

April 2016

Beach Neighbors

Spotlight



Meet
Tere
Carrubba



Best Version Media

Serving the Neighbors of Aptos, Capitola, Soquel, La Selva Beach & Watsonville

Cover Photo by Neil Simmons

Non-Profit Spotlight:

By Elizabeth Morain

Community Bridges Stronger, Together

There are about 500 nonprofits in Santa Cruz County. This one stands out because of the diverse approach they take to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Community Bridges is made up of 10 human services programs that operate in 20 different locations throughout Santa Cruz County. You've probably heard of a few—like Meals on Wheels

good nutrition, prevents child abuse through parent education, and works to close the academic achievement gap.

This work impacts 27,000 local kids, families and seniors each year—that's one in every ten Santa Cruz County residents.

This is the story of one of those people...

Bart is shown in the photo on the left, dancing with one of the Community Bridges staff members. He's 88 years old, and his smile is always that big.

When the Community Bridges staff showed him that photo, he didn't recognize the person in it, but he knew happiness when he saw it.

"That man looks like he's in heaven," Bart told them.



for Santa Cruz County, Lift Line and WIC. What they accomplish together, however, is nothing short of amazing.

Every day, Community Bridges empowers seniors to live with independence and dignity, increases access to health care and



COMMUNITY BRIDGES

PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Bart has been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for 3 years now, and it's become so advanced that his wife can't leave him on his own. She wants to do everything in her power to keep Bart with her at home, and out of an institution. But she needs help to make that happen.

That's where Community Bridges comes in.

During the week, Bart is cared for by Community Bridges' senior programs. Lift Line picks him up at his house every

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morning and brings him to the welcoming arms of Elderday staff, where he receives the medical attention he needs, socializes with his friends, enjoys a warm lunch by Meals on Wheels, and does the activities he loves. At the end of the day, Lift Line brings him back to home to his wife, Barbara.

"For myself, Elderday offers peace of mind," Barbara said. "Because there are nurses and social workers on staff, I feel secure having him there. They treat each patient as an individual person, and not just another number, and they always have activities to keep him engaged—like anytime there's a musical performance scheduled there, Bart gets so excited. He tells me he's going for his rehearsal. He just loves it."

How you can help Bart, and thousands like him:

Community Bridges wouldn't be successful without the support it receives from the local community. Each year, more than 1,700 individuals and 100 businesses offer monetary donations to Community Bridges. Hundreds of volunteers donate their time.

Support from the community makes it possible for Community Bridges to operate free of charge for the people they serve.

Donations can be made securely online at CommunityBridges.org/Donate, or mailed to Community Bridges, 236 Santa Cruz Ave., Aptos, CA 95003.

To volunteer your time, visit CommunityBridges.org/Volunteer, or call 831-688-8840.



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