



COMMUNITY BRIDGES  
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

August 15, 2020



## MEALS ON WHEEL VOLUNTEERS - HEROES WITHOUT CAPES!

Meals on Wheels volunteers have been heroically (and safely) delivering meals to over 700 seniors each week during the COVID-19 crisis. More than ever, they have partnered with us to ensure the health and wellbeing of seniors in Santa Cruz County. To recognize their sacrifice and dedication during these unprecedented times, we have given our beloved volunteers a commemorative pin. If you see the pin (shown in the image above) on a friend, colleague or passer-by, please tell them **thank you!**



## GET READY TO BID! SEPTEMBER 19-27

This year we are taking our annual Farm to Fork Gala "to-go." Log in to our online auction and support all 10 Community Bridges programs and local businesses at the same time. Get comfortable at home, grab your auction paddle (or mouse) and bid! **Follow us on Facebook for updates!**

**2020 Census to close on September 30!**

Only six weeks left to be counted in the 2020 Census and there are still about 90,000 residents

in Santa Cruz County that have not responded. Your response matters to the future of our community for the next decade. Each person counted is estimated to result in nearly \$2,000 annually in federal funding to support local services. This means that Santa Cruz County is at risk of missing out on millions of dollars in funding for essential services. Ask your friends and neighbors if they have been counted. Complete the census online here: [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)

## New inclusive playground for the kids at Sycamore Street Child Development Center!



Thanks to our valued partnership and financial support with the City of Santa Cruz and private donations, Community Bridges was able to make much needed renovations to the playground at our Sycamore Street Child Development Center. Now children attending the center have a safe and ADA compliant playground that can accommodate special needs children. Prior to the renovation, the playground was in disrepair and posed a safety hazard for the children at the center. Thank you to the City of Santa Cruz for prioritizing inclusivity and safety for our children.

## Client Stories

*I've used Meals on Wheels for a number of years. I know it's one meal, but it could be your only one meal of the day. It may seem funny living here in Capitola and needing assistance, but the world is tough out there right now and it's very hard for seniors and disabled - Meals on Wheels recipient*



## Ray's Corner



[Donate](#)

### COLLABORATION. INNOVATION. PARTNERSHIP.

We can't do this work alone. It seems so cliché, but it's very true that we must not take anyone or anything for granted as we work to enable equity in our community. We realize that we are only able to accomplish our work due to donors like you. It is your resources that we put to work in the most cost-effective and efficient way, leading to changed lives. At times we expect government to respond and address societal needs, but they are not always able to take action and lead as expected. However, we acknowledge and appreciate their willingness to invest in our services even as they are constantly inundated with advocacy, special interests and a

This week, as two large agency construction projects are being completed, I am reminded that none of this would have been possible without the confidence and support of local partners. The children at the Sycamore Child Development Center in Santa Cruz will experience the benefit of this partnership. The City of Santa Cruz selected us to use allocated CDBG dollars, which were matched by existing California Department of Education dollars, to build a new interactive outdoor play area. This area will be enjoyed by future generations to come and will help foster social and emotional growth outdoors.

In a truly collaborative effort, we combined donations and reserves, along with investment from Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Sunlight Giving and the County of Santa Cruz (through HEAP funds) to support homeless services at Mountain Community Resource Center. This is the first one-stop resource center that will be able to address homeless individuals living outside with showers, laundry and case management services in North Santa Cruz County.

There is no doubt that partnership, trust and collaboration are needed to fund projects like these. We look forward to identifying more partnership opportunities and creative ways to engage local collaborators on solutions to local problems. We understand that due to COVID-19, there is a growing need for our services, yet hard funding decisions lie ahead with less resources available to address the needs. If we come together, pitch in and discuss how we can best support the most amount of people, we are sure to find a way forward.



### 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.