

PRESS RELEASE

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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 providing home delivered meals to all enrolled seniors

WATSONVILLE, CA – Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County (MOW) is continuing to take the highest precautionary measures to reduce exposure to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Effective Monday March 16, all congregate dining sites will be temporarily closed to lessen risk of exposure to senior participants. All current Meals on Wheels clients will be able to receive home delivered meals during the temporary site closures. Meals on Wheels will be contacting all seniors that currently receive daily meals at the dining sites to inform them of this change and provide them with the opportunity to sign up to receive home delivered meals.

Almost half of the participants that receive meals at Louden Nelson Community Center are experiencing homelessness and are at high risk. Meals on Wheels staff will be distributing shelf stable meals to participants that have a known location where they stay, as these seniors are especially vulnerable to illness and access to nutritious food is critical.

Meals on Wheels staff and volunteers that will be delivering meals to seniors homes are adhering to all hygiene practices as outlined by state and local public health departments and the CD. They will also be monitoring participants for any signs of illness.

“We are implementing every measure to continue to serve our seniors during this public health crisis,” comments Lisa Berkowitz, Meals on Wheels Program Director, “The situation is evolving daily and we are prepared to adjust service delivery as needed to prevent any of our senior clients from going hungry.” Meals on Wheels staff are working diligently to accommodate a large increase in the number of home delivered meals in a very short time.

Meals on Wheels relies on community support to fill the gap in government funding. During this time of crisis, please consider donating to help sustain the vital work that Meals on Wheels is doing to keep our seniors healthy. 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.