



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

July 15, 2020



Photo Credit Joanna Miller/ Pajaronian

USING TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE SENIOR ISOLATION

Community Bridges is excited to announce a new FREE program for all seniors - Senior Center Without Limits. This innovative virtual program is open to all people over age 60 in Santa Cruz County. Seniors, many of whom have been sheltering at home for months, now have online opportunities for activities to help them stay physically, socially, creatively, and cognitively engaged. In the first two weeks of the program, 190 seniors have participated in classes!

For more information on the program and to view the dynamic calendar of classes, please go to www.communitybridges.org/SCWOL.

Please spread the word about this valuable program to others who might benefit from this opportunity.

COVID-19 RESPONSE WEBINAR SERIES

You are invited to join us for a FREE two-part webinar series!

Mitigating Impact of COVID-19 on Santa Cruz Economy
August 6, 2020 | 6 PM
Presenter: Melodye Serino,

Keeping Grounded when the Financial World is Shaking
August 13, 2020 | 12 PM
Presenter: Heather Liston, CFP, EA, Program

Deputy County Administrative Officer,
County of Santa Cruz

Director UC Berkeley Extension

How has COVID-19 impacted the economy of Santa Cruz County? What is the outlook for the next 12 months? Melodye will give us a preview of proposed county budget changes and discuss the impact on our community, in advance of county budget hearings.

What does the constant shifting in our economy, the stock market and jobs outlook mean for you? How can you adjust, or build, your financial plan? Heather will provide expert insight and actionable information on how to make solid financial decisions during uncertain times.

REGISTER NOW

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Consider including us in your future plans and help strengthen our community. [Read more.](#)

Taking action to provide equitable access to all.

Undocumented individuals in agriculture, hospitality and service industries have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 shutdown as they are not eligible for traditional public benefits, such as unemployment or public food assistance programs. These individuals contribute over \$21 million to our economy in state and local taxes and they need our support during this crisis. The UndocuFund is a collaborative effort between Community Bridges and other local agencies within Santa Cruz and Monterey counties that provides undocumented individuals and families who have lost wages due to COVID-19 with one-time emergency cash assistance. To date, the program has helped 826 families pay their rent and stay in their homes.

To find out more about the UndocuFund program text(831) 854-7093 or visit a Community Bridges Family Resource Center.

Are you ready for the next emergency?

Emergencies can happen at any time - earthquakes, fires and even electricity shutoffs. Community Bridges is joining the Volunteer Center Santa Cruz County, and Listos California to encourage you to make a disaster preparedness plan to keep you and your family safe. [Click here](#) to download an easy to use get-ready guide. It doesn't have to take long to put a plan in place, just choose one action a week to get your family ready. If you would like to attend a free online class about disaster preparedness, email events@scvolunteercenter.org.

Client Stories

For the past 30 years, Jose has worked as a pizza maker for a local restaurant. Due to the COVID-19 he was laid off and was not able to collect any unemployment or retirement benefits due to being undocumented. The help from UndocuFund helped pay his rent this month. Receiving this help also provided him with the ability to

buy essential groceries, instead of having to choose between shelter and food, as many in our community must now do.



Ray's Corner



[Donate Now](#)

SPREAD KINDNESS, NOT GERMS

I miss my parents. Since sheltering in place began in March, I have only made one trip to Tracy to visit them on Father's Day, when out of county travel was permitted. Prior to traveling I was tested for COVID-19 to ensure I was negative. We sat outside, six feet apart, masked and separated. My wife stayed home to limit potential exposure. We were noncompliant with social distancing only once when we took a quick masked selfie and I left after seeing them in person for only 90 minutes. Even with taking all of these precautions with my parents I felt guilty for taking the risk.

Across the nation people are experiencing these conflicting emotions and in every household there are strong desires to connect with loved ones beyond an electronic screen. However, we are now heading into the second wave of the pandemic and we need you now, more than ever, to hunker down and take necessary precautions to stop the spread - limit your travel to essential functions such as doctor visits, groceries, outside walks, work and filling up gas.

COVID-19 isn't over and will continue to have a devastating impact on the health and economic well-being of our neighbors in the coming months. As business shut downs and unemployment put serious strain on resources and assistance available, Community Bridges is here to provide critical help to our community and support those most impacted. So if you're unable to support us financially during this time, you can still play a vital role by committing to shelter in place (even if that means not visiting family who are not in your immediate household) and wearing a mask when outside your home. I am glad everything went okay with my visit last month, but I will only be visiting my parents via FaceTime for the foreseeable future.



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.