



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

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From Discussion to Action: Affordable Housing Week Kicks Off Oct. 19 at the Civic Auditorium

Santa Cruz, CA – From Oct. 19 to Oct. 28, 2017, Community Bridges will team up with fellow Housing Advocacy Network partners for Affordable Housing Week in Santa Cruz County. The week includes tours, discussions, clinics and pop-up services to address local housing issues and explore solutions to the Santa Cruz housing crisis. Community members and local organizations are invited to host events during the week to spark discussion and move toward housing solutions.

“We recognize that the housing issues in our community are complex and challenging to address, but we will begin from a place of action today that will ultimately lead to long-term housing solutions and real change,” said Community Bridges CEO Raymon Cancino. “We hope that the public will join us in support and action, and we look forward to conversations leading to solutions that will make housing in this community viable for everyone.”

Affordable Housing Week officially kicks off at 7pm on Oct. 19 at the Civic Auditorium, with the UCSC Center for Labor Studies and the Economic Justice Alliance presenting findings from the UCSC Department of Labor Studies research project, “No Place Like Home.” New research explores the commonalities and complexities that create the housing crisis. The data presented will highlight the last segment of surveys from Watsonville, Freedom and Corralitos.

Working collaboratively to address the housing issues and needs of Santa Cruz County, the Housing Advocacy Network is comprised of a diverse group of collaborators, allies and partners such as Affordable Housing NOW!, Community Bridges, UCSC Department of Labor Studies, Monterey Bay Economic Partnership, MidPen, California Rural Legal Assistance, and others. Community Bridges joined the network in response to multiple housing crisis factors, including the disparity between the true cost of living and the earning of average wages, and the fact that one in five residents in Santa Cruz County lives in poverty—many of whom are housing insecure or facing homelessness.

“Scientific evidence points to the harmful effects of poverty on the mind. While the impact of this stress on our families and communities is real and in need of immediate action, the solutions are costly, expensive and slow to blossom,” said Cancino. “This is a reality that

demands change as we seek to begin a new paradigm—one where we work to support affordability and sustainability through direct action and tangible solutions.”

Together with the Housing Advocacy Network, Community Bridges urges the public to participate in a week of dialogue that will catalyze a concrete movement toward alleviating the local housing crisis. To host an event, contact Nancy Abbey at nabbey@cruzio.com to become an official part of the Affordable Housing Week Team and to be placed on the Santa Cruz Community Calendar.

More information about the Housing Advocacy Network can be found at <http://scchousingadvocacynetwork.com/>.

ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES

Community Bridges is a local nonprofit with ten human services programs across twenty locations throughout Santa Cruz County. Together, the programs empower seniors, increase access to medical care and good nutrition, and strengthen children’s resilience. The Community Bridges family of programs includes: Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County; Elderday Adult Day Health Care; Lift Line; Child Development Division; Child & Adult Care Food Program; Women, Infants & Children (WIC); La Manzana Community Resources; Live Oak Family Resource Center; Nueva Vista Family Resource Center; and Mountain Community Resources. To learn more, please visit www.communitybridges.org.