

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Amy Hanley

(831) 688-8840 ext 285

amyh@cbridges.org



La Manzanita
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD 

No kid hungry this summer!

Summer Lunch program provides free lunches to all Santa Cruz County youth

WATSONVILLE, CA – Children and youth aged 18 and under can get free lunches this summer at 12 sites throughout Santa Cruz County! The annual Summer Lunch program, sponsored by La Manzanita Community Resources, a program of Community Bridges, combats food insecurity and supports good nutritional habits.

In 2019 over 21,000 children in Santa Cruz County qualified for free or reduced price lunches. During the summer months when school is not in session, many of these kids do not have access to healthy food for their midday meal. “This summer more than ever, Santa Cruz County kids are at risk of missing out on important nutrition,” states Mayra Melendrez, La Manzanita Community Resources Program Manager, “Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the county unemployment rate is over 17% and food insecurity is growing.” Melendrez notes that without Summer Lunch children are more likely to gain weight as they resort to less healthy, but easily accessible, food options. Improving nutrition and food security can also positively impact children’s mental well-being, “which is so important when families are facing hard economic times.”

The Summer Lunch program begins June 8, 2020 and serves lunch Monday through Friday from 12:00PM-1:00PM. Free meals will be provided to all children, without eligibility documentation, who are 18 years of age and younger at the following site(s).

Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz	543 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Sycamore St. Apartments	125 Sycamore St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Neary Lagoon Apartments	81 Chestnut St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060
La Manzanita Community Resources	521 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076
Schapiro Knoll Apartments	33 Minto Rd. Watsonville, CA 95076
Stone Creek Apartments	300 Bree Ln, Watsonville, CA 95076
Sunny Meadows Apartments	220 Ross Ave, Freedom, CA 95019
Pippin Orchards Apartments	56 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville, CA 95076
Corralitos Creek Apartments	125 Pajaro Circle, Freedom, CA 95019
Pacific Terrace Apartments	131 Landis Ave, Watsonville, CA 95076
Lincoln Square Apartments	1202 Lincoln St, Watsonville, CA 95076
Pajaro Park Apartments	27 San Juan Road, Watsonville, CA 95076

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

ABOUT LA MANZANA COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The compassionate and knowledgeable staff at La Manzana Community Resources (LMCR) offer a warm, friendly, safe place for the South 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. LMCR helps 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. LMCR is part of Community Bridges Family Resource Collective.

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.