

PRESS RELEASE

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Meals on Wheels

FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD 

Food from the Heart Luncheon benefiting Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County postponed

WATSONVILLE, CA – Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County (MOW), a program of Community Bridges, is taking proactive measures to mitigate the risk of unintentionally spreading the COVID-19 virus. While Santa Cruz County does not currently have any instances of community acquired COVID-19, MOW is taking guidance from the California Department of Public Health, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommending cancelling non-essential events. As such, they are postponing the Food from the Heart luncheon that was to be held on April 3, 2020.

The Food from the Heart luncheon is the primary fundraiser for MOW that unites the Santa Cruz community in building a safety net for seniors. Proceeds from this event are vital in helping more than 1,600 seniors live healthy and independent lives. “We are saddened to postpone the annual Food from the Heart luncheon, “ says Lisa Berkowitz, Meals on Wheels Program Director, “but we must all work together to minimize risks that could negatively affect the health of our county.” Funds raised at Food from the Heart are vital to MOW budget and support delivery of over 140,000 meals annually. The Food from the Heart luncheon will be rescheduled to summer 2020.

Anyone that has already purchased tickets to the Food from the Heart event, can elect to keep their reservation or receive a refund by contacting info@cbridges.org.

For nonprofit agencies like Community Bridges the ability to serve vulnerable community members during this crisis presents unique challenges. We must continue our critical work in providing essential services even when we experience greater need without added revenue, even when we have to cancel major promotional and fund raising events, and even when potential shut downs threaten to impact program sustainability. We want to continue to serve the children, families and seniors in to Santa Cruz County without loss of governmental and individual support. Community Bridges operates with lean margins and has limited capacity to absorb the impact of this public health crisis. Please consider donating to help sustain the vital work that Community Bridges does to improve the health of our community. www.communitybridges.org/donate.

About Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County

Since 1976, Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County, a program of Community Bridges, has served nearly 9 million meals to 65,000 local seniors in need. Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County serves 1,600 seniors in need each year with nutritious meals and caring human contact. The tireless work of this program—supported by a dedicated army of 200 volunteers—allows thousands of Santa Cruz County residents to remain healthy, safe, and independent in their own homes.

ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES

Community Bridges envisions a thriving community where every person has the opportunity to unleash their full potential. Together, our family of programs delivers essential services, provides equitable access to resources, and advocates for health and dignity across every stage of life. To learn more, please visit www.communitybridges.org.

The Community Bridges family of programs includes the Child & Adult Care Food Program, Child Development Division, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), La Manzana Community Resources, Live Oak Community Resources, Mountain Community Resources, Nueva Vista Community Resources, Elderday Adult Day Health Care, Lift Line and Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County.