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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 13, 2017

Local partners offer forums to prepare immigrants against potential detention and deportation

Santa Cruz, Calif. – Community Bridges, with the help of Community Action Board’s Santa Cruz Immigrant Project (SCIP), has teamed up with Proyecto Tutela and Sanctuary Group to offer a series of forums to prepare and support the Santa Cruz immigrant community. Forums will offer resources for addressing children’s fear and anxiety, increasing awareness of rights, and preparing a guardianship plan.

Drawing a large crowd that included allies and multiple organizations, the first forum took place last Wednesday March 8 at Nueva Vista Community Resources in the Beach Flats community. The next forum will happen Wednesday March 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Live Oak Community Resources in Capitola.

“After last month’s ICE raids left the community in a state of shock, it was critical that we as a network of social services took stock of the resources we have to prepare our immigrant neighbors and friends from indiscriminate and targeted detentions. We feel that through a collaborative process, we can mobilize to create a stronger community response,” said Community Bridges Chief Executive Officer Raymon Cancino.

With the support of various partners and subject matter experts, forum organizers will seek to provide accurate information and address the trauma and fear that this has arisen following raids throughout the community. Organizers hope to provide a positive and engaging way to learn how to be an ally, inform people of their rights, prepare a deportation plan, and connect with groups that provide resources in the community.

The forums are open to everyone in the community, and community members are urged to invite anyone who could benefit from knowledge that can be shared with immigrant communities. Those who are interested in attending the forum on March 22 are encouraged to RSVP on the Facebook event page, which can be found on the Live Oak Community Resources program page. Forum leaders have asked that, as a precaution, no pictures be taken at the events without prior consent.

For more information, contact Tonje Switzer at tonjes@cbridges.org or call the Community Bridges office at (831) 688-8840 x208.

About Live Oak Community Resources

Live Oak Community Resources, founded in 2001, is part of the Community Bridges family of programs. Our services are provided in both English and Spanish, and include parent education classes and foster family support, free tutoring services, youth advocacy and mentorship, community advocacy and individual counseling, application assistance and more. For more information, visit us online at communitybridges.org/locr