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Community Bridges to offer free transportation on Election Day

Lackluster voter turnout is a nationwide trend, but Community Bridges seeks to change this in Santa Cruz County. During the upcoming presidential election, Community Bridges will be offering free, door-to-door transportation for community members to their polling place, courtesy of its Lift Line program.

According to Pew Research center, the U.S. lags behind most of its peers, placing 31st out of 35 member-countries of the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development](#), most of which are highly developed democratic states.

In the 2012 U.S. presidential election, only 53.6 percent of eligible voters cast their ballot, despite 84.3 percent who had registered to vote. This included just 46 percent of eligible Millennials (age 18-34), and 50 percent of Latinos. Community Bridges believes that it is imperative to increase voter turnout within these targeted groups, especially considering the large Latino population (33 percent) in Santa Cruz County.

“Our goal is to increase voter turnout by concentrating on the groups who historically and disproportionately fail to vote,” says Raymon Cancino, Chief Executive Officer of Lift Line and nine other nonprofit programs throughout Santa Cruz County. “We hope that by providing a free ride, we will remove barriers to voting and transition what may be viewed as a chore into civic pride.”

To take advantage of Community Bridges’ free election-day transportation, call Lift Line at 831-688-9663 to schedule a pickup time in advance. This free service will be available to all eligible voters residing in Santa Cruz County from 8am to 7pm on Tuesday, November 8 to all eligible voters. A valid photo ID is required upon pickup.

ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES

Community Bridges is a local nonprofit with ten human services programs across twenty locations throughout Santa Cruz County. Each year, they support more than 27,000 local children, families and seniors in need. Together, Community Bridges empowers seniors, increases access to medical care and good nutrition, and gives children a better chance at life through education and family support.

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.