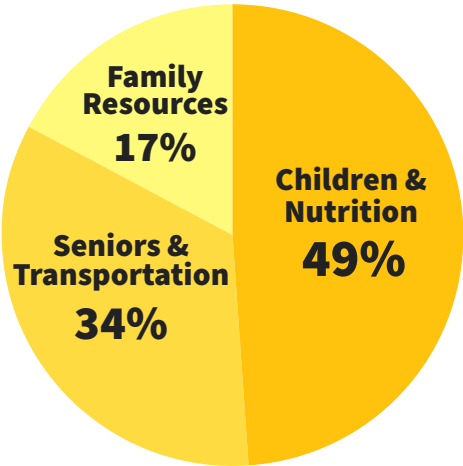
¹ Includes \$3,803,309 distributed directly to day care home meal sites.

² These audited statements do not include the value of the WIC food vouchers. In 2024, WIC distributed 78,107 food voucher packages with the total value of \$6,208,725.

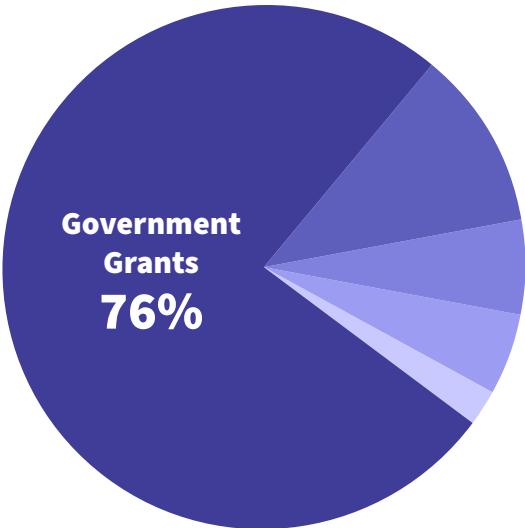
These numbers reflect our 2023/24 financial statements as audited by Kaku & Mersino, LLP. For a complete financial report, please contact us at (831) 688-8840 or visit communitybridges.org/financials.

Your Impact

Operating Expenses



Operating Revenue





519 Main St, Watsonville, CA 95076

831-688-8840 | info@cbridges.org

communitybridges.org X f @

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U.S. Postage
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Thanks to you we can provide services to over 20,000 children, families and seniors. This year, make an impact by supporting our programs at communitybridges.org/donate.

