

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Lift Line continues to serve seniors and persons with disabilities using highest safety precautions**

WATSONVILLE, CA – Lift Line, a program of Community Bridges, would like to assure the Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito communities we serve that it is proactively taking necessary precautions avoid the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). They are employing stringent measures to keep vulnerable seniors and persons with disabilities, and their employees, safe.

“Lift Line will continue to transport clients to Meals on Wheels dining sites and Elderday Adult Day Health Care, as well as to medical appointments,” states Kirk Ance, Lift Line Program Director, “Lift Line has always had the highest standards for hygiene in its fleet of vehicles, but has increased the stringency of these standards to avoid spread of the virus.” Ance reiterated that Lift Line will continue to utilize alcohol-based sanitation measures to clean all surfaces within the buses and vans nightly. All vans are equipped with sanitizing wipes and gloves for staff and masks for clients with symptoms of illness. They are also implementing social distancing of the riders when feasible. Lift Line clients experiencing symptoms of illness will be required to wear masks and will be transported separately for the protection of others. Additionally these clients may experience delays as we meet their need and the demand of regular transportation services.

Ance also noted that Lift Line is conducting regular education with all of its drivers to keep them apprised of CA Department of Public Health guidelines including washing hands with soap and water, avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands, and cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow. Employees have been instructed to stay home from work if they are showing signs of fever or respiratory illness.

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](http://www.communitybridges.org/donate).

### **ABOUT LIFT LINE**

Lift Line, a program of Community Bridges, provides over 60,000 door-to-door rides a year to seniors and people with disabilities, allowing these Santa Cruz County residents to maintain their independence. Lift Line services include medical transportation and rides to Meals on Wheels dining sites and Elderday. Lift Line services are also available for private events.

### **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](http://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.