



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

February 13, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

Valentine's Day Flower Gram Sale

February 14, 2020

9:00am - 2:00 pm

Community Bridges

Courtyard

519 Main St., Watsonville

Support the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) and get a flower and a treat for your Valentine. Only \$2!

Mountain Community Resources 35th Annual Phone-a-thon

February 26-27, 2020

6pm - 8pm

6134 Highway 9, Felton

Volunteers needed to make calls and provide behind the scenes support. [Click here](#) for more information.

Food from the Heart

April 3, 2020

11:00am - 1:30 pm

Chaminade Resort & Spa

Benefits Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County. [Click here](#) to buy tickets.



WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN (WIC) IS GOING DIGITAL

Beginning February 18, 2020 participants in the Community Bridges WIC program will begin to access their benefits through a card similar to a debit card. The new WIC Card comes with a WIC phone app to check food balance, appointments, find stores, and qualifying food. Going digital will be more convenient and easier for both WIC families and grocery stores. Improving access will ensure that qualifying women who are pregnant or recently had a baby have better access to the healthy foods provided by WIC.

Who qualifies for WIC benefits? Pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding women and children under five qualify for WIC benefits if they have incomes at 185% or less of the Federal Poverty level and/or receive Medi-Cal, CalFresh, or Cash Aid.

More information on how to apply can be found on our website at communitybridges.org/wic

HEALTHY FOOD = GOOD HEALTH

CalFresh is a nutrition assistance program that helps low income residents get the healthy food they need to thrive. To qualify for this benefit a family of four must make less than \$4,292, or \$2,082 for an individual, per month. If you are 60 years of age or older, disabled, or if you get Medi-Cal, you may qualify for CalFresh even if your income is higher than that. Thousands of eligible Santa Cruz

county residents have not yet applied. The application process can be time consuming and confusing, but we can help. Application assistance is available at all of Community Bridges Family Resource Centers and [Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County](#) dining centers. Help can also be found at the following sites:

- Santa Cruz County Human Services Department: 1020 Emeline Avenue, Building B, Santa Cruz or 18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville
- Seniors Council / Area Agency on Aging: 234 Santa Cruz Avenue, Aptos
- Central Coast Center for Independent Living: 1350 41st Avenue, Suite 10, Capitola

5 UNIQUE AND CREATIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY BRIDGES

There are many ways to support Community Bridges programs beyond writing a check. If you aren't financially able to donate cash, but still want to give, here are a few ideas:

1. **Donate your old car.** You can claim the fair market value of the car based on Kelley Blue Book prices. [Click here](#) for more information or contact us at donations@cbridges.org.
2. **"Donate" your birthday.** Set up a Facebook fundraiser benefiting Community Bridges and ask your friends to contribute. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to set up your fund raiser.
3. **Employer matched gifts.** While this technically requires you to contribute cash, if your employer matches your donations you are making twice the impact. [Click here](#) to check if your employer matches charitable donations.
4. **Shop for a cause.** Amazon Smile donates .5% of your eligible purchase to a charity. Make sure to sign up, and bookmark, the [Amazon Smile page](#) for all your Amazon purchases.
5. **Donate stock.** A gift of stock offers you two-fold tax savings by avoiding the capital gains tax and allows you to take an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock (if stock has been owned for more than a year). More information can be found [here](#). Note that this is not investment advice and contact your financial professional for more information.

Donor Spotlight

A local librarian who was passionate about giving youth opportunities to be in nature was a decades long supporter of Community Bridges' youth programs. While she was not able to contribute large sums during her lifetime, her support was consistent and her commitment deep. Upon her recent passing she left Community Bridges a bequest in her will to continue her legacy. Through this gift she can continue to share her values and make an impact even after she is gone.





PUBLIC CHARGE THREAT

The recent Supreme Court decision to allow implementation of the public charge policy is a direct threat to the American foundation. We have always been a beacon of hope, opportunity and freedom and this changes the very core of our identity. This policy wishes to identify someone's worth to society strictly by what they financially can contribute, and it is both calloused and misplaced.

- * We know that the majority of those seeking services do so rarely and sporadically during hardships.
- * We understand that immigrants bring a wealth of vibrancy to our communities.
- * We recognize this fight isn't over as lower court challenges are still occurring nationwide.

The implementation date has not been set and allows for anyone afraid of the implications to have 30 days after the date to withdraw from benefits in exchange for eventually becoming a citizen.

At Community Bridges, we want to make sure that people are not scared away from accessing and using resources that will improve their lives. That is why we want to make sure we use every opportunity to inform others that **none of our direct services are impacted or considered a part of the public charge process. Our programs like Women Infants and Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program or Meals on Wheels, along with the seven other programs, would not count against someone's consideration for citizenship.**

Before turning away from potentially lifesaving benefits, please reach out to [Community Action Board](#) for free or low cost support. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call (831) 724-5667.



Community Bridges Family of Programs

Child & Adult Care Food Program | Child Development Division | WIC | La Manzanita Community Resources | Live Oak Community Resources | Mountain Community Resources | Nueva Vista Community Resources | Elderday | Lift Line | Meals on Wheels