



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

June 12, 2020



TEACHING LOVE TO THE NEXT GENERATION

Many of us have read the famous quote by Nelson Mandela, *"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."* Now, more than ever, this fundamental truth requires us to actively and intentionally pass it on to the next generation.

Community Bridges is investing in the future generation. Children learn about racial bias from an early age and many children become set in their beliefs by age 12. The community is an important support for parents in teaching children how to deal with, and react to, racial differences. Our children and youth programs not only support children's physical health with access to nutritious food, but provide affordable access to education and experiential learning in inclusive environments that promote dialogue and cultural learning opportunities.

Summer Lunch: Children and youth aged 18 and under can get free lunches this summer at 12 sites throughout Santa Cruz County! Free meals will be provided to all children, without eligibility documentation. Sponsored by [La Manzana Community Resources](#).

Dates: June 8 – early/mid August

Days and Times: Monday – Friday from 12:00PM-1:00PM

Locations: Text: Lunches to 1 (833) 421-0991 to find a location near you

Summer Fun!: [Nueva Vista Community Resources](#) in Santa Cruz hosts Summer Fun! for its 21st consecutive summer - a hands-on active learning day camp for 3rd - 5th graders. Kids will

enjoy daily activities with mentors that include arts and crafts, interactive games, biking and hiking. A few spots are still available and a maximum of 12 children are allowed for each session.

Dates: Session 1: June 22 – July 2, 2020; Session 2: July 6 – July 17, 2020

Days and Times: Monday - Friday (times 10AM -1:00PM)

Cost: \$20 per child.

Call (831) 426-2322 for more information and to enroll.

Child Development Division: Our six early education centers build a foundation for healthy development and school readiness. We are enrolling now at all of our six centers across Santa Cruz County. Eligible families qualify for free or affordable tuition. [Click here](#) to find a site near you and learn more about our Child Development Division.

Need a ride to the grocery store or bank?

You probably know that Lift Line provides free transportation to medical appointments for seniors and people with disabilities. But now they can get free rides to the bank or grocery store as well. No application is needed before getting a ride. Just give us a call and set up your ride today!

How to Schedule a Ride

Call Lift Line at **831-688-9663** during the following hours:

Monday – Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Saturday – Sunday 8:00AM to 4:00PM

If possible, please call one or two days in advance. Lift Line will respond to same day scheduling according to availability. Transportation times will be scheduled according to availability between 8:30AM and 3:30PM seven days a week.

Client Stories

*"I chose Nuevo Dia Early Childhood Development Center because I wanted [my son] to be exposed to more culture, specifically Spanish ...[He has benefitted from the program by] being exposed to groups, seeing other boys and girls speaking Spanish, he's more open to that. ...I notice that when we go to the park and speak Spanish all the other kids kind of look and here it's just out there - it normalizes it."*Kelly, parent.



Ray's Corner

LET'S TALK EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND



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ACTION

It is not hard to be bombarded by messages about how businesses and nonprofits from all sectors support #blacklivesmatter in light of the public outcry and troubling news nationwide. This outpouring of solidarity is a welcome sight, an evolution of sorts, but on occasion these messages seem disingenuous and empty when the current practices of these well-meaning organizations remain the same and old practiced pedagogy still exist. The messages coming from these organizations seem to be created to capitalize on the movement, or isolate themselves from what is commonly referred to as consumerist activism and its ramifications that have real financial consequences and repercussions.

Here at Community Bridges, we have consistently been driven by our agency value of commitment to make intentional actions to strengthen our resolve for social and economic justice for all. This can be seen by our implementation of a wage equity ratio of less than 1 to 5 differential of the lowest paid employee to the highest paid, ensuring we all rise together.

Second, we have strategically searched for, and invited, community members of color, as well as people from South County, to enter our boardroom to increase our diversity. In the last six years our board has gone from 13% people of color- 87% white -47% female to 36% people of color- 64% white- 66% female in 2020. We have made tremendous progress, but we must continue to intentionally add more diversity to strengthen our work together and enable the advancement of social justice and equity. Will you consider joining us? No prior board experience is required and time commitment is just a few hours a month. If you see yourself in this role and want to make a difference in the lives of thousands, reach out to me and let's chat via Zoom.



Community Bridges Family of Programs

Child & Adult Care Food Program | Child Development Division | WIC | La Manzana 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.