

PRESS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Community Bridges' Family Resource Centers distribute \$26,000 in direct aid to local families in crisis

WATSONVILLE, CA – The number of people seeking unemployment assistance from Community Bridges four Family Resource Centers (FRCs) has increased by 500% and the need for emergency crises support will continue to grow exponentially in the coming months.

Financial support from the Community Foundation and other partners have provided \$26,000 to meet the immediate needs of families impacted by COVID-19. The FRCs are using these funds to distribute grocery gift cards directly into the hands of families in need. Roxanne Moore, Program Director states, “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 remain open to help families access additional support systems including unemployment, Covered CA and CalFresh.

“With 1 in 10 Santa Cruz residents considered to be undocumented, and over 75% of our FRC clients being Latinx, a large portion of our clients and are ineligible to access unemployment insurance even though they were previously employed locally. This is causing a disproportional impact on our local families and communities. We are targeting those ineligible for unemployment insurance due to immigration, but all families locally are hurting and those who can document need will be helped.” Cancino urges local partners to provide direct financial support to enable the FRCs to deliver urgent aid to families in need. Go to www.communitybridges.org/COVID19.

The FRCs remain open on a drop-in basis for any community member in need and can assist in enrolling and accessing benefits including:

- Unemployment
- State Disability
- 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. Virtual parent support services are also available from for families adjusting to a new routine.

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.