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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 17, 2015

**Long time community leader Yolanda Henry appointed to serve as Program Director of the Community Bridges Family Resource Collective**

Santa Cruz County, Calif. — Community Bridges announced that Yolanda Henry, long time community advocate and leader of the Familia Center and Beach Flats Community Center in Santa Cruz, will serve as the new Program Director of the Community Bridges Family Resource Collective, effective July 1, 2015.

In this position, Yolanda will oversee Community Bridges' four family resource centers across Santa Cruz County: Nueva Vista Community Resources (formerly known as Familia Center and Beach Flats Community Center) in Santa Cruz, Mountain Community Resources in Felton, La Manzana Community Resources in Watsonville, and Live Oak Community Resources in Live Oak.

This position was created in response to the changing funding landscape for the family resource centers, which in the 2014/15 fiscal year, led to more than \$200,000 in reductions. With a single Program Director to lead all four sites, and Program Managers to oversee the daily operations of each site, the family resource centers will be able to maintain a high level of care for their clients while ensuring sustainability.

"Each of these centers are vital hubs that bring critical advocacy, education, family support and case management throughout our county and to thousands of our neighbors," said Raymon Cancino, Chief Executive Officer of Community Bridges, which operates the Family Resource Collective and six other human services programs in Santa Cruz County. "It was a difficult decision to consolidate these positions. But I can't think of a stronger leader than Yolanda to move us forward."

Yolanda, a life-long resident of the Monterey Bay Area and UC Santa Cruz alumna, comes to this position with more than 16 years of non-profit management experience. She served as jurisdictional chair for the City of Santa Cruz, and chair of the Beach Flats Relocation Advisory Committee. She is a current board member at Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and has been a member of the Latino Affairs Commission, the Santa Cruz Chief of Police Advisory Council, and the General Plan Advisory Committee for the City of Santa Cruz.

Under Yolanda's leadership, the Familia Center was recognized by Santa Cruz County as an anchor Family Resource Center in 2001. Since that time, she successfully merged the Familia Center and Beach Flats Community Center, while expanding services to include the principles of family support, case management, parent education, and advocacy in the areas of employment, housing, and access to health care.

"I'm looking forward to this new chapter, and am confident that the new direction the Collective is heading will be a positive one," said Yolanda. "We will continue to serve the most vulnerable in our communities, while becoming more efficient in the delivery of these services."

To learn more about Community Bridges and the Family Resource Collective, visit [www.communitybridges.org](http://www.communitybridges.org).

#### **ABOUT THE COMMUNITY BRIDGES FAMILY RESOURCE COLLECTIVE**

The Community Bridges Family Resource Collective includes four of the five family resource centers in Santa Cruz County: La Manzana Community Resources, Live Oak Community Resources, Mountain Community Resources and Nueva Vista Community Resources. At these centers, our compassionate staff build a warm, friendly, safe place for the Watsonville, Live Oak, San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz communities to access resources that offer stability and hope for the future.