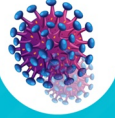










March 15, 2020

CORONAVIRUS: 

What You Need to Know

The CDC recommends everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

-  Wash your hands.
-  Avoid close contact.
-  Avoid touching your face.
-  Stay home.
-  Cover your mouth.
-  Clean and disinfect.

COMMUNITY BRIDGES IS AGGRESSIVELY RESPONDING TO COVID-19 THREAT

Community Bridges is taking swift and proactive actions to reduce the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in our community. It is important to remember that most people who become infected with COVID-19 will only experience the symptoms of a mild case of flu, however, the elderly and people with chronic conditions are at greater risk and preventive measures are heightened for this population. Note that no Community Bridges participants have tested positive for COVID-19.

Community Bridges programs serving seniors have put in place stringent precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of our participants. In addition to educating all employees on CA Department of Public Health guidelines for hygiene; providing easy access to sanitizers, gloves, and masks for clients showing symptoms of illness; mandating employees stay home from work if they are showing signs of illness, programs have implemented the following:

Meals on Wheels: Effective Monday March 16, 2020 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.

Lift Line: Lift Line is still on the road to transporting clients to medical appointments, as well as supporting MOW in its transition to providing home delivery to all participants. The program is urging social distancing of riders when feasible and clients experiencing symptoms of illness will be required to wear masks and will be transported separately for the protection of others. Some delays may occur as we meet their needs and the demand of regular transportation services.

Elderday: To protect the well-being of all Elderday participants, there will be a partial temporary shutdown from March 16, 2020 to March 27, 2020. During this time, Elderday will remain open to its most medically vulnerable participants who would be at highest risk without care, while the remaining participants will be requested to stay at home to protect their health. We are mobilizing our nursing and social work team to provide services in the homes of participants staying at home.

Due to the quickly-evolving public health situation, Community Bridges is continuously reassessing to ensure that the benefits of our services outweigh risk to our clients and that we are addressing public health guidelines.

How Can I Help?

Donate supplies: Donations of unopened masks, alcohol-based hand sanitizers, disinfectant wipes and vinyl gloves are needed to ensure that all 10 Community Bridges programs can stay open and provide essential services to our community during this crisis. Contact info@cbridges.org if you have items to donate.

Make a donation: Your gift will help us sustain services for all programs during this challenging time, despite increased need and reduced funding. [Click here](#) to donate now.

Ray's Corner



STEPPING UP THE CRISIS RESPONSE

For nonprofit agencies like Community Bridges the ability to serve vulnerable community members during this crisis presents unique challenges. We see the markets responding to the crisis with economic downturn, which scares investors and philanthropists whose assets have taken a significant reduction in a matter of days. We have had to cancel major promotional and fundraising events, while program closures have the potential to threaten programs sustainability and services. At the same time we must continue our work in providing essential services even when we experience greater need without additional revenue to meet that demand.

We will continue to serve the children, families and seniors in Santa Cruz County who are in need during this critical time, as this is the ethos of our mission and work. We understand that these times create real tensions and situations that include loss of governmental and individual support, but it's also an opportunity for nonprofits like ours to step up to the challenge and lean in to crisis.

This week we shifted how we work by creating a mobile nursing team to ensure Elderday participants who are being asked to stay home remain safe and have access to care, regardless of our ability to be reimbursed by government. We transitioned our Meals on Wheels program to temporarily suspend congregate dining at five sites and made the shift to providing only home delivered meals.

We continue to be innovative, proactive and strategic in how we plan to meet the needs of our community. 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 and to help fund these creative solutions to ensure our we maintain services for high risk populations throughout this emergency.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#)



Community Bridges Family of Programs

Child & Adult Care Food Program | Child Development Division | WIC | La Manzanita Community Resources | Live Oak Community Resources | Mountain Community Resources | Nueva Vista Community Resources | Elderday | Lift Line | Meals on Wheels

Community Bridges is an exempt organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN #94-2460211. Donations are tax deductible in excess of the value of any goods or services provided in exchange for your contribution.