

PRESS RELEASE

March 11, 2020

Contact: Amy Hanley
(831) 688-8840 ext 285
amyh@cbridges.org



Meals on Wheels

FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD 

Meals on Wheels is prepared to protect and serve seniors

WATSONVILLE, CA – Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County (MOW), a program of Community Bridges, serves some of the most vulnerable people in our community and is taking precautionary measures to ensure their clients are as protected as possible from COVID-19 (coronavirus).

MOW is implementing procedures to ensure that seniors are protected, including monitoring participants for any signs of illness both at congregate dining sites and during home deliveries; instituting pre-and post-meal delivery hygiene for staff and volunteers; ensuring staff stay home if they are sick; and educating volunteers and staff on CA Department of Public Health guidelines for prevention. Additionally MOW congregate dining sites will be implementing two separate lunch service times at Louden Nelson Senior Center and Watsonville Senior Center to minimize contact. Louden Nelson will be serving meals Monday-Friday at 11:00am and at 12:15pm. Watsonville Senior Center will be serving lunch Monday-Friday at 11:00am and at 12:15pm.

“The health of the seniors that we serve is our highest priority,” says Lisa Berkowitz, Meals on Wheels Program Director, “It is crucial that seniors continue to receive nutritious food to boost their immunity and fight illness.” Berkowitz reports that if any cases of the virus emerge at any of MOW sites, or if the situation within the community changes, Meals on Wheels is prepared with a contingency plan. “We are prepared to provide shelf stable meals to all of the seniors we serve to ensure that they receive the food they need to stay healthy.”

Meals on Wheels serves approximately 600 meals a day at five congregate dining sites and through home delivery.

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.