

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Community Bridges expedites relief for hundreds of fire victims**

**Santa Cruz County, CA** — As the CZU Lightning Complex Fires moved into Santa Cruz County, Community Bridges mobilized its resources and activated its network of partners to quickly meet the needs of the community it serves – and continues to support the Santa Cruz County community during this time of adversity with a broad range of support.

Lift Line is providing transportation to shelters or other safe destinations in Santa Cruz County and rides can be scheduled by calling (831) 688-9663 between 8 AM and 3 PM.

Community Bridges Family Resource Centers in Santa Cruz and Watsonville are open and available to assist individuals and families affected by the fires to apply for Federal FEMA funding, as well as connect them to vital resources as they navigate through the recovery process.

<p>La Manzana Community Resources 831-724-2997 521 Main Street, Suite Y, Watsonville Monday – Friday: 9am to 4:30pm (Closed 12pm-1pm)</p>	<p>Live Oak Community Resources 831-476-7284 1740 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz Monday – Thursday: 9am to 5pm (12pm-1pm)</p>	<p>Nueva Vista Community Resources 831-423-5747 711 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz Monday – Friday: 9am to 5:00pm (1:00pm – 2:00pm)</p>
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During the immediate crisis, the agency supplied food, water, hygiene supplies and masks to evacuees in shelters. Staff went out in the community to reach houseless neighbors in the Pogonip to inform them of the importance of getting to shelter, along with providing them with food and water. Central Coast Energy Services donated sleeping bags, wipes, diapers, PPE and hand sanitizer and Community Bridges delivered these supplies to the shelter at Harbor High.

“Our values are not just words to us - but are the foundation of our actions. Over the last few days we have committed staff - some who have also even lost their own homes in the fire –

show up to help others in crisis,” says Ray Cancino, Community Bridges CEO. “We found that word of mouth has been an important way that many people are getting their information and one-on-one contact has been needed and welcomed.” Cancino noted that Community Bridges support is not short-term, but that the agency is preparing to continue to offer relief those affected by the fires during their recovery.

Donations are being accepted to support fire victims at [www.communitybridges.org/donate](http://www.communitybridges.org/donate). If people wish to directly to support evacuees please consider donating to provide gift cards to help families in crisis.

Community Bridges encourages all residents to register and enroll in reverse 911 calls through <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/218A80E36F49>

### **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](http://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 Manzanita 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.

### **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 Manzanita 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>

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