

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Amy Hanley

(831) 688-8840 ext 285

amyh@cbridges.org



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Community Bridges' Family Resource Centers are mobilizing to meet growing need for crisis support

Family Resource Centers offer free bilingual drop-in assistance to help residents access essential benefits and resources

WATSONVILLE, CA – With more than one million unemployment applications already received across the state of California last week, the need for emergency crises support will continue to grow exponentially in the coming months. Community Bridges four Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are gearing up to provide support and essential resources to those impacted by COVID-19. The FRCs are open on a drop-in basis for any community member in need and can assist in enrolling and accessing benefits including:

- Unemployment
- State Disability
- Family and Medical Leave
- CalFresh
- Medi-Cal
- Covered California [emergency COVID-19 enrollment]

FRCs also provide food distributions and clothing pantries. Additionally, the FRCs offer free telephonic mental health counseling, which is crucial in helping people manage the fear, anxiety and stress related to the COVID-19 situation.

“With the financial support of Community Foundation we have distributed \$5,000 in Safeway cards directly into the hands of families needing food assistance as a result of being impacted by the coronavirus,” states Roxanne Moore, Program Director. “We have been able to quickly respond and assist people who may not be eligible for traditional support systems or those needing urgent assistance to stay afloat.” Additionally, the FRCs helped these families access additional support systems including unemployment, Covered CA and CalFresh.

“Prior to the COVID-19 public health crisis, over 15% of people in Santa Cruz lived under the Federal Poverty Level and many more were on the brink of poverty,” comments Community Bridges CEO Raymon Cancino. “Now, with thousands more having their hours reduced or being laid off, we are facing a monumental increase in need across the social safety net county-wide. We know that \$5,000

is just a drop in the bucket of what is needed to support families in crisis here in Santa Cruz but every drop, and every effort, is one less family in need.”

Community Bridges seeks direct support from the community to allow the FRCs to sustain, and expand, delivery of these essential services as the demand grows. Go to www.communitybridges.org/donate.

ABOUT THE FAMILY RESOURCE COLLECTIVE

The compassionate and knowledgeable staff at the four Family Resource Centers (FRCs) offer a warm, friendly, safe place for the Santa Cruz County community to access resources that offer stability and hope for the future. Bi-lingual and bi-cultural advocacy services meet the long and short-term needs of families at no or low cost. FRCs help our community access benefits and resources such as housing, employment, healthcare, disability, unemployment, immigration, mental health counseling, literacy education, youth tutoring, substance abuse recovery, domestic violence prevention, nutrition, and child care.

Watsonville: La Manzana Community Resources

521 Main St, Suite Y Watsonville, CA 95076

<https://communitybridges.org/lmcr/>

Live Oak: Live Oak Community Resources

1740 17th Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

<https://communitybridges.org/locr/>

Felton: Mountain Community Resources

6134 Hwy 9, Felton, CA 95018

<https://communitybridges.org/mcr/>

Santa Cruz: Nueva Vista Community Resources

711 E Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

<https://communitybridges.org/nvcr/>

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.