



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Wednesday, September 16, 2020**  
**5:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/613973795>

Meeting ID: 613 973 795

**DRAFT AGENDA**

- 5:00 1. CLOSED SESSION**
- 6:20 2. Adjourn Closed Session**
- 6:20 3. Call to Order/Establish Quorum**
- 6:20 4. Introductions of Potential Board Members (10 min)**
- Brenda Griffin
  - Silvia Morales
- 6:30 5. Agenda Review**
- 6:30 6. Announcements/Program Updates (5 min)**
- 6:35 7. Receive comments from members of the public on “Items not on the Agenda” (5 min)**
- 6:40 8. BOD Chair Report (5 min)**
- a) *New CB BOD Slate*  
*7/9/2020 Governance Committee: Pam/Jack moved to recommend the new Board slate. Chair: Nicolette Lee. Vice Chair: Sara Siegel. No change to Secretary and Treasurer. MSP.*
  - a) **Action Item:** *Motion to approve the new CB BOD Slate\**
- 6:45 9. CEO Report (20 min)**
- a) **CZU - Update**
- 7:05 10. Development Report– Anna Vaage / Amy Hanley (10 min)**
- 10.1 *Development Progress Report for August 2020*
  - 10.2 *Alternative Farm to Fork Event*
- 7:15 11. Finance Committee Update – Doug Underhill (10 min)**
- a) *Financial Report from the June 11, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting*
  - b) *20/21 Rollup Budget*
- 7:25 12. Newspaper Articles**
- 7:25 13. Items for Next Agenda (5 min)**
- 7:30 14. Adjourn Regular Meeting**
- 7:30 CLOSED SESSION**
- 7:35 Closed Session Adjourned**

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday November 18, 2020, by Zoom**

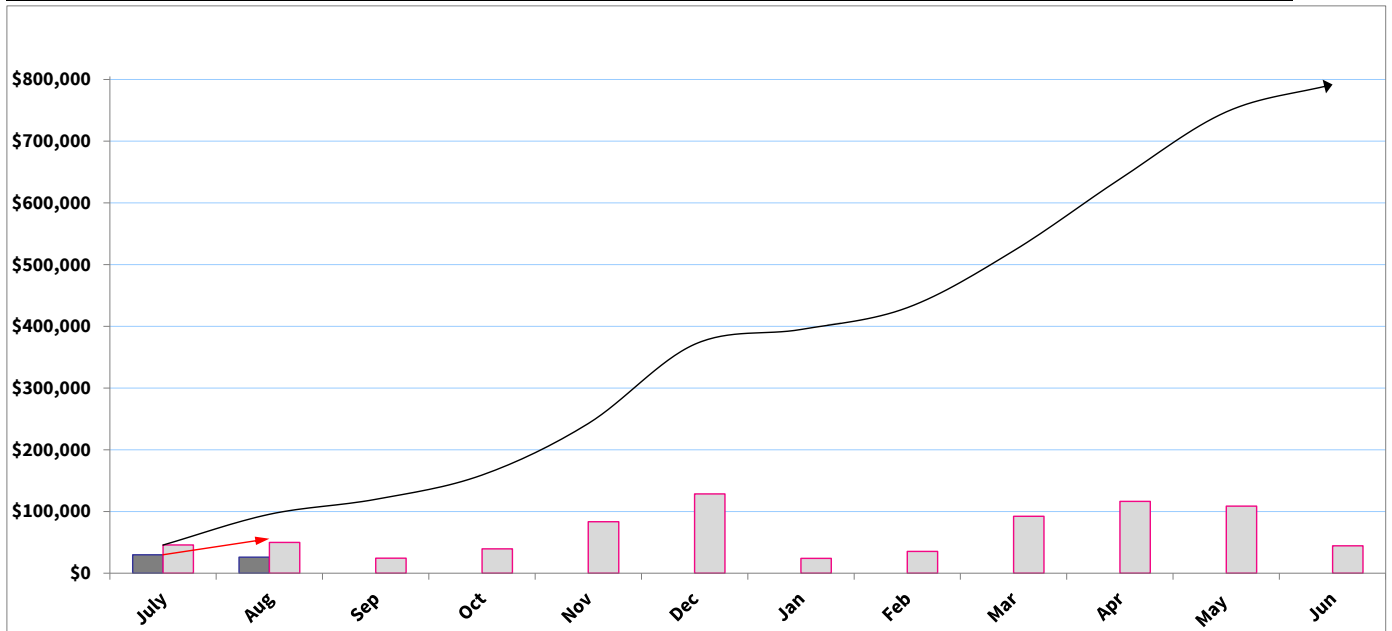
## Development Progress Report

**Fiscal Year 2020-21**

August 31, 2020

**Donation Revenue** (Includes Events, Sponsorships, Tickets. **Excludes Grants, COVID-19 Relief**, and unfulfilled pledges.)

Total	Fiscal Year	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
	Current Year 20/21	\$29,920	\$25,971											\$55,892
	Previous Year 19/20	\$45,654	\$49,811	\$24,246	\$39,321	\$83,533	\$128,405	\$23,933	\$35,366	\$92,165	\$116,354	\$108,719	\$44,406	\$791,913
<b>Year over year difference: 8/31/19 to 8/31/20</b> <b>-\$39,573</b> <b>-5.0%</b> <b>change</b>														



### A. Cumulative YTD Donations vs Prior Year - See Fundraising Campaign Report

- 20/21 Donations YTD      \$55,892      7.1% Progress to Prior Year Total
- Prior Year point in time      \$95,465      12.1% YTD Prior Year Progress
- Change vs. Prior YTD      -\$39,573      -41.5% Growth over prior year

### B. Cumulative YTD Donations vs Budgeted Goal - See Fundraising Campaign Report

- 20/21 Donation Goal      \$462,106      -10.1% Goal Change over Prior Year
- 20/21 Donations YTD      \$55,892      12% Portion of goal met
- Portion of Year Lapsed      17% Portion of year lapsed

### C. Active Grant Applications vs Prior Year - See Grant Application Report

- 20/21 Grant Awards      \$571,332
- Prior Year Awarded      \$1,331,507      -57% Growth over prior year
- 20/21 New Funds Added      \$112,500      20% Portion of YTD Grant Funds New

### D. Relief Funds Received & Awarded - See COVID-19 & CZU Fire Relief Donations & Grants

- 20/21 COVID Relief Total      \$8,400      4% Portion of YTD donations total
- Prior Year COVID Total      \$674,545      19% Portion of prior year donations
- 20/21 Fire Relief Total      \$23,855      13% Portion of YTD donations total

## Grant Application Report

Excluding COVID-19 Relief Grants

Through August 31, 2020

<b>Grants Awarded: Government Funded</b>	<b>FY 20/21</b>	<b>FY 19/20</b>
California Public Utilities Corp (FRC)		\$32,174
Low Carbon Transit Operations Program LCTOP (LL)		\$275,309
Santa Cruz City Set-Aside (CDD Sycamore)		\$13,642
State Transit Assistance STA 3 Yr Supplemental (LL)	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Total Government Grant Funds Awarded</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$421,125</b>

<b>Grants Awarded: Foundation &amp; Private</b>	<b>FY 20/21</b>	<b>FY 19/20</b>
Alliance Capital Campaign Grant (Elderday)	<i>To apply \$2.5M</i>	\$150,000
Alliance Partners for Healthy Food Access (FRC)	\$10,000	\$15,600
California Emergency Solutions and Housing (MCR)		\$240,478
Caroline's Nonprofit Thrift Store (LMCR)		\$20,000
Community Action Board Immigration Services (FRC)	\$11,832	\$8,000
Community Foundation Monterey (LMCR)	\$15,000	\$12,000
Community Foundation Santa Cruz County (CB)	\$50,000	\$60,000
Dignity Health Dominican Hospital (FRC)	<i>Applied \$97,842</i>	\$12,500
Dudley-Vehmeyer-Brown Foundation (MCR)	\$2,000	\$5,500
Kaiser Foundation for At Risk Youth (FRC)	<i>Suspended \$15K</i>	\$15,000
Monterey Peninsula Foundation (Lift Line)	\$40,000	\$40,000
Newman's Own Shelf Stable Meals (MOW)	n/a	\$9,500
Packard Foundation General Operating (FRC)	\$75,000	
Packard Foundation Capacity Building (FRC)	\$12,500	\$12,500
Packard Foundation Youth Activities (NVCR)	\$45,000	\$45,000
Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust (LMCR)	\$15,000	\$15,000
Palo Alto Medical Foundation (MOW)	\$7,500	\$7,500
Subaru Share the Love Vehicle Sales Proceeds (MOW)		\$6,804
Sunlight Giving (CB) Operating Support multi-year	\$185,000	\$150,000
Sutter Health North County Homeless Services (MCR)		\$25,000
United Way Youth Well-Being (LOCR)		\$30,000
Volunteer Center Emergency Prep (FRC, MOW)		\$30,000
Watsonville Rotary Mental Health (LMCR)	\$2,500	
<b>Total Foundation &amp; Private Funds Awarded</b>	<b>\$471,332</b>	<b>\$910,382</b>

<b>Total Grant Funding Applications Awarded</b>	<b>\$571,332</b>	<b>\$1,331,507</b>
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## Grant Application Report cont'd.

Excluding COVID-19 Relief Grants

<b>Gov't Contract Renewals</b>	<b>FY 20/21</b>	<b>FY 19/20</b>
California Air Resources Board CARB (LL)	<i>Applying \$247.6K</i>	
CalTrans Equipment & Services 5310 (LL)	\$192,000	
City of Watsonville Community Services (LL, MOW)	\$8,500	\$8,500
Community Development CDBG (NVCR)	\$100,000	\$75,000
Santa Cruz County CORE Program Funds	\$1,051,200	\$1,168,000
Seniors Council Older Americans Act (ELD & MOW)	<i>Applied \$422.9K</i>	
TDA Funding Claim Medical Rides (LL)	\$618,974	\$798,375
<b>Total Government Contracts Awarded</b>	<b>\$1,970,674</b>	<b>\$2,049,875</b>

<b>Pending New Grant Applications</b>	<b>FY 20/21</b>	<b>FY 19/20</b>
California Association of Food Banks (FRC)	<i>Applied \$106.5K</i>	
California Health Care Foundation (FRC)	<i>To apply TBD</i>	
California Wellness Foundation (FRC)	<i>Applying \$200K</i>	
Cisco Foundation (LOCR) Afterschool Youth	<i>Applying \$50K</i>	
Harden Foundation (LMCR)	<i>Applying \$15K</i>	
Joseph & Vera Long Foundation (ELD or LL)	<i>Applying \$49K</i>	
Safeway Foundation (LL)	<i>Applying \$2.5K</i>	
<b>Total Applications In Process</b>	<b>\$478,000</b>	

<b>Declined Grant Applications</b>	<b>FY 20/21</b>	<b>FY 19/20</b>
Allstate Renewal Award (LOCR)	\$40,000	
California Emerging Technology Fund (FRC)		\$18,000
CDE CA State Preschool Expansion (CDD)		\$936,000
Comcast NBCU Foundation (FRC)	\$55,000	
FHL Bank AHEAD Financial Literacy (FRC)	\$50,000	\$50,000
Google Impact Challenge (ELD & MOW)	\$1,000,000	
Kendal Charitable Funds (ELD)		\$50,000
National Healthcare for Homeless w/ Kaiser (MCR, MOW)	\$50,000	
National Summer Learning Association (LOCR, NVCR)		\$10,000
No Kid Hungry (LMCR)	\$50,000	
Omegu Nu Santa Cruz (MCR) <i>(Donated to MOW instead)</i>	\$12,800	
SC County Homeless Action Partnership HAP (FRC)		\$150,000
Seaside Company (NVCR Summer Fun)	\$10,000	
The Lawrence Foundation (FRC)		\$5,000
United Way Women in Philanthropy (NVCR)		\$10,000
US Soccer Foundation (LOCR)		\$30,000
Waldron Charitable Fund (FRC Counseling)	\$15,000	
<b>Total Applications Declined</b>	<b>\$1,282,800</b>	<b>\$1,259,000</b>

*Funds listed in Declined Applications were not received.*

## Fundraising Campaign Report Through August 31, 2020

Excluding COVID-19 and CZU Fire Relief Funds

Donations to Programs	20/21 Goal	20/21 YTD	% Goal Met	19/20 Final
CB General Funds	\$102,914	\$31,718	31%	\$216,666
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$2,350	\$110	5%	\$4,245
Child Development Division	\$7,112	\$512	7%	\$7,860
Elderday	\$5,773	\$2,518	44%	\$8,322
La Manzana Community Resources	\$3,252	\$47	1%	\$4,376
Lift Line	\$12,209	\$234	2%	\$16,124
Live Oak Community Resources	\$24,508	\$725	3%	\$28,643
Mountain Community Resources	\$54,549	\$1,410	3%	\$88,931
Meals on Wheels	\$243,000	\$18,315	8%	\$407,015
Nueva Vista Community Resources	\$4,890	\$160	3%	\$6,711
WIC	\$1,550	\$144	9%	\$2,824
<b>Total Program Revenue</b>	<b>\$462,106</b>	<b>\$55,892</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>\$791,718</b>

Fundraising Appeals & Campaigns	20/21 Goals	20/21 YTD	YTD 19/20 To Date	20/21 \$ change
Donates Monthly		\$5,932	\$2,298	\$3,634
Email, Online, Social Media		\$2,930	\$374	\$2,556
Endowment Funds (CB, MCR, MOW)		\$200	\$200	\$0
Farm to Fork Gala	\$8,000	\$13,800	\$72,780	(\$58,980)
Honor/Memorial		\$685	\$345	\$340
Major Gifts \$5K+	\$75,666	\$13,000	\$2,000	\$11,000
MOW Spring Mailer		\$5,660	\$2,315	\$3,345
MOW Welcome Packet		\$800	\$1,650	(\$850)
MOW Meal Donation		\$1,293	\$1,137	\$156
Other Miscellaneous		\$9,936	\$9,467	\$469
Payroll & Matches		\$1,544	\$2,261	(\$717)
Program Donation Box		\$112	\$638	(\$526)
<b>Total Campaign Revenue</b>	<b>\$462,106</b>	<b>\$55,892</b>	<b>\$95,465</b>	<b>-\$39,573</b>

<b>Board member contributions (incl above)</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$1,330</b>	<b>\$3,164</b>	<b>-\$1,834</b>
<b>Board member solicitations (incl above)</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$9,740</b>	<b>-\$15,125</b>

## COVID-19 & CZU Fire Relief Donations & Grants

Through August 31, 2020

Relief Donations Received	20/21 FIRE	20/21 COVID	19/20 COVID
CB General Funds	\$3,700	\$1,650	\$111,345
Child and Adult Care FP	\$5		\$3,365
Child Development Dept			\$550
Elderday		\$650	\$9,995
La Manzana			\$600
Lift Line			\$570
Live Oak			\$1,775
Mountain Community	\$4,850		\$6,576
Meals on Wheels	\$300		\$52,671
Nueva Vista			\$1,350
WIC		\$100	\$905
<b>Total Donations Received</b>	<b>\$8,855</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>	<b>\$189,702</b>

Relief Grants Awarded	20/21 FIRE	20/21 COVID	19/20 COVID
CDBG/CARES ACT City of Santa Cruz (MOW, ELD)			\$76,394
Central CA Alliance for Health COVID			\$29,400
Community Foundation Monterey County (LMCR)			\$10,000
Community Foundation SCC COVID (ELD, MOW, FRC)			\$90,000
Community Foundation SCC Fire Relief Fund (MCR)	\$5,000		
Driscoll's Direct Food Support Aid (FRCs)			\$20,000
FEMA Emerg Food & Housing via United Way (MOW & FRC)			\$30,349
Meals on Wheels America (MOW)			\$100,000
Pinpoint Foundation (CB)			\$5,000
Santa Cruz Community Ventures (FRC) Undocufund			\$53,500
Santa Cruz Community Ventures (FRC) Cash Assistance			\$40,200
Silicon Valley CF (FRC) Direct Relief Financial Assistance	\$10,000		
Sunlight Giving Rental Assistance (CB)	<i>Applied \$50K</i>		\$35,000
The Ardea Fund			\$25,000
United Way First 5 (CDD)		\$6,000	
<b>Total Grant Funds Awarded</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$484,843</b>

<b>Relief Gifts &amp; Grants Received to Date</b>	<b>\$23,855</b>	<b>\$8,400</b>	<b>\$674,545</b>
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<b>Major Gifts included in Donations above</b>			
Twin Lakes Baptist Church (CB)			\$25,000
Claudia and Alec Webster (MOW)			\$10,000
Robert and Carol Simpkins (\$8K ELD \$2K CB)			\$10,000
TriCal Inc. (CB)			\$10,000
Edward Fenster (CB)			\$7,500
Laurence and Violet Puretz (CB)			\$5,000
Tom Lehrer (All Programs)			\$5,000
Joe Collins Fund at Community Foundation (MCR)	\$2,500		
<b>Total Major Gift Donations Received</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$72,500</b>

<b>COMMUNITY BRIDGES</b> <b>Program Budget Summary</b> <b>June 30, 2020</b>											
Projections for Year Ending 6-30-20											
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	J	K
PROGRAM NAME:	6/30/19 Audited Balance	Annual 19/20 Balanced Budget	Current Projected Expenses	Current Projected Revenues	As Yet Unsecured Revenues	(E-D) Net 2019-2020 Gain/Loss	(B+G) Cumulative Gain/Loss	Goal 25% Reserve %	Change from Prior Mo	% Change	14.53% Gen'l & Adm Exp
WIC (Oct-Sept FFY)	194,013	2,336,843	2,384,310	2,382,142	0	(2,168)	191,845	8.1%	(281)	0.0%	346,481
Child Development Div	201,326	2,302,292	2,144,158	2,238,296	4,488	94,138	295,464	13.8%	4,238	0.2%	254,965
Elderday	77,401	2,198,526	1,897,042	2,055,522	69,000	158,480	235,881	12.4%	178,006	9.4%	271,461
Meals on Wheels	513,967	1,944,189	2,010,269	2,153,627	3,800	143,358	657,325	34.4%	142,242	7.1%	276,983
Lift Line	(301,088)	3,023,426	2,999,571	3,087,315	0	87,744	(213,344)	-8.1%	180,175	6.0%	297,876
La Manzana Commty Res	120,889	608,350	635,451	710,119	0	74,668	195,557	31.4%	50,549	8.0%	86,658
Mountain Commty Res	252,639	579,800	588,262	630,847	0	42,585	295,224	51.1%	151,225	25.7%	71,102
Nueva Vista Commty Res	84,442	361,458	383,147	388,306	0	5,159	89,601	23.7%	24,491	6.4%	54,294
Live Oak Commty Res	124,154	287,535	323,563	326,627	0	3,064	127,218	39.3%	14,270	4.4%	47,018
CACFP (Oct-Sept FFY)	6,007	3,926,778	4,123,590	4,125,515	7,400	1,925	7,932	0.8%	377	0.0%	67,734
Administration	43,620	1,896,148	2,054,764	2,036,994	0	(17,770)	25,850	1.3%	21,661	1.1%	11,165
Philanthropy	66,551	185,700	168,848	284,712	0	115,864	182,415	108.0%	23,954	14.2%	24,508
<b>TOTAL PROG OPERATIONS</b>	<b>1,383,921</b>	<b>19,651,045</b>	<b>19,712,975</b>	<b>20,420,022</b>	<b>84,688</b>	<b>707,047</b>	<b>2,090,968</b>	<b>13.68%</b>	<b>790,907</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>1,810,245</b>
LOCR-Capital Campaign	453,998	27,240	23,570	(10,404)	0	(33,974)	420,024	NA	6,403		0
CBHQ FY 19/20 Activity		-	289,430	301,563	0	12,132	12,132	NA	2,036		0
Fixed Assets & Gen'l Agy	1,916,838	-	2,672	230,370	0	227,698	2,144,537	NA	(42,605)		0
<b>TOTAL AGENCY</b>	<b>3,754,758</b>	<b>19,678,285</b>	<b>20,028,647</b>	<b>20,941,551</b>	<b>84,688</b>	<b>912,903</b>	<b>4,667,661</b>	<b>13.68%</b>	<b>756,742</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>1,810,245</b>

Notes: MOW : \$350,000 of MOW reserve revenue shown on Fixed Assets & General Agency 6/30/19 Fund Balance.

Fixed Asset purchases and Pass-Thru expenses exempt from Indirect; Revenues and Expenses include all pass-through

\*MOW deferred revenue = 121,020 AAA, 143,665 Families First, 41,400 CARES, 75,000 MOW America : Total = \$381,085

\*WIC 65.5K deferred to Q4 FFY, CDD 24K deferred, Additional 63,820K grants deferred: Total Agency deferred = \$534,405

**Program Budget Summary**  
**June 30, 2020**

**PROGRAM NAME:**

<b>WIC</b>	Minimal Change - Reduced Claims CB FY, to be spent out by FFY end		
<b>Child Development Div</b>	Maximize contract and HP parent fees, deferring 15K QRIS, 9K COVID COE		
<b>Elderday</b>	TAS ADA near 70, 171K PPP, 69K rev unsecured VA/CCAH		
<b>Meals on Wheels</b>	deferring 121K AAA, 143K CARES. 75K MOW America, 41K CARES, +144.6K PPP		
<b>Lift Line</b>	made 200K property payment, used 166K reserve fund, +247K PPP		
<b>La Manzana CR</b>	+34K MAA Revenue, +7K personnel		
<b>MCR</b>	143K Prop project shifted into 2021, will use prior year funds in 2021		
<b>Nueva Vista CR</b>	Minimal Change - -Prog Income, + MAA, attempting to shift FRC personnel to PPP		
<b>Live Oak CR</b>	Minimal Change -Rental Income, outside contracts, +MAA		
<b>CACFP</b>	+DCH count towards pre covid, Centers -80%, PPP balancing personnel		
<b>Administration</b>	+G.A. 2 EE on leave, Vehicles Grant Funded, no PPP applied		
<b>Philanthropy</b>	-Service Supply Expenses (Year End). Donatins came in as expected		
<b>LOCR-Cap Campaign</b>	Actual YTD less proj FY 19/20 expenses, May 31, 2020 \$437190.70		
<b>La Manzana Property</b>	Includes Occupancy Rev vs. Exp through June 30 - received 8.7K Tax refund		
<b>FAs &amp; Agy Unrestr.</b>	Includes +150K Endowment, +60K bequest, +5K bequest		
<b>Total Agency</b>	Proj Program +707-732K, proj Agency +911-926K, not including FA to be deprec		
	In Summary	Estimated +	Total FY 1920
<b>PPP total</b>	<b>677,201</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>\$702,201</b>
LMCR = 25018	ELD = 171K		
MCR = 19380	MOW = 144.6K		10 weeks / 24 weeks 0.416666667 of total
NVCR = 23027	LL = 247K		Total PPP Loan 1,667,000
LOCR = 15000 Estimated	CACFP = 8K		Total Proportion 1920 <b>\$ 694,583.33 TARGET</b>
Total FRC = 81,601.62	Admin/Dev = 25K Estimated		Balance 2021 \$ 972,416.67

<p align="center"> <b>Community Bridges</b>  <b>Agency-Wide Revenue and Expenses</b>  <b>June 30, 2020</b>                      Pro Forma Projected with 650K PPP Forgiveness                 </p>
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REVENUE					EXPENSE			
County of Santa Cruz	1,163,711	1,186,711	6.6%	23,000		Salaries & Wages	7,082,143	40.4%
City of Santa Cruz	268,035	251,000	1.4%		17,035	Payroll Taxes	738,533	4.2%
City of Capitola	69,102	98,614	0.5%	29,512		Health Insurance/Retirement	930,297	5.3%
City of Scotts Valley	892	10,717	0.1%	9,825		Contracted Services	769,210	4.4%
City of Watsonville	8,500	8,500	0.0%		-	Transportation Services	365,234	2.1%
AAA-Title IIIB/C	833,981	645,746	3.6%		188,235	Staff Travel	41,706	0.2%
USDA-AAA / CAFB / SL	228,272	236,764	1.3%	8,491		Occupancy Expense	1,390,056	7.9%
Dept of Health Svcs-WIC / Snap Ed	1,366,257	2,291,868	12.7%	925,610		Office/Program Expense	314,294	1.8%
Dept of Educ-CACFP Admin	341,533	390,134	2.2%	48,601		Staff Training	30,063	0.2%
Dept of Educ-CACFP Homes Passthru	2,671,037	2,671,872	14.8%	836		Insurance	175,000	1.0%
Dept of Educ-CACFP Ctrs CCC / CBAS	108,201	123,807	0.7%	15,606		Taxes, Licenses, Interest & Fees	310,014	1.8%
Dept of Education-CDD	1,596,434	1,598,066	8.8%	1,632		Equipment Expense	169,452	1.0%
Transportation Development Act	800,055	779,000	4.3%		21,055	Raw Food and Related	732,240	4.2%
EFSP (FEMA)	10,955	10,955	0.1%		-	Vehicle Operations/Maintenance	145,779	0.8%
Covered CA-Navigator	22,734	22,734	0.1%		-	Payments to CACFP Homes/Ctrs	2,780,074	15.9%
FTA Section 5310 - Cal Trans Veh	402,927	402,927	2.2%	-		Payments to Other Agencies	145,541	0.8%
FTA Section 5310 - Cal Trans Ops	195,689	212,175	1.2%	16,486		Fixed Asset Purchases	18,480	0.1%
First Five	270,130	270,517	1.5%	387		Vehicle Related Purchases	635,418	3.6%
TDA - Measure D	958,862	958,862	5.3%		-	Real Property Purchases / LHI	226,965	1.3%
CARB / LCTOP	134,233	168,692	0.9%	34,458		Depreciation/Amortization	288,095	1.6%
Foundations & Other Grants	1,107,235	899,223	5.0%		208,012	Measure D Facility Reserve	200,000	
Donations/Fundraising	1,188,989	1,188,989	6.6%	-		236 Aptos Renovation	35,516	0.2%
Participant Contributions	80,323	80,323	0.4%	-				
Client Fees	356,828	356,828	2.0%	-				
Medi-Cal Fees	1,241,449	1,531,556	8.5%	290,107				
Program Income-Other	297,710	273,266	1.5%		24,444			
Transportation Fees/Script	5,607	5,607	0.0%	-				
Outside Contracts	103,473	103,473	0.6%		-			
Uncollectible Revenue	-7,962	-7,962	0.0%	-				
Interprogram Revenue	685,188	685,188	3.8%	-				
PPP Loan Forgiveness	650,000	650,000						
TOTAL REVENUE	17,160,381	18,106,151	96.4%	1,404,551	458,780	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	17,524,110	100.0%
				1,213,347	508,858	Operational Gain (Loss) **	632,041.11	
Operational Change from last month	421,085					Grant Funded Asset Gain	1,028,951	
Total Change from last month	613,122					Prior Yr Net Assets	3,775,942	
						Net Assets:	5,436,934	9

Community Bridges Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2020						
ASSETS			Restricted Net Assets	Current Month Total	Prior Period Total	
	Unrestricted					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,540,403	-	-	3,540,403	3,997,910	
Cash reserved for LOFRC Facility Maint	-	-	443,594	443,594	420,691	
Accounts/Grants receivable	1,916,589	-	-	1,916,589	1,520,006	
Prepaid expenses	349,033	-	-	349,033	339,149	
Inventory - Raw Food & Supplies	21,000	-	-	21,000	21,000	
Refundable Deposits	36,849	-	-	36,849	36,849	
Property and equipment	7,097,165	-	-	7,097,165	7,175,813	
Leasehold improvements	908,882	-	-	908,882	708,882	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>13,869,921</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>443,594</b>	<b>14,313,514</b>	<b>14,220,299</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Accounts payable	791,651	-	-	791,651	715,586	
Salaries and wages payable	376,140	-	-	376,140	349,150	
Payroll taxes payable	212,141	-	-	212,141	173,561	
Retirement (401k) benefits payable	20,537	-	-	20,537	19,215	
Accrued vacation salaries and wages	393,932	-	-	393,932	378,127	
Health insurance payable/withheld	5,293	-	-	5,293	1,843	
Short term debt (includes LOC)	(3,857)	-	-	(3,857)	(3,917)	
Long term debt	5,634,868	-	-	5,634,868	6,489,896	
Volunteer Center liability	2,537	-	-	2,537	2,537	
Capitalized leases payable	3,161	-	-	3,161	3,161	
Due to fixed asset fund (Measure D)	131,584	-	-	131,584	281,584	
Unearned revenue/advances	1,187,917	-	-	1,187,917	834,063	
Other debts	(2,449)	-	-	(2,449)	(236)	
Other liabilities	123,127	-	-	123,127	151,918	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>8,876,580</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,876,580</b>	<b>9,396,487</b>	
Fund Balance June 30, 2019	3,321,943		453,999	3,775,942	3,775,942	
Current Year Income (Loss)	1,671,398	-	(10,405)	1,660,992	1,047,870	
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,993,341</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>443,594</b>	<b>5,436,934</b>	<b>4,823,812</b>	

	G M	Current Month	Old Last Month	Goals	
Cumulative Net Gain (Loss):	↑ ↑	1,660,992	1,047,870	\$200,000	
Liquid Unrestricted Net Assets (LUNA)/Avg Mo Exps	↓ ↓	2.13	2.51	3.0	
Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities):	↑ ↓	3.3	3.9	2.8	
Modified Current Ratio (Liabilities include advances):	↓ ↓	2.0	2.6	2.5	
Net Asset Ratio (Total Assets/Total Liabilities):	↓ ↑	1.6	1.5	1.9	
Debt to Equity (Total Liabilities/Total Fund Bal):	↓ ↑	163%	195%	116%	↑
Debt to Assets (Total Liabilities/Total Assets):	↓ ↑	62%	66%	54%	
Return on Reserves:	↑ ↑	30.6%	21.7%	3.7%	
Current Assets (excludes property/fixed assets):		6,307,467	6,335,604	2,100,000	
Current Liabilities (excludes long term/unearned):		1,916,514	1,633,565	755,000	
Modified Current Liabilities (adds in unearned):		3,104,431	2,467,628	855,000	

COMMUNITY BRIDGES													Budget
AGENCY BUDGET July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021													
	ADMIN	DEV.	CACFP	LOCR	WIC	LMCR	LL	MOW	MCR	NVCR	CDD	ELD	Total 20/21
REVENUE:													
4001 Contributions from Individuals		74,700	3,750	23,008	9,550	3,252	2,808	298,723	46,818	3,037	1,662	4,273	471,581
4002 Contributions from Business		20,000		1,500			2,000	50,000	3,000	2,000	250	1,500	80,250
4003 Contributions from Other Fdns	90,000	77,000		28,125		72,625	40,000	75,000	48,125	73,125			504,000
4200 Special Events		45,159						13,500	16,731				75,390
4300 Legacies & Bequests								10,000	1,134				11,134
4700 United Way Allocations				30,650									30,650
5000 Gov Agencies-Other				11,054					13,792	4,554		121,062	150,462
5501 County of SC-HRA +CARES			15,000	60,000		163,000	15,000	415,000	154,000	20,300	145,000	130,500	1,117,800
5501 County of SC-Summer Lunch						28,711							28,711
5501 County of Santa Cruz-Other				23,840			697,750	5,880	8,000		79,300		814,770
5503 City of Santa Cruz SSP										47,700	73,000		120,700
5503 City of SC/Capitola CDBG							5,900	112,648		100,000		24,746	243,294
5503 City of Santa Cruz - TDA							618,974						618,974
5503 City of Santa Cruz - Red Cross										25,000			25,000
5505 City of Watsonville							3,500	5,000					8,500
5600 State Government				1,479		1,479	140,000	528,038	1,479	1,479	1,596,434		2,270,388
5700 Federal Government			4,119,473	12,063	6,647,825	78,232	160,489	636,312	70,279	25,943	37,677	480	11,788,773
5700 PPP	100,000	18,620	40,000	24,172		16,300	197,982	211,446	37,629	6,800		225,057	878,006
6200 Program Service Fees	1,853,680			74,551		75,944	56,055	10,111	39,428	42,741	114,379	1,758,025	4,024,914
6500 Investment Income					4			2,876	36				2,916
6900 Miscellaneous Revenue	7,444			23,110	1,800	28,134	28,134		3,380	11,589			103,591
Transfer from Reserves									152,000				152,000
Community Foundation of SC	34,000			45,500		45,500		9,000	70,500	45,500			250,000
First 5 Santa Cruz County				32,346		188,960			48,783				270,089
TOTAL REVENUE:	2,085,124	235,479	4,178,223	391,398	6,659,179	702,137	1,968,592	2,383,534	715,114	409,768	2,047,702	2,265,643	24,041,893
SALARIES/BENEFITS													
7000 Salaries Total	1,281,665	63,707	277,416	166,676	1,304,335	335,930	848,651	585,574	244,870	183,132	1,093,123	540,269	6,925,348
7100 Employee Health	106,669		55,306	18,613	159,230	44,041	93,472	91,024	25,329	36,918	139,457	100,592	870,651
7100 Employee Retirement	30,336	757	2,997	762	24,996	3,887	6,918	14,851	2,100	2,111	10,906	11,306	111,927
7200 Payroll Taxes	120,553	3,695	26,567	14,129	125,313	30,424	103,925	61,011	24,384	16,396	124,553	53,842	704,792
TOTAL SALARIES/BENEFITS:	1,539,223	68,159	362,286	200,180	1,613,874	414,282	1,052,966	752,460	296,683	238,557	1,368,039	706,009	8,612,718
SERVICES/SUPPLIES													
8000 Professional Fees: Audit	32,075		7,085				2,800						41,960
8010 Indep. Prof. Consultants	130,560	62,541	25,200	30,932	20,411	3,875	96,375	81,958	18,494	6,112	24,888	211,252	712,598
8100 Supplies	61,109	42,167	6,000	21,593	65,927	7,862	9,249	999,161	14,590	10,333	123,364	63,056	1,424,411
8200 Telephone/Communications	13,285	1,860	2,370	9,280	38,646	9,050	15,141	9,960	5,224	7,532	34,414	6,451	153,213
8300 Postage & Shipping	2,563	4,562	5,200	414	5,528	211	751	11,241	1,342	498	251	3,094	35,655
8400 Occupancy Total	93,829	246	30,332	16,538	271,618	77,095	172,875	113,277	58,366	31,657	135,540	264,385	1,265,758
8500 Rent/Maintenance of Equip	7,229		1,500	8,143	1,598	3,545	11,201	3,953	2,616	1,164	5,550	598	47,097
8600 Printing & Publications	7,487	12,953	4,400	1,247	2,354	1,653	795	3,116	618	316	1,719	1,247	37,905
8700 Travel & Transportation	6,505	812	4,510	1,416	8,000	2,026	192,555	23,942	2,882	1,412	8,758	7,557	260,375
8800 Conferences and Meetings	25,655	2,202	3,939	813	8,000	1,206	2,102	1,757	550	1,083	2,954	2,215	52,476
8900 Assistance to Individ.					4,257,496								4,257,496
9000 Membership Dues	9,501	100	50	178	2,913	108	665	566	0	201	406	5,960	20,648
9300 Insurance/Bond	11,963		903	4,276	10,540	5,038	81,669	22,121	4,803	12,127	17,467	15,743	186,650
9400 Miscellaneous	19,766	5,659	1,736	1,037	3,276	2,753	15,605	9,646	1,552	1,083	10,358	7,276	79,747
9400 Fixed Assets	8,391						40,224	5,000	153,058				206,673
9600 Dist. of Program Costs	15,983	34,218	76,295	51,262	348,998	90,904	273,619	345,376	70,247	52,355	294,856	199,567	1,853,680
Deficit Repayment													0
Program/Facility Reserve	100,000			5,000		10,800				5,000	19,128	771,233	911,161
9691 Payment/Affiliated Orgs.			3,646,417	39,089		71,729			84,089	40,338			3,881,662
TOTAL SERVICES/SUPPLIES:	545,901	167,320	3,815,937	191,218	5,045,305	287,855	915,626	1,631,074	418,431	171,211	679,663	1,559,634	15,429,175
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES 20/21:	2,085,124	235,479	4,178,223	391,398	6,659,179	702,137	1,968,592	2,383,534	715,114	409,768	2,047,702	2,265,643	24,041,893

# PROGRAM REPORT to BOARD of DIRECTORS

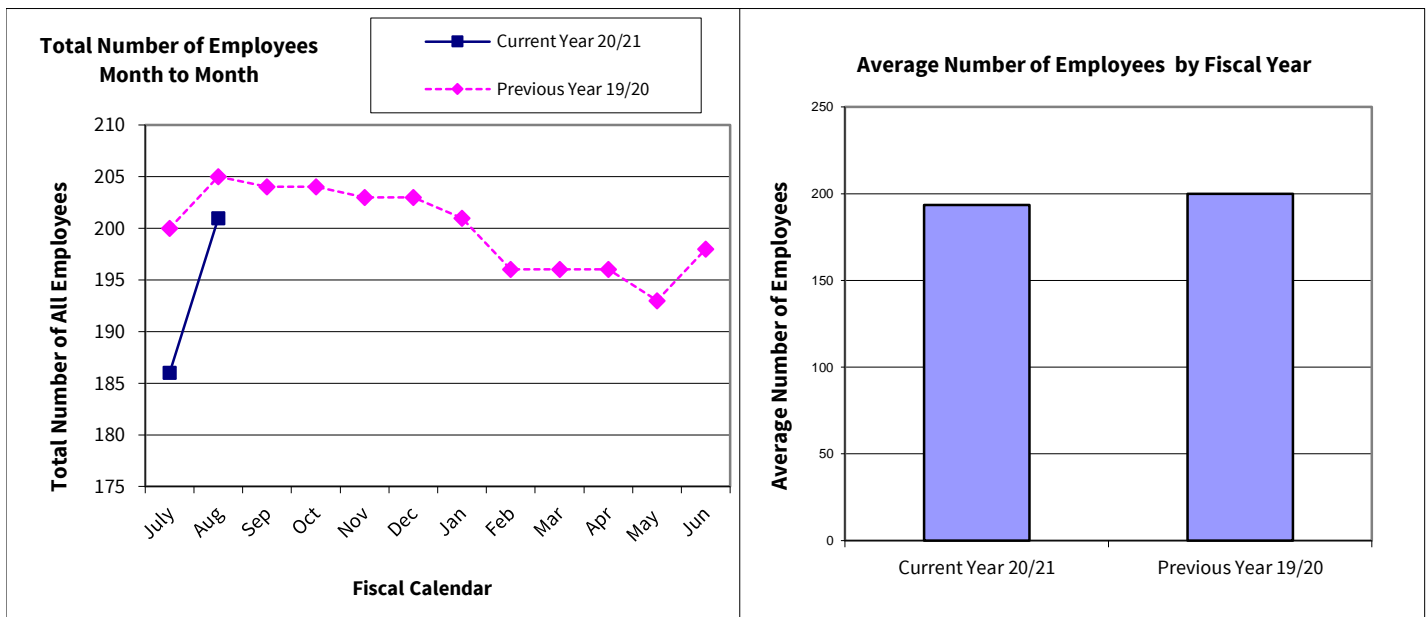
**Program Name:** Admin/HR Department

**Date of Board Meeting:** September 2020



**A. Services:** Health & Safety, Workers Comp, Program Support, Benefits, Personnel Issues, 401(k), Union Work, Employment Verifications, Criminal Background Checks, Bilin./Bili Testing, Orientations.....

Total number of all employees	Fiscal Calendar	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average
	Current Year 20/21	186	201											194
	Previous Year 19/20	200	205	204	204	203	203	201	196	196	196	193	198	200
	Terms 19/20	1	5	5	3	1	4	7	2	1	4	3	7	4
	Turnover Rate % 20/21	0.5%	2.5%											1.51%



## 2020-2021 Leave of Absence Report:

Fiscal Year 20-21	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	AVG
Number of EE's on LOA's	10	8	7										5
Number of new WC Claims	0	0	0										0
Number of new First Aid Claims	1	0	0										1

C. Accomplishments: HR continues to support staff through this pandemic, including the challenges under COVID-19. We are coordinating leaves of absences, administrating relief support and funds, and working with program directors on staffing needs and alternative services. Additionally the team is busy providing regular operational support and guidance, including: administering the 401k Open Enrollment process, recruitments, annual evaluations, team building and trainings, passing the annual retirement audit, labor management committee work and facilitating the quarterly Health & Safety Committee meetings. We are also happy to announce the hiring of a new HRD, Tyler Smith, who will be on-boarding as of Sept. 28th!

**D. Challenges:** Addressing the impacts of COVID-19 leaves and staffing challenges, in addition to providing the essential HR services to support our CB family of programs.



## Students Can Get Two Meals a Day at School Through July

There are 25 Santa Cruz County pickup for families

MARIA URVIETA PICKS UP FOOD FOR HER FAMILY FROM A SECOND HARVEST DISTRIBUTION. PHOTO: JENNIFER CAIN

BY **JACOB PIERCE**

POSTED ON JUNE 11, 2020

<https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/students-meals-school-summer/>

On top of [implementing distance learning](#), school districts have been wrestling with a [variety of challenges](#) during the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting shutdowns.

Many schools around the country have stepped up and have practically turned into food banks for families in need. In Santa Cruz County, school district officials have announced that free breakfasts and lunches will be available for pickup to all children throughout the summer via the new Summer Meals Program.

During a typical summer vacation, children lose access to free and reduced-priced meals that they relied on during the school year, but the Summer Meals Program provides breakfasts and lunches to anyone 18 or younger. Families do not need to meet any eligibility requirements.

There are 25 grab-and-go-style food distribution sites throughout the county. Families with children who are interested in picking up free meals may use the following instructions:

Step 1: Text message “FOOD” (or “COMIDA” for Spanish instructions) to 877-877 or call 211 for a location near you.

Step 2: Wait for a text message back, and reply with your address.

Step 3: You will receive a text with a list of the three closest meal distribution sites, with information about each site and how to proceed to pick up meals.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District—the county’s largest school district—has 10 pickup sites. Meal distributions have been on hold this week, but they’ll continue next week and run through July 24. (Pajaro Valley Unified spokesperson Alicia Jimenez says the district needed the extra week to organize the summer feeding and staffing schedules.) Santa Cruz City Schools—the county’s second-largest district—has three pickup sites. Its distributions have continued this week, and they’ll run through July 31.

The need for healthy food across the U.S. is especially high right now, according to recent research, including [a Northwestern University study](#), which found that food insecurity doubled in April and tripled in households with children.

Santa Cruz County [nonprofits that distribute food](#) saw steep increases in demand for their services after the pandemic started. Earlier this week, Santa Cruz County’s [Great Plates Delivered program](#) got an extension through July 10, just before it was set to expire.

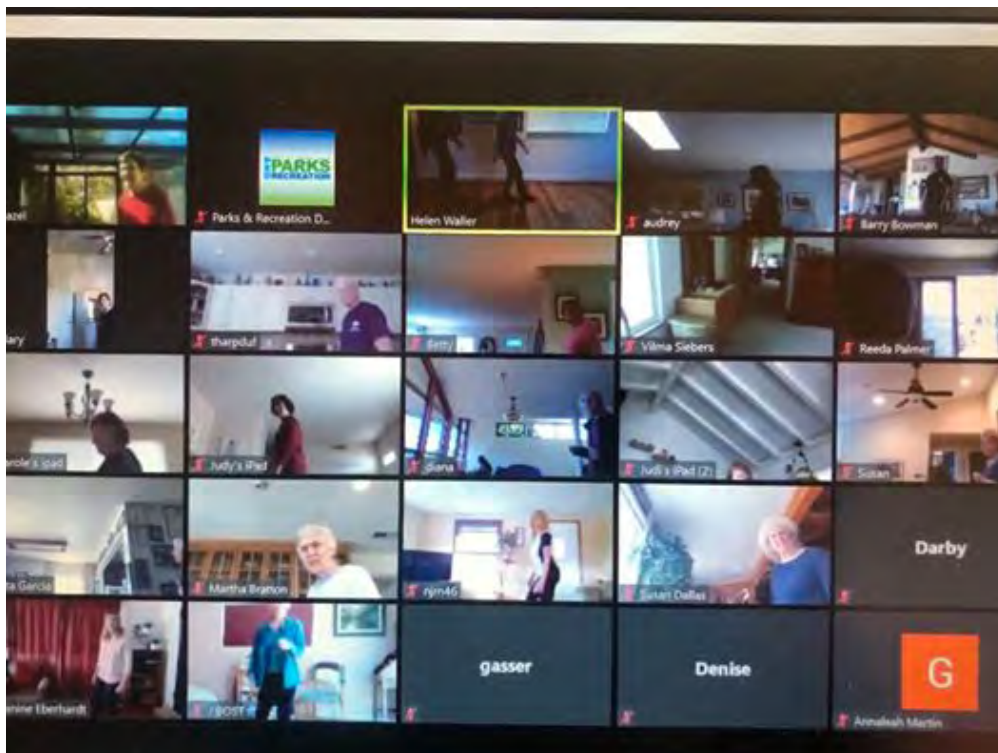
Second Harvest Food Bank is doing food pickups from the Beach Boardwalk and the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Grey Bears is delivering groceries to the elderly, and Meals on Wheels is delivering daily meals to seniors age 60 and over and people with disabilities.

*For more information on offerings from those nonprofits, visit [thefoodbank.org](https://thefoodbank.org), [greybears.org](https://greybears.org) and [communitybridges.org](https://communitybridges.org).*

## Community Bridges / Puentes De La Comunidad

Yesterday at 4:19 PM ·

Senior Center Without Limits is connecting folks virtually across the county! We're excited to be collaborating with [Santa Cruz City Government](#) and [City of Watsonville - City Gov't](#) to make this happen.



### City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation

Yesterday at 2:30 PM ·

Senior Center Without Limits!

A new and innovative program bringing enrichment activities like yoga, art, music and support groups to seniors in their homes at no cost. This free program overcomes the digital divide to connect seniors to their community, engage in activities to improve cognitive processes and combat isolation.

<https://communitybridges.org/SCWOL/>

The Senior Center Without Limits is sponsored by [Community Bridges / Puentes De La Comunidad](#), [Santa Cruz City Government](#), and [City of Watsonville - City Gov't](#) with financial support from private donors, Twin Lakes Church, the Ardea Foundation, and CDBG funding grant from the City of Santa Cruz.

[#santacruzparksandrec](#) [#loudennelsoncommunitycenter](#) [#ncc](#) [#downtownseniors](#) Louden Nelson Community Center

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3 Comments 1 Share

# SENIOR CENTER WITHOUT LIMITS

Seleccione "Spanish" del menú desplegable a continuación si necesita traducción al español.

Select Language ▼

Powered by



Translate

This new and innovative program brings enrichment activities like yoga, art, music and support groups to seniors in their homes at no cost. The Senior Center Without Limits is a free program that overcomes the digital divide to connect seniors to their community, engage in activities to improve cognitive processes and combat isolation.

## Who can participate in the Senior Center Without Limits program?

All Santa Cruz County residents over the age of 60 are invited to participate in this free program. Just find a class on the calendar below and at the stated day and time, click on the link to join the class.

## 3 things you need to participate in the Senior Center Without Limits program

1. **Internet connection.** If you are not currently connected to the Internet you may qualify for affordable high-speed internet through the Comcast Essentials program. Please visit the Comcast website for eligibility requirements and how to apply.  
Comcast Essentials Program

2. **A tablet, computer or smartphone.** You can use any internet enabled device to participate in the activities. If you do not have a device, you may be eligible to receive a free Amazon fire tablet.

### Who qualifies for a free tablet?

Low Income residents of the City of Santa Cruz, City of Watsonville over the age of 60 with priority given to people with disabilities – while supplies last.

Please complete the form below to apply:

English Application Form

Spanish Application form

3. **Download Zoom!.** All program activities will be conducted via video through Zoom!. To get Zoom on a Fire tablet, all you have to do is search for Zoom in the Amazon Appstore. You'll find the icon on the home screen of the tablet and it's then a quick download.

**Ready to go?** Review the calendar below and find a class you are interested in. At the stated day and time, just click the link in the calendar and you will be connected to the class. If you have problems connecting, please contact Clara Munoz at (831) 458-3481.

If you would like to donate to support the Senior Center Without Walls program, please click here to donate to Community Bridges or use the link above. If you would like to donate for specific activities please go to the City of Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation or City of Watsonville Parks and Community Services.

The **Senior Center Without Limits** is sponsored by Community Bridges, the City of Santa Cruz, and the City of Watsonville with financial support from private donors, Twin Lakes Church, the Ardea Foundation, and CDBG funding grant from the City of Santa Cruz.

Contact information:

City of Watsonville – Katie Nunez – [katie.nunez@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:katie.nunez@cityofwatsonville.org) (831) 288-5771

City of Santa Cruz – Kelly Mercer-Lebov – [lebov@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:lebov@cityofsantacruz.com) (831) 420-6178

Elderday, a program of Community Bridges – Clara Munoz – [ClaraM@cbridges.org](mailto:ClaraM@cbridges.org) (831) 458-3481

## COMMUNITY

**2020 SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM** 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 Manzana Community Resources, a program of Community Bridges, combats food insecurity and supports good nutritional habits. The Summer Lunch program begins June 8 and serves lunch Monday through Friday from 12-1pm. Free meals will be provided to all children, without eligibility documentation, who are 18 years of age and younger. Visit [communitybridges.org/lmcr](https://communitybridges.org/lmcr) for more information.

# Pajaro Valley Schools Serve 858K Meals Amid Coronavirus Closure

The Pajaro Valley Unified School District served a total of 858,000 meals in April and May, up from 492,000 meals in January and February.

By [Courtney Teague, Patch Staff](#)

Jun 18, 2020 4:10 pm PT



In California, 3.5 million students qualified for the school lunch program in the 2018 to 2019 school year. (Shutterstock)

WATSONVILLE, CA — Despite the coronavirus pandemic keeping millions of California K-12 students hunkered down at home with computer screens replacing blackboards, there's one schoolhouse ritual that remains the same albeit with substantial modifications: the school breakfast and lunch program.

No longer does student chatter echo in school cafeterias. In the age of coronavirus, Grab & Go meals distributed in drive-thru or walk-up feeding lines have replaced the parade of school children filing into lunchrooms. It's the new face of brown bagging.

It's forced the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, which serves 20,000 students, and others to completely revamp the way they feed students.

PVUSD distributed 398,744 meals in April and 458,936 meals in May. Before schools closed, the district served 203,213 meals in January and 288,918 meals in February.

PVUSD said it has experienced higher costs of pre-wrapped food, and needs to purchase new equipment and supplies to support serving meals safely outdoors.

Daily morning walk-up and drive-up distribution of breakfasts and lunches takes place at 15 of the district's 32 schools. The district will continue meal distribution during the summer.

## **Districts Scramble To Continue Lunch Service**

The federal National Student Lunch Program is an important part of America's K-12 education system and has been a school district staple since its creation in 1946. Program creators sought to provide students with a free or reduced-priced nutritionally balanced meal for those who qualified. An experimental school breakfast program was launched in 1966 and made a permanent federal entitlement program in 1975. After-school snacks were included later.

In California the program is administered by the state Department of Education and operated on a reimbursement basis with most funding coming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food & Nutrition Service and supplemented from the state's general fund. Federal reimbursements are paid for all meals while California's share is paid only for free and reduced-price meals. School districts submit monthly claims for payment by the state. During the first half of the school year that just ended the federal government provided a nationwide total of \$6.3 billion in funding for the School Lunch Program and \$2.8 billion for the Breakfast Program.

Open to all students enrolled in public and non-profit private schools, districts receive a combination of federal reimbursements and payments by the state. Students receive free or reduced-price meals if they qualify under a complex set of regulations that assess socioeconomic status, family income and other factors. According to the most recent statistics compiled by the state education department, during the 2018-19 school year there were some 3.5 million students who qualified for free or reduced-price meals.

However, faced with a public health emergency putting millions of California parents out of work and leaving the economy in a shambles, school districts that moved instruction online were suddenly faced with a new feeding format for students that were still technically "in school." One problem was how to cover the cost of providing free meals to all students, including those whose meals did not qualify for reimbursement.

That concern was eliminated after schools closed in March when state and federal officials granted waivers to operate Grab & Go meal distributions and permitting school districts to serve all children regardless of whether they qualified for free meals or not. Last week the Agriculture Department extended the waiver nationwide for the remainder of the summer, leaving many school officials to decide whether they will continue service until the new school year begins.

Reimbursement rates are based upon the type of meal. During the school ending this month, the combined state and federal rate for the School Breakfast Program ranged from \$1.54 for each reduced-price meal to \$1.84 for each free meal served. For the School Lunch Program, combined reimbursement rates ranged from \$3.01 to \$3.50 for each meal. After school snacks were subsidized at 25-cents apiece. Breakfasts, lunches and snacks provided to students who paid full price were reimbursed at rates from 8-cents to 41-cents.

Reimbursements for meals provided through the Summer Food Program this year will range from \$2.33 to \$4.15 with snack subsidies averaging 97-cents.

Most districts have yet to assess the financial impact of their meal distribution programs on already-strained budgets. The additional cost of food and packaging materials resulted in unexpected expenses that included salaries and benefits for food service staff.

Despite reimbursement for all meals several districts have reported significant losses of revenue previously generated by a la carte meal sales when schools were open. Districts are also expecting substantial reductions in reimbursement amounts due to the fact that the number of meals distributed since March have been lower than meals served when schools were in operation.

# Senior Center Without Limits Program In Santa Cruz

**To join in the classes seniors must have access to internet and an internet enabled device (computer, smartphone or tablet).**

<https://patch.com/california/santacruz/senior-center-without-limits-program-santa-cruz>

By [Press Release Desk, News Partner](#)

Jun 18, 2020 6:02 pm PT

## Press release from the City of Santa Cruz:

June 18, 2020

Senior Center Without Limits brings connection to seniors in their homes New program fights isolation and stimulates healthy aging WATSONVILLE, CA –Senior Center Without Limits is a new and innovative program available to all people over age 60 in Santa Cruz County. The program overcomes the digital divide to connect seniors to their community, engage in activities to improve cognitive processes and combat isolation. Seniors can participate in over 15 classes each week, such as yoga, tai chi, art and music. Support groups and computer classes are also available. All residents over the age of 60 living in Santa Cruz County are encouraged to participate in this free program.

"We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Senior Center Without Limits program that allows seniors that have been sheltering at home for months to connect with peers, to move their bodies and use their creativity," states Lois Sones, Program Director at Elderday Adult Day Health Care (a program of Community Bridges).

"We have seen many of our participants experience cognitive and physical regression since they have not been able to interact with others. Seniors who are socially connected have better physical, mental and emotional health and the Senior Center Without Limits is the conduit to get them there." To join in the classes seniors must have access to internet and an internet enabled device (computer, smartphone or tablet). If seniors do not have a device, they may qualify to receive a free Amazon Fire tablet, while supplies last. To qualify they must be over the age of 60 and a low income resident of the City of Santa Cruz or City of Watsonville. Note that priority is given to people with disabilities.

For more information on the program, a dynamic calendar of classes and to apply to receive a tablet, please go to [www.communitybridges.org/SCWOL](http://www.communitybridges.org/SCWOL).

In order that this program is accessible to all, donations of additional tablets are needed. To supply a tablet to a senior please go to [www.communitybridges.org/donate](http://www.communitybridges.org/donate).

The Senior Center Without Limits is sponsored by Community Bridges, the City of Santa Cruz, and the City of Watsonville with financial support from private donors, Twin Lakes Church, the Ardea Foundation, and CDBG funding grant from the City of Santa Cruz.

## **ABOUT ELDERDAY**

Elderday is an adult day health care center that empowers elders to live at home with independence and dignity. At Elderday participants benefit from nursing care, physical and occupational therapies, referral to resources, therapeutic activities, healthy meals and access to onsite mental health and nutrition services. Week-day hours make it possible for participants to stay independent and in their own homes for as long as possible, while offering family remembers and caregivers well-deserved respite. Elderday is free for those eligible for Medi-Cal. Costs can also be covered by the Veteran's Administration, long-term care insurance, or private pay on a sliding scale. Transportation to the center is also provided.

## **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 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.

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*This press release was produced by [the City of Santa Cruz](http://www.cityofsantacruz.com). The views expressed here are the author's own.*

**From:** Superintendent Munro <superintendent@sccs.net>

**Date:** June 19, 2020 at 3:58:26 PM PDT

**To:** SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS Recipients <recipients@sccs.parentlink.net>

**Subject: Juneteenth, State Guidance on Reopening of Schools, Community Resources through Summer**

**Reply-To:** Superintendent Munro <superintendent@sccs.net>

Dear Families of Santa Cruz County,

Today as we celebrate Juneteenth, a holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, we have an opportunity to further engage in this critical work of educating ourselves about the ways in which racism and oppression persist, learn about Black history, and reflect on how we can collectively transform our schools and communities into places of respect, safety, compassion, and equitable opportunity.

Santa Cruz County School districts and charter schools continue to prepare for the reopening of schools under the restrictions established by our state and local authorities. It is important to note that based on the guidance from the [Center for Disease Control](#), the [California Department of Public Health](#), and the [California Department of Education](#), schools will need to implement protocols that **significantly reduce the number of students who can be on our school sites at any one time**. This means that until state authorities reduce health restrictions, students will be attending class only part of the time and participating in distance learning for the remainder of the time. Districts and Charter Schools will be sharing school schedules with parents and students as soon as they are available.

The battle over the proposed budget for California education funding draws on in Sacramento. As it stands, the State Assembly and Senate are currently at odds with Governor Newsom on the proposed budget and have yet to reach an agreement. Local and state education leaders and educational associations continue to share concerns about the impact the COVID-19 crisis will have on state and federal funding for schools. We need to stand with our students and advocate for the protection of this funding now more than ever. For resources on how to communicate with Santa Cruz County legislative representatives, please visit [sccoe.link/legislative\\_advocacy](#).

Many families continue to experience serious hardship impacting their ability to meet the needs of their students. We are fortunate to be part of a community that has quickly mobilized to create services that help meet both the basic needs and emotional health of families. Having a safe way to connect with others while we shelter in place is crucial to help foster a sense of community and belonging that is important to maintain emotional wellness. As we enter the summer months, we encourage you to access the following resources that are available to you:

**Basic Needs:** (Rental Assistance, Food resources)

- Please call 211 or text “coronavirus” to 211211
- Available community resources: [sccoe.link/community\\_resources](#)
- [Community Action Board](#), (831) 763-2147
- [Live Oak Family Resource Center](#), (831) 476-7284
- [Nueva Vista Community Resources](#), (831) 423-5747

**Resources for Emotional Wellness**

- If you know of a family who may be experiencing domestic violence, or are experiencing violence yourself, please first contact either [Walnut Avenue Family and Women’s Center](#), [Monarch Services](#) or the [Survivors Healing Center](#) to speak with a certified advocate prior to taking action. Monarch Services Bilingual Crisis Support Line can be reached at 1-888-900-4232, 24 hours a day.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Santa Cruz County: [namiscc.org](#)

- Parenting Support Groups through [Live Oak Cradle to Career](#) and [Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance](#)
- Available Mental Health and Wellness Resources: [sccoe.link/wellness](https://www.sccoe.org/wellness)

## Non-Emergency Health Care

- [Santa Cruz Community Health Centers](#), 831-427-3500
- [Salud para la Gente](#), (831) 728-0222
- [Dientes Community Dental Care](#) is open for emergency dental care, Santa Cruz: 831-464-5409, Watsonville: 831-621-2560
- *\*For a Medical Emergency, Call 911*

## Food Distribution

- The Santa Cruz COE web page including an interactive map of school based food services distributions: [www.sccoe.link/food\\_service\\_map](https://www.sccoe.org/food_service_map)
- Second Harvest Food Hotline: (831) 662-0991 Distribution Locations: [thefoodbank.org/food-distribution-nutrition-education-locations-times/](https://www.thefoodbank.org/food-distribution-nutrition-education-locations-times/)

## Public Health Resources

- Public Health [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus](https://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus)
- Santa Cruz County Call Center to answer questions about COVID-19. (831) 454-4242 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Centers for Disease Control website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>.

## Other Resources

- Essential workers who need childcare should call (831) 466-5820 to find a licensed facility that can provide quality childcare services.
- Parks that are open: [Here](#)
- Unemployment Resources: [www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/online\\_services.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/online_services.htm)

Yours in education and equity,

Laurie Bruton, Superintendent, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Lorie Chamberland, Superintendent, Live Oak School District

Eric Gross, Superintendent, Pacific Elementary School District

Mike Heffner, Superintendent, Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District

Tanya Krause, Superintendent, Scotts Valley Unified School District

Michelle McKinny, Superintendent, Happy Valley Elementary School District

Diane Morgenstern, Superintendent, Mountain Elementary School District

Kris Munro, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools

Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent, Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

Scott Turnbull, Superintendent, Soquel Union Elementary School District

# Guest Commentary | SNAP benefit boost can help in time of coronavirus

By [SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL](#) |  
June 22, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2020/06/22/guest-commentary-snap-benefit-boost-can-help-in-time-of-coronavirus/>

Submitted by Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County

Our undersigned national, regional, state and local organizations urge immediate action to address the twin challenges of COVID-19—protecting individuals and communities against hardship and jump starting a strong economic recovery.

SNAP benefit boosts can help limit the depth and duration of the human and economic tolls this crisis threatens to exact.

COVID-19 has exacerbated already too high levels of food insecurity in America.

According to the Urban Institute, in the early weeks of the pandemic, 1 in 5 U.S. adults experienced food insecurity.

Also in the early weeks of COVID-19, Labor Department data document, 1 in 4 workers filed for unemployment insurance; the April unemployment rate hit 14.7%; and the combined rate of unemployed, discouraged, and part-time for economic reasons workers spiked above 22%.

Sufficient and timely federal government action is needed to prevent even more human suffering and lost productivity in the short- and longer-terms.

SNAP is a proven countercyclical tool. Each \$1 of SNAP benefits during a downturn generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in economic activity. Participants spend those benefits quickly, with positive impacts felt up and down the food chain — from farmers and food producers, to grocery retailers, stock clerks and local economies.

The lines for food at emergency feeding sites offer a picture of the human suffering that data can only begin to explain. This crisis demands a response that is commensurate with its scope and seriousness. For every one meal provided through the Feeding America food bank network, SNAP can provide nine meals on the normal rails of commerce. SNAP boosts must be an important part of an effective, comprehensive response to COVID-19.

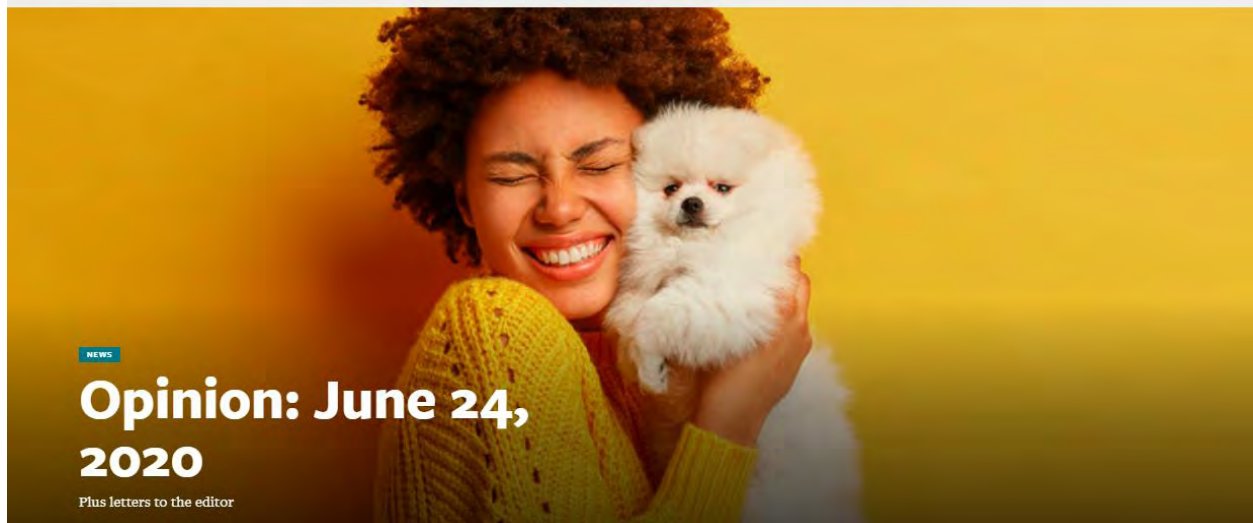
It is urgent that Congress and the White House act now to provide 1) a 15% boost in the SNAP maximum benefit that would help all SNAP households; 2) an increase in the SNAP monthly minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30; and 3) a suspension of SNAP time limits and rules changes that would cut SNAP eligibility and benefits.

Additionally, Congress should invest in nutrition programs with proven health and economic impacts. This includes extending and expanding the Pandemic EBT program to ensure it reaches all children missing out on meals provided through the federal nutrition programs at school or child

care and enables this powerful program to operate during the summer. It should provide emergency funding to support CACFP child care and after school providers and sponsors, strengthen WIC's ability to respond to the COVID crisis, and support strained schools. Additional funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) senior nutrition programs and nutrition assistance for those in the tribes and territories will also help to address how the crisis has impacted specific populations. The next bill should also provide funding for TEFAP commodities and capacity support for food banks.

We urge Congress and the White House to take action now to limit the depth and duration of this health and economic crisis by ensuring that the basic food needs of struggling families and individuals are met.

*Guest Commentary is written by the Food Research and Action Center and Feed America and supported by the California Association of Food Banks.*



<https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/opinion-june-24-2020/>

### **Cost of Newsom's Cuts**

Governor Newsom's proposed May budget revision sent chills throughout California with the elimination of Community Based Adult Services (CBAS) like Elderday, a program of Community Bridges. He posed a similar fate for Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) programs, which also help seniors remain in their homes and out of skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and respite care homes. I urge you to reach out to our local representatives in Sacramento and ensure they not only show support for these programs, but that they roll up their sleeves and actively advocate for their existence. These proposed cuts will only serve to increase costs to taxpayers with SNF costing three times more per person than CBAS, and result in displacement of Santa Cruz seniors who cannot find an appropriate care facility in their home county. Balancing the budget is not just about a financial cost, but contains a human cost that is too great to bear.

Raymon Cancino | Chief Executive Officer, Community Bridges



The Watsonville City Council passed the budget for fiscal year 2020/21 at Tuesday's virtual meeting. — via City of Watsonville

Featured

Local News

# Council passes budget as community calls for cuts to police

By: **TONY NUÑEZ** June 24, 2020

0 209

**WATSONVILLE**—What was anticipated to be a fight to save the city's youth sports programs on Tuesday instead turned into a community call to slice into Watsonville Police Department's \$21 million budget in order to fund youth enrichment programs and social services.

The Watsonville City Council approved the budget for fiscal year 2020/21 but not before roughly two dozen members of the community urged leaders to reimagine the way they allocate public funds, echoing nationwide calls to defund the police and reinvest in the community.

The majority of the council agreed that conversations around the police department's budget needed to continue, but none proposed changes to the budget that was presented by staff.

It was approved 6-1. Councilman Francisco "Paco" Estrada was the lone "no" vote. He thanked staff for their work on the budget, but said he was taking a "leap of faith" with the community.

"I'm willing to put in the work to help build a budget that reflects what they want moving forward," he said.

Two weeks after [staff proposed a budget that defunded the city's sports division because of countywide shelter-in-place restrictions](#), Finance Department Director Cindy Czerwin returned with an updated budget that included roughly \$194,000 of funding for youth sports programs—the majority of which will go toward staffing.

That amendment was not enough for community members who called into the virtual meeting and waited deep into the night to voice their opinions on the shoestring budget. The proposed budget was trimmed by roughly \$4.3 million to make up for mass revenue and sales tax loss as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the top of those callers' concerns: WPD taking 46% of the city's roughly \$40 million general fund. They argued that some of that cash should be redistributed to the Public Works and Parks and Community Services departments, which combined are roughly 11% of the city's general fund. Another chunk, they said, should go to supporting nonprofits that provide various community services.

Community Bridges CEO Raymon Cancino led that push, citing a [2018 study](#) done by New York University, the Brennan Center For Justice and the New York Times that found that crime rates drop as nonprofits multiply in communities.

"The more you invest in social services, the better off you are," Cancino said. "It's critically important that people consider that and understand the impacts that we have of past decisions, current decisions and future decisions. And, also, why investing in our youth is important, and why it should be a top priority for our council to continue the trend that we've been on, which is reduced crime rates."

Watsonville Chief of Police David Honda agreed that WPD was disproportionately funded when compared to other city departments, but said that the funding was necessary in order for the department to meet its ever-growing list of responsibilities.

On top of everyday policing, WPD has had to respond to increased calls dealing with mental health and homelessness issues. Those tasks have required additional training for his officers, and have led to further financial investments in programs such as the Crisis Assessment Response and Engagement team, which pairs officers with social workers that specialize in mental health crises.

Honda said his department has also used its funding to stabilize and expand youth programs such the Police Activities League and the Caminos Hacia el Exito program, which works with first-time youth offenders to keep them out of the criminal justice system.

"I'm not saying there's not a better way to [serve the city's at-risk young people]," he said. "[The Caminos program has] been a very successful program, but I'm open to any suggestions. I'd like to expand that program to where we can reach even more of our youth."

Honda also said that Watsonville's crime rates have dropped over the last four years.

Roughly 80% of WPD's budget is tabbed for staff. Cuts to the department most likely would have resulted in a reduction of officers and increased overtime spending, something the department struggled with before the passing of Measure G—the half-cent sales tax passed by voters in 2016 that provided additional funding for the city's police and fire departments.

Measure Y, [approved by Watsonville voters in March](#), will take Measure G's place and will provide increased funding for the Parks and Community Services department on top of the police and fire departments. But community members were not happy with the distribution of funds from the sales tax (police: 54%, fire: 38%, parks: 8%), saying that more should be redistributed to programs for young people.

Estrada reminded people that Measure Y can be repealed by voters.

"If Measure Y was not the right measure for Watsonville, it can be repealed and it can be brought back to the voters in a better way—a better deal for the community," he said. "If you want any change, you have to vote too.... ultimately when you don't vote, you let other people in the community vote for you."

Watsonville City Manager Matt Huffaker said WPD is organizing community forums led by social service groups to gather ideas of how the department can continue to improve. It will return to the council with some options in the near future.

"I think it's really a conversation that we need to have with our community, as we develop options in what we want our police department to be about and prioritize based on our specific community needs," Huffaker said.

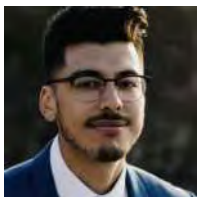
The final budget eliminated the Parks and Community Services' Special Events division and made cuts—including two layoffs—to the Community Development Department. Special Events was slashed because the city believes large gatherings will be outlawed for the foreseeable future. The cuts to CDD, staff said, were a result of lowered demand for services.

In all, the city trimmed roughly \$3 million in salaries and benefits, and saved another \$1.3 million from its general fund by trimming its discretionary spending and reallocating its special revenue funds. It made up the remaining \$2.2 million from its projected \$6.5 million deficit by using half of its emergency funds.

It is still unclear when—or if—youth sports will be allowed to resume, and what they might look like. The city could also eventually offer adult sports if the state and county continue loosening restrictions put in place to slow Covid-19.

Czerwin will return to the council with a budget update in August when the city will have a better picture of its property and sales tax numbers. She will then return in November and again in February with additional updates. The council can make adjustments when available, she said.

"We're going to have to be very fluid this year," she said.



### TONY NUÑEZ

MANAGING EDITOR TONY NUÑEZ IS A LONGTIME MEMBER OF THE WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY WHO SERVED AS SPORTS EDITOR FOR FIVE YEARS BEFORE ENTERING HIS CURRENT ROLE IN 2019. A WATSONVILLE HIGH, CABRILLO COLLEGE AND SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS, HE COVERS THE CITY, BUSINESS, HOUSING, ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE.

CORONAVIRUS

## Watsonville Council Passes Budget as Community Calls for Cuts to Police

Members of the community urged leaders to reimagine how they allocate public funds

CORONAVIRUS

## Watsonville Council Passes Budget as Community Calls for Cuts to Police

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<https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/watsonville-council-passes-budget-community-calls-for-cuts-to-police/>

BY **TONY NUÑEZ**

POSTED ON JUNE 26, 2020

What was anticipated to be a fight to save Watsonville's youth sports programs on Tuesday instead turned into a community call to slice into Watsonville Police Department's \$21 million budget to fund youth enrichment programs and social services.

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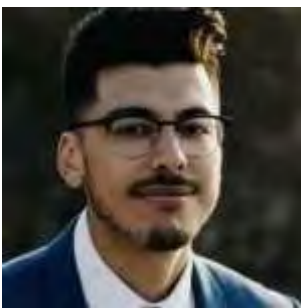
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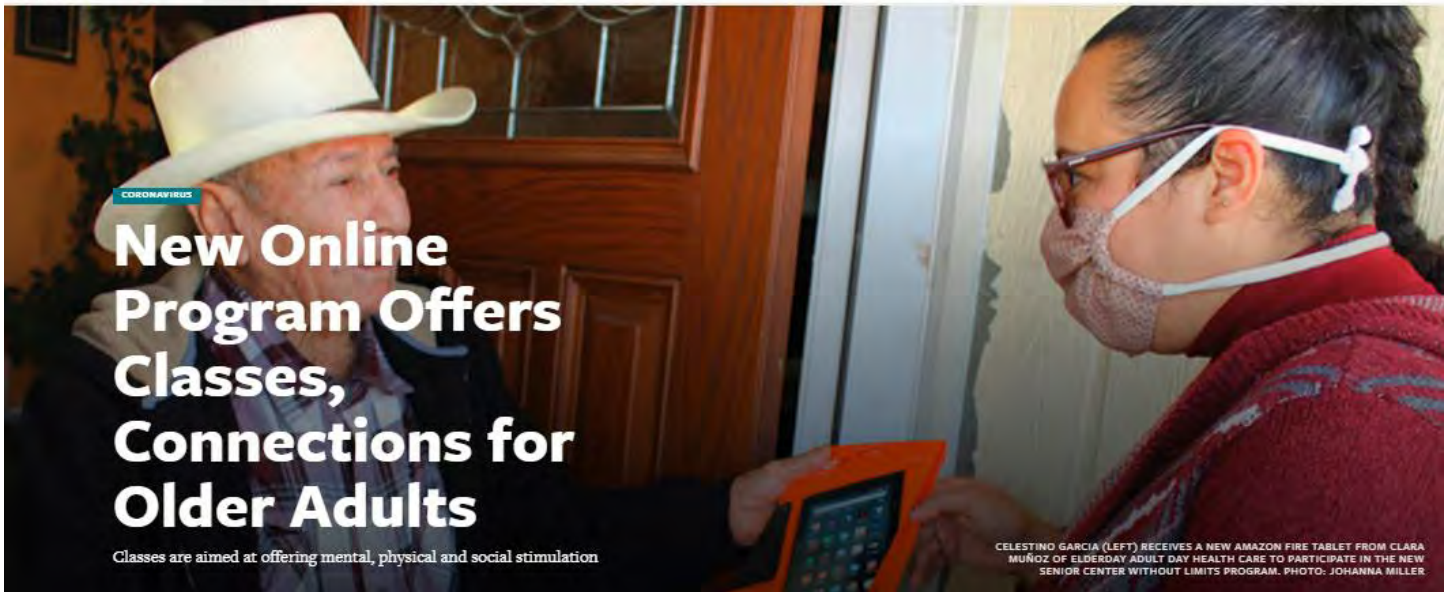
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## TONY NUÑEZ

### Blog

The Pajaronian Managing Editor Tony Nuñez is a longtime member of the Watsonville community who served as Sports Editor for five years before entering his current role in 2019. A Watsonville High, Cabrillo College and San Jose State University alumnus, he covers the city, business, housing, entertainment and more.



## New Online Program Offers Classes, Connections for Older Adults

Classes are aimed at offering mental, physical and social stimulation

CELESTINO GARCIA (LEFT) RECEIVES A NEW AMAZON FIRE TABLET FROM CLARA MUÑOZ OF ELDERDAY ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW SENIOR CENTER WITHOUT LIMITS PROGRAM. PHOTO: JOHANNA MILLER

Celestino Garcia (left) receives a new Amazon Fire tablet from Clara Muñoz of Elderday Adult Day Health Care to participate in the new Senior Center Without Limits program. Photo: Johanna Miller

## New online program offers classes, connections for older adults. Classes are aimed at offering mental, physical and social stimulation.

<https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/online-program-classes-for-older-adults/>

BY **JOHANNA MILLER**

POSTED ON JUNE 29, 2020

Elderday Adult Day Health Care, a program of local nonprofit Community Bridges, has for years aimed to empower seniors to live at home with independence and dignity.

But after Covid-19 hit and shelter-in-place orders went into effect, Elderday was forced to close. In the following weeks staff reached out to participants in any way they could: nurses made routine phone calls, activity packets were sent out and remote services put in place.

“What we do ... our whole thing is about congregation,” said Elderday Program Director Lois Sones. “That’s the magic of the program—coming together. But our participants are the most vulnerable in the community [to Covid-19]. They are over 65 ... they usually have a chronic condition. We had to stop on-site programming immediately.”

This prompted staff to start looking for ways to expand and adapt their usual classes and activities to an online format. Community Bridges Executive Director Raymon Cancino had the idea to coordinate with the city of Watsonville and the city of Santa Cruz’s parks and recreation departments to create a new digital senior center.

Senior Center Without Limits kicked off last week. Santa Cruz County residents are invited to participate in over 15 classes per week on Zoom, a video conferencing application. Classes include yoga, tai chi, art, music, meditation and more. Support groups and computer classes are also available, and Sones said they are developing ESL and citizenship classes as well.

“We’re trying to figure out how to provide people with as much mental, physical and social stimulation as possible,” she said.

Clara Muñoz, remote services coordinator for Elderday, said that developing the online center has been a major learning experience. Community Bridges worked closely with Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation, which had started its own digital program, to expand to Watsonville and hire more staff.

“We got started last week ... seeing how we could make the classes available and getting the teachers used to working on Zoom,” Muñoz said. “It has been a big effort.”

To join Senior Center Without Limits, participants must have internet access and an internet-enabled device such as a computer, smartphone or tablet. Those who do not have a device may qualify to receive a free Amazon Fire tablet; applicants must be over the age of 60 and a low-income resident of Watsonville or Santa Cruz. Priority is given to those with disabilities.

Muñoz said that they were working with Nerd By Night, an IT firm based in Aptos, to set up the tablets to be as easily accessible as possible. Participants need only to turn on the device and open one of two applications.

“Some people are good with tech already,” she said, “but others need more help. We wanted to make it easy—one click, and you’re in the class.”


Seniors can visit [communitybridges.org/SCWOL](https://communitybridges.org/SCWOL) to apply for a device. Elderday is also accepting donations of tablets and cash to support the program.

“Isolation is a real problem for seniors, even before shelter-in-place,” Sones said. “What I hope is that this program will give them a sense of community and purpose.”

One woman, Muñoz said, has already become a regular of Senior Center Without Limits, attending every class that she can.

“It melts my heart to see her enjoying it,” she said. “It really shows how important that connection is.”

United Way of Santa Cruz County 

July 4 at 8:30 AM · 

Shoutout to Community Bridges / Puentes De La Comunidad for identifying a problem and creating a solution! NEW digital senior center for seniors in our communities.

Community Bridges partnered with Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation Department, City of Santa Cruz and City of Watsonville to create Senior Center Without Limits! Check out how local seniors are participating in this free program, which keeps folks connected, gets them moving and keeps their minds active – all in their own homes!

Learn more at [communitybridges.org/SCWOL](http://communitybridges.org/SCWOL).

<http://ow.ly/ZfjQ50AmfZt>



PAJARONIAN.COM

### New program connects older adults | The Pajaronian

Senior Center Without Limits kicked off last week. Santa Cruz Coun...



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PINNED POST



Homes are shown along Ohlone Parkway in Watsonville. — Tarmo Hannula/The Pajaronian

Local News

COVID-19

# Evictions rise in first month without moratorium

By: **TONY NUÑEZ** July 10, 2020

0 258

**WATSONVILLE**—Tenant advocates saw a modest increase in eviction notices in June, the month immediately following the Watsonville City Council's decision to allow its citywide eviction moratorium to expire.

The [council at its May 26 meeting](#) voted 5-2—Mayor Rebecca Garcia and councilman Francisco Estrada voted “no”—to not extend the moratorium past its May 31 expiration date, and instead defer to tenant protections put in place by California's Judicial Council.

Those state-level protections do not halt evictions from being filed, but they do stop the filings from being processed until 90 days after Gov. Gavin Newsom lifts the state of emergency related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Sandra Silva, the directing attorney of California Rural Legal Assistance's Watsonville office, said local filings began to pile up in the days after the city's ban expired, and will come due when the Judicial Council's protections are lifted. None of her clients were served notices during the moratorium, Silva said.

"This is very taxing on our clients, it's very stressful," Silva said. "Even though they can't go forward [with the eviction] right now and get into court, having an unlawful detainer filed against you and being served with court papers is extremely stressful during this time."

Those state-level protections might lift before their original expiration date. The Judicial Council in early June planned to vote on possibly ending them on Aug. 3, but [suspended its vote](#) after talking with Newsom, state legislators, residents and Judicial Council members.

The [Judicial Council's decision has also been challenged in court by landlords](#) in Southern California who claim the council is overreaching with its decision.

The [city's moratorium was approved by the council to protect renters](#) that had fallen into financial or medical instability because of Covid-19. That included those who had contracted the disease, had been laid off of work and were losing income because of the statewide stay-at-home order or were forced to take care of a family member deemed high-risk of severe illness.

It was not a rent forgiveness plan. Renters still had to pay what they could and were expected to pay back their outstanding rent within six months after the order expired.

The city council allowed the moratorium to expire on recommendation from the Eviction Moratorium Housing Taskforce, which said the Judicial Council's protections made the city's ban redundant. The taskforce, which included developers, property managers, nonprofit leaders, banks and tenant advocates, also said the majority of Watsonville renters were able to pay rent through the first three months of the pandemic and that only a small number of landlords were serving tenants with eviction notices.

Instead of extending the moratorium, the taskforce recommended city leaders throw their support behind government assistance such as the [\\$3 trillion HEROES Act](#), [Senate Bill 1410](#) and [Assembly Bill 828](#).

The HEROES Act would provide a 12-month moratorium on evictions, among other things. SB 1410, meanwhile, would help renters by covering 80 percent of unpaid rent directly attributable to the pandemic. AB 828 seeks to strengthen the Judicial Council's rules on evictions. All three are still winding their way through their respective government process.

Some members of the taskforce disagreed with the group's overall recommendations and said the moratorium should be extended through June—at the very least.

The Watsonville Law Center (WLC) was one such member. Adriana Melgoza, chief programs officer for the nonprofit legal assistance organization, said the expiration of the moratorium was premature and that the true effects of the pandemic—and the economic stagnation that came with it—are not yet known.

More than half of WLC clients are still unemployed and have not been able to pay rent in the past two months, Melgoza said. Most landlords have been understanding of—and sticking to—the six-month payback period, but some have not.

“It’s too early to determine what the effects are going to be for our community,” Melgoza said. “We have to figure out what’s the best way to work together—not only with legal aid but with the city, with landlords, with tenants—to best handle the situation. After all, no one is to blame for this situation and we want to make sure that we’re all working together to have a healthy community. It’s not healthy for community members to be evicted at this time.”

Silva said she was not involved in the taskforce meetings leading up to the council’s decision even though she was listed as a member. She has since been added to the taskforce. They last met on June 11, Silva said, and another meeting was to be scheduled sometime this month.

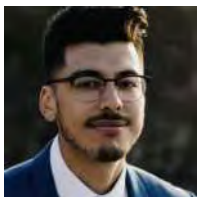
Silva said the recent rise in eviction notices is a direct result of the moratorium’s expiration and added that some landlords have been brazen while trying to evict renters that have been hard-hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and do not understand their rights.

“Landlords are saying things like ‘you need to be out tomorrow,’ or ‘you need to be out at the end of the month,’” Silva said. “None of that is legal in the best-case scenario, let alone in the moratorium... some of our clients, sadly, say, ‘OK, fine, I’ll just go.’ When they don’t have to, and there is nowhere to go.”

Silva said she refers those displaced renters to nonprofits such as Community Bridges, Families In Transition and the Community Action Board (CAB) of Santa Cruz County.

CAB spearheaded the city’s [Emergency Housing Assistance Program](#), which distributed \$85,000 of federal funds from the city’s Community Development Block Grant to help Watsonville renters. The assistance was in high demand and was quickly claimed by 66 local families negatively affected by the pandemic and ongoing shutdowns, according to City Manager Matt Huffaker.

It is unknown if additional assistance will be provided by the federal, state or city government.



### TONY NUÑEZ

MANAGING EDITOR TONY NUÑEZ IS A LONGTIME MEMBER OF THE WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY WHO SERVED AS SPORTS EDITOR FOR FIVE YEARS BEFORE ENTERING HIS CURRENT ROLE IN 2019. A WATSONVILLE HIGH, CABRILLO COLLEGE AND SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNUS, HE COVERS THE CITY, BUSINESS, HOUSING, ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE.

## Coronavirus in California: How to Receive the \$ 500 for Undocumented

By **James Ashley**  
July 10, 2020

<https://www.thebulletintime.com/news/coronavirus-in-california-how-to-receive-the-500-for-undocumented/>



James Martin/CNET

For the latest news and information on the coronavirus pandemic, visit the WHO website.

California will offer US \$ 500 financial aid to undocumented immigrants in the state who did not receive the economic stimulus from the federal government.

**"Every Californian, including our undocumented neighbors and friends, should know that California is here to support them during this crisis. We are all in this together,"** announced state governor Gavin Newsom.

The fund to support the undocumented in California that have been economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic has a total of US \$ 125 million, which would allow us to assign a payment of US \$ 500 -- with a limit of \$ 1000 per household-- 150,000 undocumented people living in the state.

## **From when can support be requested?**

Qualifying individuals can begin submitting applications starting May 18, 2020. However, this payment is limited, so it will be available until June 30, 2020 or until funds are exhausted. Applicants will be considered in order of application.

## **Who can receive financial support?**

Those immigrants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic who do not qualify for federal fiscal stimulus, the CARES Act, or pandemic-related unemployment benefits due to their immigration status. Applicants must also verify that they have had financial difficulties as a result of COVID-19.

A maximum of two adults per household can receive assistance, totaling \$ 1,000 per **household. The California government defines a "home" as individuals who live, buy, and** prepare meals together.

## **What do I need to request the money?**

Individuals should contact the nonprofit organization in their county listed below directly. The organization will assist them with the application process, confirm their eligibility, and issue a payment card to approved applicants. Each organization will offer instructions on how to receive the payment card, either in person or by mail.

Applicants must provide information and documents to verify their identity, address, and proof that they were financially affected by the health crisis related to COVID-19.

## **What are the accredited institutions to give the payment?**

The California Department of Social Services selected twelve nonprofits to help people apply for and receive this help. Applicants may only apply for financial aid through organizations located in their county of residence.

Below we leave you the name and information of each of these organizations.

**California Human Development Corporation**

- Region: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma Tehama and Trinity .
- Website: [californiahumandevlopment.org](http://californiahumandevlopment.org)
- Telephone: (707) 228-1338

**Catholic Charities of California**

- Region: Alameda and Contra Costa
- Website: [www.cceb.org](http://www.cceb.org)
- Region: Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara.
- Website: [catholiccharitiessf.org](http://catholiccharitiessf.org)
- Telephone: (415) 324-1011

**Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)**

- Website: [mixteco.org/drai/](http://mixteco.org/drai/)
- Ventura County: (805) 519-7774
- Santa Barbara County: (805) 519-7776

**Community Action Board Santa Cruz**

- Region: Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo and Santa Cruz
- Web site: [cabinc.org](http://cabinc.org)
- Telephone: (800) 228-6820

**United Farm Workers Foundation (UFWF)**

- Region: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Tulare and Mono
- Website: [ufwfoundation.org](http://ufwfoundation.org)
- Telephone: (877) 527-6660

**California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF)**

- Region: Mariposa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba
- Website: [crlaf.org/drai](http://crlaf.org/drai)
- Telephone: (877) 557-0521

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice**

- Region: Los Angeles and Orange
- Web site: [advancingjustice-la.org](http://advancingjustice-la.org)
- Telephone: (213) 241-8880

**Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights – CHIRLA**

- Region: Los Angeles and Orange
- Web site: [chirla.org](http://chirla.org)
- Telephone: (213) 201-8700

**Central American Resource Center – CARECEN**

- Region: Los Angeles
- Web site: [carece-la.org/drai](http://carece-la.org/drai)
- Telephone: (213) 315-2659

**San Bernardino Community Service Center**

- Region: Inyo, Riverside and San Bernardino.
- Web site: [sbcsinc.org](http://sbcsinc.org)
- Telephone: (888) 444-0170

**TODEC Legal Center Perris**

- Region: Inyo, Riverside and San Bernardino.
- Website: [TODEC.org](http://TODEC.org)
- Telephone: (888) 863-3291

**Jewish Family Service of San Diego**

- Website: [jfssd.org/drai-project](http://jfssd.org/drai-project)
- Imperial: (760) 206-3242
- San Diego: (858) 206-8281

## Is my personal information protected?

According to the California government, the organizations will share demographic information with the state. However, no personal information, such as name and address, will be provided to any government agency.

## Does receiving the stimulus qualify as a public charge?

According to the California government, the federal government does not consider this assistance as public charge. However, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) has not issued specific guidance related to this assistance.

The biggest news in the tech industry, every day.

**The \$ 125 million fund is made up of \$ 75 million from taxpayers' money and \$ 50 million** from a group of nonprofit organizations. The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Blue Shield of California Foundation, California Endowment, James Irvine Foundation, and Emerson Collective have so far donated a total of \$ 5.55 million.

The California government offers a guide for California immigrants with information on services and programs available in the state.



CORONAVIRUS

## Are Governments Protecting Renters During the Pandemic?

Watsonville lets evictions resume, while Santa Cruz stands pat

HOMES ALONG OHLONE PARKWAY IN WATSONVILLE, WHICH HAS SEEN AN INCREASE IN EVICTIONS AFTER ITS CITY COUNCIL LET EVICTIONS EXPIRE. PHOTO: TARMO HANNULA

# Are Governments Protecting Renters During the Pandemic?

**Watsonville lets evictions resume, while Santa Cruz stands pat**BY **TONY NUÑEZ**

POSTED ON JULY 14, 2020

Tenant advocates saw a modest increase in eviction notices in June, the month immediately following the Watsonville City Council's decision to allow its citywide eviction moratorium to expire.

At [its May 26 meeting](#), the council voted 5-2—with Mayor Rebecca Garcia and Councilmember Francisco Estrada dissenting—not to extend the moratorium past its May 31 expiration date, and instead defer to tenant protections put in place by California's Judicial Council. Those state-level protections do not halt evictions from being filed, but they do stop the filings from being processed until 90 days after Gov. Gavin Newsom lifts the state of emergency related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Sandra Silva, the directing attorney of California Rural Legal Assistance's Watsonville office, says local filings began to pile up in the days after the city's ban expired, and will come due when the state's Judicial Council's protections are lifted. None of Silva's clients were served notices during the moratorium, she says.

"Even though they can't go forward [with the eviction] right now and get into court, having an unlawful detainer filed against you and being served with court papers is extremely stressful during this time," Silva says.

In early June, the Judicial Council planned to vote on possibly ending them on Aug. 3 but [suspended its vote](#) after talking with Newsom, state legislators and residents. Southern California landlords, who say the council is overreaching with its decision, have challenged the [Judicial Council's decision in court](#).

Silva says the rise in eviction notices resulted directly from the moratorium's expiration and adds that some landlords have brazenly tried to evict renters that were hard-hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and do not understand their rights.

"Landlords are saying things like, 'You need to be out tomorrow,' or 'You need to be out at the end of the month,'" Silva says. "None of that is legal in the best-case scenario, let alone in the moratorium .... Some of our clients, sadly, say, 'OK, fine, I'll just go' when they don't have to, and there is nowhere to go."

In March, the [Watsonville City Council approved its moratorium to protect renters](#) that had fallen into financial or medical instability because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was not a rent forgiveness plan. Renters still have to pay what they can and are expected to pay back their outstanding rent within six months after the order's expiration.

## **SANTA CRUZ EXTENSION**

Although the Santa Cruz City Council extended the moratorium last month, housing activist Josh Brahinsky isn't sure how effective the law has been.

Renters, he says, don't always have the resources or information to fully advocate for themselves, and Santa Cruz hasn't created a process for tenants to learn their rights or stick up for themselves if their landlord tries to kick them out. And, even though there isn't currently a method for landlords to legally force out tenants, missed rent payments will keep adding up. It isn't clear how any struggling renter should negotiate with their landlord or weigh competing concerns like their grocery bills with their housing costs. That can lead to a tense situation, he explains.

"By continuing to expect people to pay rent when they cannot afford it, we've created a baffling system that breeds antagonism, and we've created a problem where this doesn't make it clear how the tenant pays the rent back," says Brahinsky, an organizer with the Santa Cruz Organizing Circle, which is getting ready to launch an ice cream tricycle that will give away free ice cream, along with information on how to get help during the pandemic.

In Watsonville, Silva says she refers displaced and struggling renters to nonprofits like Community Bridges, Families In Transition and the Community Action Board (CAB) of Santa Cruz County.

CAB spearheaded the city's [Emergency Housing Assistance Program](#), which distributed \$85,000 of federal funds from the city's Community Development Block Grant to help Watsonville renters. The assistance was quickly claimed by 66 local families negatively affected by the pandemic and ongoing shutdowns, according to City Manager Matt Huffaker. CAB recently launched a similar partnership with the city of Santa Cruz.

## EXPIRE POWER

The Watsonville City Council allowed its eviction moratorium to expire on recommendation from the Eviction Moratorium Housing Taskforce, which said the Judicial Council's protections made the city's ban redundant. The taskforce, which included developers, property managers, nonprofit leaders, banks and tenant advocates, said the majority of Watsonville renters were able to pay rent through the first three months of the pandemic and that only a small number of landlords were serving tenants with eviction notices.

Some members of the taskforce disagreed with the group's recommendations and said the moratorium should have been extended through June—at the very least.

The Watsonville Law Center (WLC) was one such member. Adriana Melgoza, chief programs officer for the nonprofit legal assistance organization, says the expiration of the moratorium was premature and that the true effects of the pandemic—and the economic stagnation that came with it—are not yet known.

More than half of WLC clients are still unemployed and have not been able to pay rent in the past two months, Melgoza says. Most landlords have been understanding of—and sticking to—the six-month payback period, but some have not.

"It's too early to determine what the effects are going to be for our community," Melgoza says. "We have to figure out what's the best way to work together—not only with legal aid but with the city, with landlords, with tenants—to best handle the situation. After all, no one is to blame for this situation and we want to make sure that we're all working together to have a healthy community. It's not healthy for community members to be evicted at this time."

*Low-income community members may contact the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. Rental Assistance Program at 831-457-1741 for information and initial screening to determine eligibility for assistance. For additional forms of support via United Way of Santa Cruz County, visit [211santacruzcounty.org](https://211santacruzcounty.org) or text "COVID19" to 211-211.*

*Additional reporting by Jacob Pierce.*

**<https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/are-governments-protecting-renters-during-pandemic/>**



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### ONGOING

#### 2020 Summer Lunch Program

June 18 @ 12:00 pm - August 2 @ 1:00 pm | Recurring Event ([See all](#))

521 Main St, Watsonville, CA 95076, 521 Main St  
Watsonville, 95076 + [Google Map](#)

Free



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. The Summer Lunch program begins June 8, 2020 and serves lunch [...]

[Find out more »](#)

#### 2020 Summer Lunch Program

June 19 @ 12:00 pm - August 3 @ 1:00 pm | Recurring Event ([See all](#))



## Why the 30th Anniversary of the Disabilities Act Matters

Pandemic poses new challenges, as activists reflect on ADA

JOHN DAUGHERTY SAYS MANY BENEFITS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT GO UNNOTICED. PHOTO: TARMO HANNULA

## Why the 30th Anniversary of the Disabilities Act Matters

Pandemic poses new challenges, as activists reflect on ADA

<https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/30th-anniversary-ada-americans-with-disabilities/>

BY **JACOB PIERCE**

POSTED ON JULY 27, 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic fuels a particular fear in David Molina—a father and also the son of elderly parents, whom he often finds himself reminding to be careful when they leave the house.

But during this time, Molina, who serves as chair for the Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities, has also spent a lot of time thinking about members of the nation's [disabled community](#). He notes that, whenever there's a shortage of life-saving technologies or drugs, doctors start making calculations about who will [get which treatment](#).

Those calculations, he says, take into account quality of life, and they often favor younger and non-disabled Americans.

"When there's a disabled person and a non-disabled person, if a doctor only has one drug, who does he give it to?" Molina asks. "No one thinks about this level of terror."

Additionally, many Americans with disabilities are [medically vulnerable](#), he adds. Some are [already unable to live without ventilators](#), and the spread of a coronavirus poses a serious threat to their health.

With the country celebrating 30 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) this week, some Americans are reflecting on three decades of legislation aimed at tearing down barriers. But due to the pandemic, they are doing so privately. The anniversary of the bill being signed into law by President George H. W. Bush came on Sunday, July 26. At one point, members of the local Commission on Disabilities considered putting together a showing of the new Netflix documentary *Crip Camp*, which chronicles a summer camp for teens with disabilities and their fight for civil rights, but the commissioners ultimately decided against it.

The ADA, which was largely modeled after civil rights legislation of the 1950s and '60s, prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability—including physical, medical and [mental](#) conditions.

Andy Imparato, executive director for Disability Rights California, says the ADA was a landmark piece of legislation, and an update in 2008 issued important clarifications, expanding the number of people the law protects, he says. Nonetheless, the issues are a work in progress.

“We still have work to do in creating the kind of liberty and justice we deserve,” he says.

## **RAMPING UP ACCESS**

For the past 12 years, Veronica Elsea has put accessibility at the center of her time serving on the Regional Transportation Commission’s Elderly and Disabled Transportation Committee.

An avid bus rider, Elsea, who was born blind, says planners often failed to design sidewalks and transportation systems with members of the disabled community in mind. Many, she says, simply assumed that disabled residents would just use Lift Line-type services to get around the county. One problem with that is that, as boomers age, there will be more and more disabled pedestrians, Elsea says.

“There’s a level of disability where you’re still out running around, and I thought it was important that we really start getting Santa Cruz thinking about those people, so that they don’t become in need of the specialized services,” she explains.

Elsea pushed the RTC and its staff to create an online feature for reporting hazards to pedestrians. However, when the [Hazard Report page](#) launched, it was incompatible with her text-to-voice software, so she gave commission staff feedback on how to improve it and make it accessible to people like her.

Elsea has first-hand experience with a lot of obstacles. For example, she says that, for years, she was denied the right of a private ballot each Election Day. Instead, when she showed up to a polling place to vote, she had to tell someone else whom she wanted to vote for, and they cast the vote for her.

In one election in Iowa in 1976, she determined that a poll worker was intentionally casting her vote for the wrong party. Elsea says she ended up getting the matter heard before a judge that same day. The issue got resolved, her vote got counted, and the poll worker was banned from working elections, she says.

In a different election in Santa Cruz in 2004, Elsea wanted to vote for a write-in candidate, and she says the poll worker refused to write the name, repeatedly saying that the candidate wasn't on the ballot. Elsea—who credits the local elections department with doing a great job over the years—complained and quickly got matched with a different poll worker. The second poll worker helped Elsea cast the vote she wanted. “I get to be a rebel if I want to,” Elsea says.

Two years later, the county unveiled accessible voting machines as part of the Help America Vote Act. Elsea got to cast a private ballot for the first time in her life. She was so happy she cried.

When it comes to the ADA, it's often lawsuits that grab a lot of attention, but Elsea says it would never be her intention—or that of the activists she knows—to start out by assuming an issue will turn into a lawsuit. Rather, the law provides a framework that helps advocates raise concerns and tells institutions how to make their systems more accessible.

“We have a backing. It's like saying, ‘Here's the rule, so I don't have to be the bad guy,’” she explains.

The issues around disability are personal for many advocates.

Commission on Disabilities Chair Molina first got involved around disability issues after his son, who's now 6, was diagnosed with autism. Molina learned that drowning is one of the leading causes of death among autistic children. He didn't see any leadership in Santa Cruz County to prevent autistic children from drowning.

“We're a county that has tons of water. And so it surprised me, in a county that's so affluent and with so much water and with such a beautiful, giant pool, that we didn't have a program to teach autistic children to swim,” Molina says.

Fellow Commissioner John Daugherty says he believes many people misunderstand the ADA. He feels that Americans pretend the act is a special law that applies to a small subset of people. Daugherty—who has cerebral palsy and

works as accessible services coordinator for the Metropolitan Transit District—wishes people would view it as a broader piece of civil rights legislation.

For example, when a business adds ramps to its entrance, and makes the building accessible to people in wheelchairs, that also helps parents with strollers.

Daugherty says he gets frustrated when businesses act like they're being blindsided by 30-year-old law, mandating relatively small accommodations in the name of crafting a more equal society.

"One doesn't have to take a sledgehammer to a business layout to make it accessible," he says.

## **FULL EMBRACE**

Rick Gubash, the director of UCSC's Disability Resource Center, says that, with classes going online, the era of pandemic-related distance learning has shaken up education and created changes—including in the disabled community—some of them more positive than others.

Students with physical disabilities, on the one hand, no longer have to contend with the university's rugged terrain as they traverse the campus. Similarly, those with chronic conditions, who aren't always able to attend class in person, don't have to worry about missing instruction. Everyone's situation is different, however. Those with organizational difficulties may now have an especially challenging time establishing routines, says Gubash, who has both ADHD and a learning disability.

Although his conditions have presented challenges in his life and career, Gubash says he's learned how to manage them, and he wouldn't trade them away for anything. "That's part of me now, and it's an important part of me. I embrace my disability," he says.

Gubash says he's fortunate to have a great partner and a loving family around to support him, and that makes a difference.

Imparato, the Disability Rights California executive director, has bipolar disorder. Similar to Gubash, he credits his family with providing an immensely valuable support system. For Imparato, every year is split roughly in half, into two modes—his "high-energy" mode and his "low-energy" one, he calls them. Each of his two annual shifts in mood can happen rather suddenly. When he feels a change, he gives his loved ones a heads-up, usually working it into a conversation with his wife, who he says never reacts too strongly.

Imparato pays careful attention not to let bipolar get in the way of being a caring person or a conscientious boss, he says. He doesn't prefer one mode over the other. Each has its challenges, he says.

“Both modes, for me, have pros and cons,” he says. “When I have more energy, my brain is moving faster, and I’m less patient. Sometimes I can say something and it comes across stronger than I mean it to. I try to be open with my colleagues about the way my brain operates and tell them, ‘Call me on it if you think I’m being unfair or something doesn’t sound right to you.’ I try to be good at apologizing. ”

## ACCESS POTENTIAL

Gubash says the number of students who use UCSC’s DRC has grown dramatically over the last decade and a half.

I was a DRC student myself during my time at UCSC from 2006-2010—before Gubash’s arrived at the school—due to learning disabilities I was diagnosed with when I was in middle school. (In my time at college, I qualified for services, like extra time on tests and for [note taking](#).) Gubash estimates that the center served 600-700 students back in 2006. He says it serves close to 3,000 now.

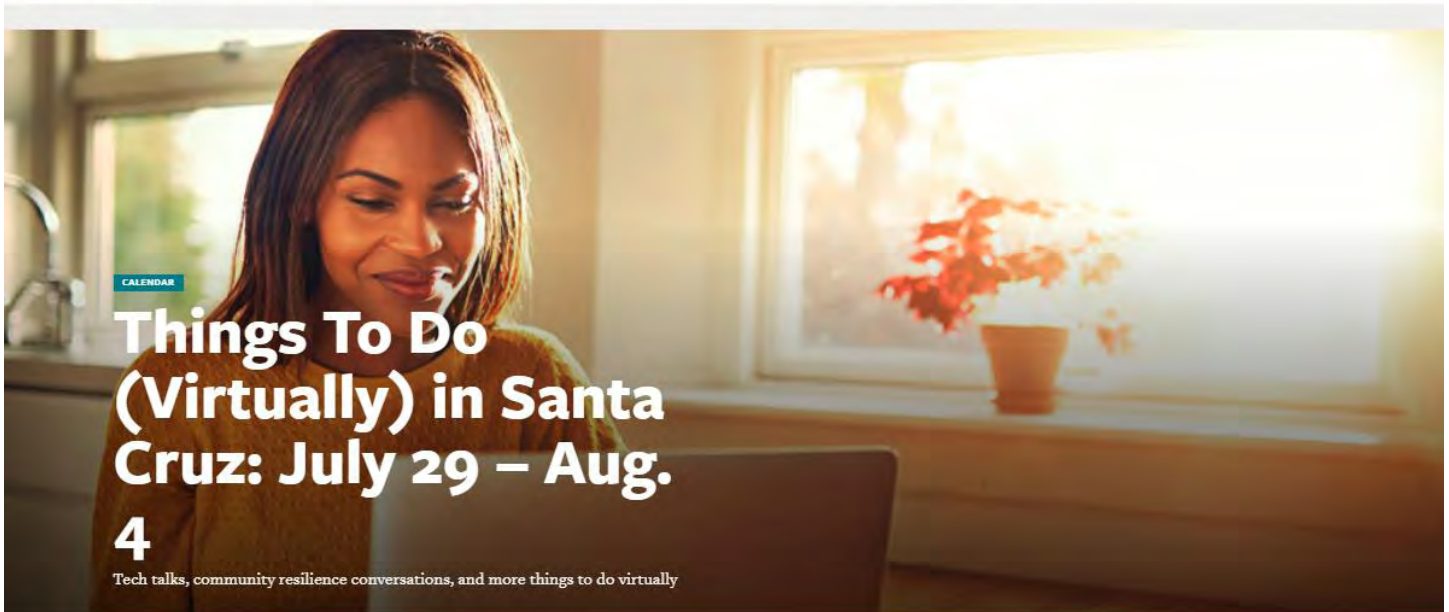
I still grapple with attention problems, and I’ve never been a quick reader or a great listener. Whenever possible, I try to record my interviews and carve out time to transcribe them later. I ask follow-up questions whenever I get confused.

Molina, the chair of the local Commission on Disabilities, is severely learning disabled, and he says learning disabilities never go away. Molina says he often has to read a passage five or more times before he understands it, and he has difficulty retaining information. But he never let any of that stop him from getting his PhD in clinical psychology.

Molina says those with disabilities have role models for sources of inspiration. He looks to 17-year-old Greta Thunberg, the Swedish climate activist, who is on the autism spectrum. Molina says Thunberg has the potential to change the world, and he believes nobody—disabled or otherwise—should ever think they’re capable of anything less.

“In order to do what they want to do, those with disabilities have to work that much harder than everyone else,” Molina says. “Having a disability is no excuse to not reach your full potential.”

*The documentary Crip Camp is available to watch via subscription to Netflix and for free on [YouTube](#).*



BY GT STAFF

POSTED ON JULY 29, 2020

**2020 SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM** 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 Manzana Community Resources, a program of Community Bridges, combats food insecurity and supports good nutritional habits. The Summer Lunch program serves lunch Monday through Friday from 12-1pm. Free meals will be provided to all children, without eligibility documentation, who are 18 years of age and younger. For more info visit [communitybridges.org/lmcr](https://communitybridges.org/lmcr).

**From:** Rose Filicetti, Nonprofit Connection SCC <rosef@npconnectscc.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 4:48 PM

**To:** Amy Hanley <AmyH@cbridges.org>

**Subject:** SCC Nonprofit News for July 29, 2020

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Connecting People, Ideas, and Resources Nonprofit News for July 22, 2020

Welcome to Nonprofit Connection's weekly email of timely information - announcements, job postings, (virtual) events, people on the move, and nonprofits in the news!

Until our website is completed, you can also see **timely updates** on our [Facebook Page](#).

Thanks to NPC Team Member **Rachel Kippen**, we also have a new **Instagram** account, so please give us a follow: [@nonprofitconnectionSCC](#)

### COMMUNICATE

#### Job Postings

**COOF is hiring!**



**Chief Operations Officer (COO)**



### Community Bridges Food Distribution Schedule

If the families you serve are in need of food, we invite you to come by any of our family resource centers during scheduled food distribution days and times. It is safe and easy and you will encounter lots of friendly faces!.

Food distribution locations, days and times:

**Live Oak Community Resources**, 1740 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz  
Second and Fourth Mondays, 4:30PM – 6PM

**Mountain Community Resources**, 6134 Highway 9, Felton  
Thursdays, 10:30AM-12:00PM

**Nueva Vista Community Resources**, 711 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz  
Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 2:30PM – 5PM

**La Manzana Community Resources**, 521 Main St., Watsonville  
(Age 55+ only and must pre-register with Grey Bears at 831-479-1055)  
Thursdays, 9:00AM-9:30AM

Save the Date



**Save The Date!**

Fri, August 21, 2020

Our Thriving Immigrants Collaborative Program will be providing a local update to our local elected officials to discuss the stories, challenges, success, needs and next steps of our Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants.

We will be posting registration details on our social media platforms, please stay tuned!

## COLLABORATE

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Part 1	Part 2
Mitigating Impact of COVID-19 on the Santa Cruz Economy	Keeping Grounded when the Financial World is Shaking
August 6   6:00 PM	August 13   12:00 PM



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**Community Bridges** invites you to join them for a FREE two-part webinar series offering perspective on how the COVID-19 public health crisis has impacted our local economy and your personal finances.

# Podcast: How has COVID-19 hurt Santa Cruz County's most vulnerable?



by Kara  
Meyberg  
Guzman

JULY 31, 2020

FILED UNDER:

BOULDER CREEK

CORONAVIRUS

ECONOMY

ELECTION 2020

HEALTH

HOMELESSNESS

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PODCAST

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COVID-19 shutdowns have hurt many locals on the brink of poverty because of the county's high cost of living. About 40% of Santa Cruz County residents have received some food assistance since the COVID-19 shelter orders began in March, according to Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County staff.

We hear from four people on the margins, from San Lorenzo Valley to Watsonville. We hear how COVID shutdowns have changed their lives and what solutions they'd like to see.



*Watsonville District 6 voter Miguel Quezada pauses for a photo and interview at the Watsonville Farmers Market July 17, 2020. Quezada, a Motel 6 employee, says it's difficult to find housing he can afford. He wants his local leaders to open the wait list for Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers. (William Duncan — Santa Cruz Local)*

## TRANSCRIPT

*Podcast transcripts are usually only available to members. Santa Cruz Local offers its coronavirus-related transcripts free as a public service. But journalism can be expensive — especially deep, time-consuming, community-driven journalism.*

*Santa Cruz Local depends on memberships from people like you to make sure vital information can be available to all. Can we count on your help?*

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**KMG:** Up a winding, narrow road, in Boulder Creek, there's a small wooden bungalow. It's surrounded by redwoods. It's Jim Farrell and Bill Avery's house. They're housemates. They've lived together about 30 years. They're both in their 80s.

I visited them last week on a sunny afternoon. I sat in their driveway about 20 feet away. Jim sat on the deck, and next to him, Bill in his wheelchair.

It seems like a perfect spot to stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. I asked Bill how coronavirus has affected them.

**BILL AVERY:** We're getting less and less able to do anything. He goes out to the postal — he goes over to the mailbox. He gets the mail. We watch a lot of television together. We used to watch round ball games, etc. And we don't have many of those now. So we just we just watched the major networks, yell at each other.

**KMG:** Bill's in a wheelchair because he crushed his right leg in a car crash on Highway 9 a few years ago. It's difficult for Jim to get around too. Two years ago, Jim had a stroke. Now he does less around the house. I asked Jim how COVID-19 has affected him.

**JIM FARRELL:** I don't go shopping now. Just staying at home just really bores me.

**BILL AVERY:** But we're safer at home. And Jim did our shopping. He shops on one leg. I shop on no legs. So (laughs)



*Boulder Creek residents Jim Farrell, left, and Bill Avery have relied on food delivery programs since the spring. (Kara Meyberg Guzman — Santa Cruz Local)*

**KMG:** Those mobility problems already made it difficult to get food. The risk of contracting the virus also made Bill and Jim stay home. So they turned to the Meals on Wheels program. That's a food delivery service from the nonprofit Community Bridges.

They're not alone. Meals on Wheels staff says demand has nearly doubled since March.

Meals on Wheels is supplied by Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County. Second Harvest supplies about 100 groups in our county that distribute food.

Second Harvest staff told me that the program now serves about 40% of county residents.

That's 100,000 people.

That's nearly twice the number that Second Harvest served before COVID hit.

In this episode of Santa Cruz Local, we want to look at how COVID and the county's shelter orders have made it harder for our county's most vulnerable.

So many people in the county were barely making it before the pandemic. Today, we'll hear from some people on the margins — some of those who now need food, or housing. We'll hear how COVID shutdowns have changed their lives and what solutions they'd like to see.

Bill told me some of the greatest help came from a family that runs the Tree House Cafe in Boulder Creek.

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**BILL AVERY:** Food was delivered to us. The three children came every Tuesday and Thursday, delivering food and, and assigning us as their new grandpas. They're 14, 16 and 18. Tremendous children and a tremendous family, serving the community with no requests, anything. Just, just being solid citizens. And I, I'd almost forgotten that there are those type of people wandering the streets with that, that kind of heart and charity. I'm deeply appreciative.

And in fact I'm thinking if when they go back to school or go away or move or whatever, well, we need to have that same kind of support. We need to have someone do shopping for us.

**KMG:** To get an idea of how the coronavirus has affected people on the margins, we visited two food bank distributions. One was at Nueva Vista Community

Resources in the Lower Ocean neighborhood of Santa Cruz, the other, at the Live Oak Resource Center.

We interviewed several dozen people. Many were put out of work.

We talked to hotel and house cleaners, dishwashers, landscapers. We talked to people who work in construction, restaurants, nonprofits.



*Live Oak Resource Center staff and volunteers disassemble a food pickup station June 8, 2020. They distributed bags of produce and groceries to about 60 families that day. (Kara Meyberg Guzman — Santa Cruz Local)*

At the Live Oak distribution, many of the recipients were new.

We heard about how hard it is to not have work. They worried about their children. Rent was a common theme.

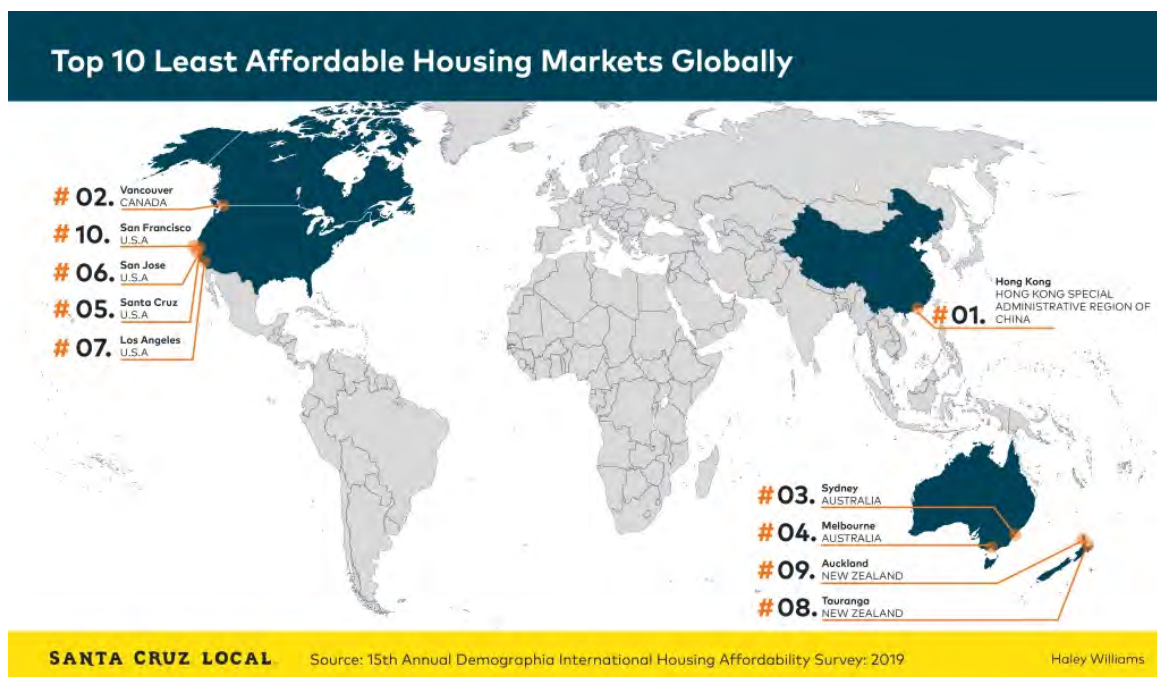
Here's Yesenia Flores. She's a caregiver who lives in Live Oak. You'll hear our interpreter Oscar Rios.

**OSCAR RIOS AND YESENIA FLORES:** To help us to pay the rents. This is the hardest thing right now. Our families are not working right now. The food they can give us in different places. But the rent? It doesn't help us. We need help on that.

**KMG:** Even before the pandemic hit, our county's cost of living was difficult to manage.

The Santa Cruz housing market was the No. 5 least affordable in the world last year. That's based on house prices compared to household income. It was in a 2019 study by Demographia International.

The places even less affordable were Hong Kong, Vancouver, Sydney, and Melbourne Australia. San Jose ranked sixth. San Francisco, tenth.



*The Santa Cruz housing market was the No. 5 least affordable in the world in 2019. (Source: 15th Annual Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey: 2019 | Graphic: Haley Williams — Santa Cruz Local)*

**KMG:** One local feeling that cost burden is Miguel Quezada. I met him recently at the Watsonville Farmers Market. He's 31. He went to Aptos High School and attended Cabrillo College.

Miguel works at Motel 6. I asked him how COVID-19 has affected him.

**MIGUEL QUEZADA:** I've struggled with homelessness for the last three, four or five months. I've lost count already. You know, shelter in place, it was just always in my car. So it's affected me with financially and, you know, trying to live here in Santa Cruz. It's something we see a lot more and more. At least, you know, I have a cars and a job, but it's just hard to try and get like the deposit, first month's rent together when you're working like a minimum wage paying job.

**KMG:** Before, Miguel worked as a Zumba instructor for his mom's business in downtown Watsonville. After that, he got fired from a few jobs. He told me it was hard to find steady work. He became homeless, before the pandemic hit.

**MIGUEL QUEZADA:** The cost of living compared to what they pay? There's no living wage or anything. It's — yeah. It's hard.

**KMG:** I asked Miguel why he didn't live with his mom. He said the place was too small.

**MIGUEL QUEZADA:** But I've been here all my life. It's just hard to try and think about going somewhere else because I did think about going to Vegas because the cost of living is low. But now I look back and I'm like, wow, everything's closed over there. I don't know, it would have been a shock for me to be somewhere with this pandemic, and not being home at least with my loved ones, you know?

**KMG:** Miguel wants the Watsonville City Council and the county's housing authority to do more to help people afford rent. Right now, the wait list is closed to get a Housing Choice Section 8 voucher.

Housing Choice is rental assistance for people with low incomes. Families pay about a third of their income to their landlord. The housing authority pays the remainder, up to a limit.

**MIGUEL QUEZADA:** I would say open up Section 8, the listing, and help like people get vouchers because I'm on the waiting list for that. So that

| would be something reasonable they can do.

**KMG:** The wait list has been closed since 2018. There are more than 12,000 applicants on that wait list.

Another major impact on the county's most vulnerable is job losses.

Unemployment claims in Santa Cruz County nearly quadrupled from March to April. There were 24,000 county residents on unemployment in April. Of course, that number doesn't include everyone who lost jobs. Some people don't qualify. Others didn't apply.

Jonathan Pintor Chavez grew up in Santa Cruz. He went to Harbor High, Natural Bridges High School and Star Community School. He took some classes at Cabrillo. He's now 27.

Since leaving Cabrillo, Jonathan has worked a bunch of jobs.

| **JONATHAN PINTOR CHAVEZ:** Prep cook, construction, maintenance at a motel. I used to work at Foot Locker too growing up.

**KMG:** Jonathan's most recent work was as a prep cook at the Korean restaurant Sesame in downtown Santa Cruz. When COVID shelter orders hit, the restaurant was forced to close dine-in service, like other restaurants. Jonathan lost his job.

He was living with his mom. He couldn't pay rent. He moved out. Now he's living in a tent near San Lorenzo Park. It's between the county building and the San Lorenzo River. A camp of a few dozen tents has cropped up there again.

That's where I met him last month.

| **PINTOR CHAVEZ:** I just been scraping little by little getting by. You know how that goes.



*People live in tents in the benchlands area behind Santa Cruz County Superior Court in Santa Cruz in late June. (Stephen Baxter — Santa Cruz Local)*

**KMG:** Jonathan told me he's tried to get into some of the homeless shelters, but the wait list was too long. He said he gets food from places like the Holy Cross Food Pantry.

I asked him what our local leaders could do for him.

**PINTOR CHAVEZ:** To open more stores. And try to help up the homeless community. So we could do better, you know?

**[MUSIC]**

**KMG:** Stephen Baxter and I co-founded this company last year because we saw large gaps in news coverage in our county. We believed local media in our county needed a fresh start. Journalism that begins with the community. That not only identifies the problems, but solutions as well. Journalism that helps people talk to each other, in an informed way. If you believe this too, it's time to support.

Join our 490 Santa Cruz Local members who contribute, starting at \$9 a month or \$99 a year. We're trying to get to 500 members by Saturday. Sign up at [santacruzlocal.org/membership](https://santacruzlocal.org/membership). The link is in our show notes.

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Thank you to our Santa Cruz Local members. Your support makes our journalism possible.

Thank you especially to our guardian level members: Chris Neklason, Patrick Reilly, Elizabeth and David Doolin, Elena Cohen and Steve Ritz, and the Kelley Family.

Thanks to Trimpot for the music.

I'm Kara Meyberg Guzman. Thanks for listening to Santa Cruz Local.

**AD:** This episode was sponsored by Santa Cruz Works, your connection to our area's thriving tech and business community. With over 5,000 members, Santa Cruz Works gives you access. The largest monthly tech events. Solutions for your startups and businesses. Connections to the hottest jobs. And the latest news about local companies: their stories, and best practices. Subscribe free to the Santa Cruz Works weekly newsletter today. [santacruzworks.org/podcast](https://santacruzworks.org/podcast)



Kara Meyberg Guzman

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Kara Meyberg Guzman is a co-founder of Santa Cruz Local. From 2017-18, she served as the Santa Cruz Sentinel's managing editor. She had other previous roles at the Sentinel, including working as a reporter covering transportation, education and the environment. She has a biology degree from Stanford University and lives in Santa Cruz.



Maria Cadenas

18h · 🌐



#juntos It is an honor to work with [UndocuFund MB](#) partners and to have the support of [Santa Cruz Community Ventures](#) Board and staff to make this possible. Thank you to our partners: [Community Bridges / Puentes De La Comunidad](#) [Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.](#) [Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance United Way of Santa Cruz County](#) [Salud Para La Gente](#) [Catholic Charities - Diocese of Monterey](#) [Live Oak Cradle to Career](#) [Monarch Services - Servicios Monarca](#) [Center for Community Advocacy](#)



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**UndocuFund Monterey Bay has distributed almost \$2 million in aid to undocumented people.**



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# UndocuFund Monterey Bay has distributed almost \$2 million in aid to undocumented people.

[Marielle Argueza](#) Aug 3, 2020



Of the households UndocuFund Monterey Bay helped, 70 percent work in agriculture.

Nic Coury

With federal leadership sitting on longterm solutions for the pandemic and a new aid package, there is at least some good news on the local level. Santa Cruz Community Ventures, a nonprofit that helps create equitable local economies on the Central Coast, announced that they have distributed \$1.7 million in aid for undocumented people through their collaborative project UndocuFund Monterey Bay since April.

In a July 29 statement, SCCV Executive Director Maria T. Cadenas states UndocuFund—which partners with various local organizations like Catholic Charities and United Way Santa Cruz County—has aided over 1,300 households. Of those households, 70 percent work in agriculture and 60 percent are families with children.

Unlike recently unemployed workers who are legally authorized to work, undocumented residents may have been paying into economic and social safety nets (using an individual taxpayer identification number), but they have not been part of recent federal or state stimulus packages. They also do not qualify for benefits like unemployment.

The UndocuFund money doesn't provide solutions for everything the economic downturn has caused, Cadenas acknowledges, but it is more than what undocumented workers were getting before. "While our contribution is not enough to address the need in our communities, we are honored that we could do this much," she said.

SCCV noted that the Monterey Bay area has the highest concentration of undocumented people in California (tying with Santa Barbara) at an estimated 12.5 percent of the population. The statement also cites findings from UC Merced researchers showing undocumented Californians are among the hardest hit by the pandemic when it comes to job loss and recovery.

"We're grateful for our donors and philanthropic partners," Cadenas said. "The need is great, which is why we also ask our legislators to find a way to provide an income replacement safety net programs for all workers."

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### [Marielle Argueza](#)

Marielle Argueza is a staff writer and calendar editor for the Weekly. She covers education, immigration and culture. Additionally, she covers the areas of Marina and South County. She occasionally writes about food and runs the internship program.

**From:** Kirk Ance <KirkA@cbridges.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Ray Cancino <RaymonC@cbridges.org>  
**Cc:** Amy Hanley <AmyH@cbridges.org>  
**Subject:** Lift Line Driver Jesus on Spanish News ~ Fires

Hi Ray,

Lift Line driver Jesus Reyes on Spanish news (1.32).

On Friday August 23, 2020 Jesus was dispatched for an evacuation pickup of two seniors of which one could not walk. The pickup locations was at Ace Hardware located at 9470 Highway 9 in Ben Lomond.

When Jesus got to Felton he was stopped due to Highway 9 being closed by law enforcement as well as Glen Arbor Road a potential back way from what I understood. Not being able to pass Jesus contacted Lift Line dispatcher Sobeida Sanchez, whom in turn was able to advice the two stranded residence whom tried to wave down firefighters but were not seen, to call 911 in which they did and the sheriff was able to go up and get the two and bring them down to Felton where the Lift Line bus was waiting. Jesus then transported the two to the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium shelter. Both clients were very happy they were evacuated out of that situation and into safety.

[https://youtu.be/ZEtclm\\_oasw](https://youtu.be/ZEtclm_oasw)



Kirk Ance ([pronouns he/him/his](#))  
Program Director, Lift Line  
545 Ohlone Parkway  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
P| 831.688.8840 x238 F | 831.688.8302

*Providing 80,000 door-to-door rides a year to seniors and people with disabilities; allowing theses Central Coast residents to maintain their independence. Lift Line is part of the Community Bridges family of programs.*



## NEWS

# Community Foundation Aids Farmworkers During Crisis

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROVIDES FARMWORKERS WITH MONTHLY RENT CHECKS

WORKERS SPREAD OUT ACROSS A FARM ON SAN ANDREAS ROAD IN WATSONVILLE DURING A RECENT STRAWBERRY HARVEST. PHOTO: TARMO HANNULA

BY **JOHANNA MILLER**

POSTED ON AUGUST 24, 2020

With a continuing housing crisis on the horizon due to Covid-19, residents from nearly every background and region of the county are facing dire straits.

But perhaps the hardest hit have been farmworkers—many of whom were struggling long before the pandemic hit.

“[Farmworkers] are making little to no money, which means they can’t pay rent, they can’t buy food and on top of this, some are afraid of being deported,” said Ann López, executive director of the Center for Farmworker Families. “The coronavirus pandemic has created panic in this community.”

The Center for Farmworker Families is one of many organizations that have recently been aided by the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County's (CFSCC) [Covid-19 Relief Fund](#). As of Aug. 19, the foundation has awarded a total of \$8.1 million in grants, with 100% of the money going directly into the community.

"The virus has devastated this county," said foundation CEO Susan True. "We are honored to be in a position to help."

In South County, CFSCC has been focusing on those who cannot access unemployment or federal CARES Act funding. Many farmworkers are in that position, True said. On top of that, they are more susceptible to getting sick, as many live in close quarters and carpool to work.

The foundation has partnered with a number of donors, both groups and individuals, to award workers with monthly rent checks, as well as provide them with resources and access to community services.

"What I've noticed is that a lot of these people have never asked for help before," True said. "They are hardworking individuals with multiple jobs. But especially in the past few years, they have been afraid to ask for support."

Other organizations that have been working with CFSCC to help farmworkers include Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Monarch Services, the Community Action Board, Community Bridges, Catholic Charities, Second Harvest Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes, and more.

"It has become a true network of volunteers, banding together to make sure the need is met," True said.

López expressed her gratitude for CFSCC and everyone who has helped her clients during this difficult time.

"All the joy and relief I've seen on people's faces ... the fact they're going to make it another month without worrying about rent. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart," she said.

This month, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved a [temporary eviction moratorium](#) in unincorporated parts of the county through Sept. 30. The decision came less than a week after the Judicial Council of California voted to end the statewide eviction moratorium by Sept. 1.

The Watsonville City Council will also weigh an eviction moratorium at its [Aug. 25 meeting](#).

True said that the foundation is “very concerned” about future evictions and is keeping a close eye on the situation—especially in Watsonville, which has the **highest share of coronavirus cases** and the highest unemployment rate.

“None of us know what will happen,” True said. “We don’t know about the long term right now. We’re just trying to bring people together and fill in the gaps.”

According to True, the majority of funding for the Covid-19 Relief Grants comes from everyday residents. More than \$2.5 million has been donated by individuals and families.

“I think that goes to show the generosity of this community,” she said. “We’re only able to do what we do because of everyone working together.”

<https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/community-foundation-aids-farmworkers-during-crisis/>

# Santa Cruz's Main, Cowell beaches to close for Labor Day weekend

City joins county coronavirus-related plan, affirms beach area vendor ban



Visitors to Santa Cruz Cowell Beach plant themselves on the sand during the last beach closure in May as part of act of civil disobedience. (Santa Cruz Sentinel — Jessica A. York file)

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By **JESSICA A. YORK** | [jjork@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:jjork@santacruzsentinel.com) | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: August 25, 2020 at 4:47 p.m. | UPDATED: August 26, 2020 at 6:10 p.m.

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SANTA CRUZ — Main and Cowell beaches have been added to the list of those shuttered for the upcoming Labor Day weekend.

Mirroring an emergency order enacted last week by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, the Santa Cruz City Council voted Tuesday to close its city-run beaches in response to coronavirus-related concerns. The action was taken without comment, as a package of uncontroversial agenda action items. Focus was drawn from the pandemic to an issue looming large Tuesday: The council also voted to declare a state of emergency related to the CZU August Lightning Complex fire.

“Despite warnings, local beaches remain an attractive spot for congestion, particularly for young people, who have also been experiencing the greatest increase in positive cases,” a report to the council from City Manager Martín Bernal states.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Santa Cruz County was reporting 1,698 COVID-19 infections, of which nearly 74% of which remained active. The countywide COVID-19 death toll has risen to seven confirmed cases, down from eight deaths reported earlier this month. According to County Public Health spokeswoman Corinne Hyland, one of the coronavirus-related deaths in the county included a resident of Mexico, and the county information dashboard only includes local residents in its tally. County officials updated it statistics after receiving the individual’s death certificate, she said.

The beach closures will run from 5 a.m. Sept. 5 until 5 p.m. Sept. 7, with exceptions for public use from 4 to 8 p.m. on that Saturday and Sunday. As with previous beach closures, beach users may traverse the sand during the closure period to participate in water activities, while activities such as sunbathing and beach strolling are off-limits.

## **Public weighs in**

City resident Wendy King wrote to the council, urging it to establish the temporary beach closures and put “public health before business interests.”

“Learning from July 4th, if the beaches are open, the crowds will come and the virus will spike,” King wrote. “And if only some beaches are open — You know the crowds will come. Let’s have a uniform public health approach around Monterey Bay, or at very least, within Santa Cruz County.”

Meanwhile, Karsten Mueller disagreed with the city plan.

“Our beaches have had tens of thousands of visitors over the past several weeks with no health issues,” Mueller wrote to the council. “Indeed, our beaches and parks are critical for the mental and physical health of our community.”

While the city’s order applies only to the two it controls — Main and Cowell beaches — it is likely to be part of a countywide closure for the holiday weekend, said city spokeswoman Elizabeth Smith.

“There is a regional approach coordinated with both Monterey and Santa Cruz counties

Capitola City Manager Jamie Goldstein told the Sentinel that the Capitola City Council will consider an identical beach closure plan Thursday.

## **Street vending plan**

Separately, the council ratified an emergency order made by Bernal this month to ban sidewalk and beach vending on Beach Street, West Cliff Drive and the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf through Oct. 1. After hearing from a series of speakers lambasting the order for its alleged racist and classist overtones, the council directed Bernal to move forward in its plans to meet with Community Bridges representatives as an advocate for the largely Spanish-speaking beachside vendors.

Asked why the city was focusing its COVID-19-related enforcement concerns on this one group while others appeared to flout health social distancing mandates elsewhere, Bernal responded that code enforcement is primarily complaint-based and that numerous efforts to keep vendors and the public spaced apart were unsuccessful. Councilwoman Sandy Brown, who voted against ratifying the emergency order, questioned city actions, including issuing the vendor-ban order only in English and why it had been extended to the more spacious beach sands.

Bernal said that it is state law for the city to allow street vending, and that his staff is working on crafting updated rules that are more equitable for all.

“They’re actually not encouraging tourism right now and we’ve asked individuals who are visiting to leave the county because of the fire, as well as we’ll be looking at closing the beaches during Labor Day weekend,” Bernal said. “Right now, there really isn’t advisable to encourage a lot of this activity at the beach right now, that’s another consideration.”

# Coast Line: Foundation fund to aid fire victims

By **DONALD FUKUI** | [dfukui@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:dfukui@santacruzsentinel.com) | Santa Cruz Sentinel  
August 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

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## SANTA CRUZ

### Foundation fund to aid fire victims

Community Foundation Santa Cruz County created the Fire Response Fund to get community donations to trusted local nonprofit organizations supporting families most affected by the disaster, according to a release from the organization.

To learn about how your tax-deductible donation can support the needs of displaced residents and fire victims, visit [cfsc.org/fire](http://cfsc.org/fire).

*If you have a news event or announcement for Coast Lines, email [newsroom@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:newsroom@santacruzsentinel.com) and place "Coast Lines" in the email subject line. Coast Lines items are run at no charge. Please include contact information for questions. Information: 831-706-3252 Tuesdays to Saturdays.*



Members of the National Guard help load cars with bags of food in March at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds as part of the Second Harvest Food Bank food distribution. — Tarmo Hannula/The Pajaronian

Local News

# Covid-19, fires taxing service providers

By: **TODD GUILD** August 28, 2020

0 98

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**—The CZU August Lightning Complex fires have so far destroyed more than 500 homes and forced 77,000 people to evacuate from their community. Those people have flooded evacuation centers throughout the county.

That, coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic that has upended the economy and caused thousands to lose their jobs, has posed a particular challenge for the organizations tasked with keeping people on their feet in times of crisis.

This includes Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) and Community Bridges, both of which are headquartered in Watsonville.

SHFB normally provides parcels of food for hungry people to be cooked at home, but has had to shift that focus to help displaced people that do not have access to a kitchen.

The food bank therefore is trying to provide readily consumable, “grab-and-go” food such as peanut butter, crackers and tuna with pop-tops, said SHFB Chief Development Officer Suzanne Willis.

“The nature of food need has changed rapidly with these rapid evacuations,” Willis said. “Our community is so generous, and so many people have been displaced and it’s one more stressor on people who have already been stressed. This is one more thing that nobody could really have been prepared for.”

To make matters worse, the U.S. National Guard members that had been assigned to help meet the food bank’s increased activity during the Covid-19 pandemic have been reassigned to help with fire suppression efforts, Willis said. In addition, many citizen volunteers wary of working during the pandemic—and in the smoky conditions—have stopped helping during the busy Friday food distribution.

That trouble was eased somewhat by a team of last-minute volunteers mobilized by Twin Lakes Church, Willis said.

“We had amazing support from the people from Twin Lakes,” she said. “The community is willing to support us, and we really need that support at our Friday drive-thru distribution.”

Still, the food bank is always looking for volunteers, Willis said.

“It’s just a big challenge,” she said.

It is still too early to tell how the evacuations will affect the food bank, Willis said, since six agencies located in the evacuated area that distribute food have temporarily closed. In fact, the numbers during the weekly distribution at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds on Friday were unchanged. But she pointed out that distribution took place alongside a village of evacuees.

## **Rebuilding process**

Community Bridges CEO Ray Cancino said that the organization is continuing its [services](#) during the crises, although Covid-19 has made employees more fearful of working around large numbers of people.

Now, with the fire compounding the crisis caused by Covid-19, the organization is looking to bolster its team of caseworkers who will be tasked with helping the displaced residents get back on their feet.

“This is a huge incident response,” Cancino said. “70,000 people have been displaced in our community, many of which not only have been evacuated, but then we’re not even talking about all the thousands of people that lost their jobs or have not been able to work since being evacuated.

“There is a huge economic impact that this is going to have, that we don’t have the resources to address,” he said.

While Community Bridges has been working with the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County to get some financial help for the recovery effort, residents were already falling behind on their rent due to the pandemic, Cancino said.

“This is gonna be just an additional pressure,” he said. “We’re just trying to do the best we can and get the resources that we need to be able to address all the community needs that we’re seeing across the county.”

The organization also runs Mountain Community Resources in Felton, which Cancino describes as “the heart of all our services up in the valley and the mountains.”

The center is normally used to help low-income residents of the San Lorenzo Valley and the mountain communities with such services as food and family nutrition and case management. But because it lies in an evacuated area, it is only being used as a post for a local Community Emergency Response Team, and by a group of ham radio operators.

The center also provides supplies such as tents and sleeping bags for homeless people, a resource that is now being diverted to evacuees, Cancino said.

Community Bridges is now working with the County of Santa Cruz to be able to provide large donations of supplies.

Many clients, Cancino said, are asking for help filling out forms to receive financial help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a number he said will continue to increase.

“We’ve been working to address the needs as they come up, and as people experiencing this crisis are informing us about what they need,” he said.



*The CZU August Lightning Complex fires reduced this neighborhood on Fallen Leaf Drive north of Boulder Creek to a charred landscape. — Tarmo Hannula/The Pajaronian*

Like many firefighters who are battling the CZU fire, Cancino predicts that Scotts Valley and other evacuation sites will take a long time to repopulate. Until then, he said, many people who were already dealing with economic

troubles will need ongoing help.

“We know that once things open up, the most vulnerable people we’re going to have to address are the people living up in the mountains of San Lorenzo Valley, Felton, Boulder Creek, Ben Lomond,” he said. “It was already a very rural, marginalized part of the county with limited resources, and the community is going to look to us to help them rebuild.”

Cancino tipped his hat to Community Bridges employees, and to the county residents at large, for the overarching response to the dual crises.

“It’s been beautiful to see the community come together,” he said. “I’ve had our staff working basically 10-12 hours a day, seven days a week since the start of the incident, trying to meet the needs of the most impacted.”

### **Feeding community**

Second Harvest Food Bank hosts a Friday drive-thru through food distribution runs from 9am–1pm, alternating between the Santa Cruz County Fair Grounds in Watsonville and the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk in Santa Cruz.

Anyone who has been evacuated, or is hosting family or friends who have been evacuated, can get food assistance at the distributions.

Residents of Santa Cruz County with an ID or proof of residency are eligible. A representative of each family must attend.

Distributions schedule:

- Aug. 28: Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
- Sept. 4: Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
- Sept. 11: Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
- Sept. 18: Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds
- Sept. 25: Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

To Make a donation to Second Harvest Food Bank, or to volunteer, visit [thefoodbank.org/volunteer](https://thefoodbank.org/volunteer), call 662-0991 or email [foodhotline@thefoodbank.org](mailto:foodhotline@thefoodbank.org)

To make a donation to Community Bridges, visit [communitybridges.org](https://communitybridges.org) or call 688-8840.



## REACCIONAN ANTE ABUSO A VENDEDORES AMBULANTES EN SANTA CRUZ

08/03/2020 5:23 PM

(NOTICIAS YA).- (NOTICIAS COSTA CENTRAL).-La comunidad de Santa Cruz ha reaccionado ante el incidente ocurrido en un lugar turístico de la región donde se desató tremenda disputa entre comerciantes

Según se indica en la redes sociales la disputa ocurrió en el centro del Boardwalk de Santacruz. Versiones dicen propietarios de alguno restaurantes agredieron física y verbalmente a vendedores ambulantes diciéndoles inmigrantes ilegales

La hija de una de las vendedores ambulantes dice que un señor vino a alegar con su mamá a decirle cosas discriminatorias. Empujo a su madre, y después tiró los carritos de perros calientes al suelo.

El incidente ocurrió alrededor de las 5:30 de la tarde el sábado. Según dicen las versiones negociantes de la pizzería de la playa y el Falafel tumbaron los carrito de perros de la señora Linda. La empujaron y la llamaron ilegal; ella intentó defenderse

Residentes de Santa Cruz que observaron lo ocurrido dicen que no es la primera vez que esto ocurre en varias ocasiones han escupido sus carritos para que la comida no se venda.

El jefe de policía de Santa Cruz dice que realizaron una investigación de lo ocurrido y están recolectando pruebas.

Todo vendedor callejero debe tener un permiso y al parecer los vendedores tenían esos permisos, pero quizás no tenían autorización para distribuir comida porque el departamento de salud del condado debe emitir esos permisos. Sin embargo el jefe dice no tolerarán estas disputas. No considera que sea un crimen de odio por qué tendría que ser el odio la razón principal de la pelea.

El director ejecutivo de Puentes de la Comunidad denuncia estos hechos diciendo que es una situación bastante triste y no entiende porque las personas deben preguntar sobre el estatus legal de los residentes para discriminarlos. Él dice que el condado de Santa Cruz no es un lugar para tener esta clase de incidentes; cada quien merece respeto y oportunidades.

Por ahora se ha establecido una cuenta GoFundme para ayudar a la dueña de los carritos a recuperar sus pérdidas.

## OPINIONCOMMENTARY

# Guest Commentary | Through fire, we are still standing

By **SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL** |

August 30, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

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By Susan True

The coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, has evolved for resilience. Redwoods don't have the highly flammable pitch or resin of pine trees. Their bark can grow up to one foot thick—protecting them from fire. Like many of you, I breathed a deep sigh of relief when I heard that some of the oldest trees with the thickest bark, including the ones known as the Mother and Father of the forest at Big Basin, are still alive and standing.

Our community's generosity is the thick bark protecting us from the simultaneous disasters of the wildfire and COVID-19. A few days into the fire, nearly 1 in 4 of us in the county had been displaced and hundreds of homes had burned. Our struggles continue with the fallout of COVID-19 and lost wages, unemployment, business closures, illness, and distance learning. Still, we stand together. Santa Cruz County shows up to protect and give with unfathomable strength and love—neighbors helping neighbors.

The moment evacuations began, Community Foundation Santa Cruz County started the Fire Response Fund to assist in the response and recovery. Your support was immediate and inspired. You are fundraising through sales of cookies, T-shirts and artwork. You are dancing on TikTok and organizing benefit concerts. Donations have even been given by fire victims and evacuees—concern for community well-being still reflexive as their own lives are destabilized. People have made gifts from across the country because our forests, coast and mountain mean something special.

When a disaster strikes, the focus is understandably on immediate relief, while the recovery and rebuilding process takes years. We know significant long-term needs will persist as residents rebuild lives and livelihoods. Donations are already at work powering the response of frontline nonprofits. A grant to Volunteer Center upgraded their systems so they can now mobilize 1,000 volunteer shifts a day. Valley Churches United is able to help people like the Boulder Creek senior, living out of her car, find adequate temporary housing. Gas cards have offered a simple solution to evacuees marooned without a paycheck to draw from. The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Foundation can ensure animals get the vet care to soothe their wounds. Davenport Resource Service Center and Mountain Community Resources helped with safe evacuations and supplies for seniors and the very isolated.

Disasters are chaotic, but the response should not be. With 38 years of experience in philanthropy we know how to make strategic, thoughtful and impactful grants. Since our founding in the wake of the disastrous floods of 1982, we've given \$110 million to local organizations addressing issues such as housing, hunger, education, economic well-being, arts and culture, and mental health.

Long after media attention shifts away from our community, we will still be here. Standing tall. Together. The Foundation will be here, supporting nonprofits providing direct services to those with the greatest need. We rely on our most trusted local organizations to effectively use every donation. We also forge new partnerships that meet the challenge of this very important moment. When the recovery reveals uneven results, we can be there with resources for those left behind. Our neighbors don't let each other fall through the cracks.

Redwood trees rely on each other for support. Roots only go down 6 to 12 feet, but they can extend 100 feet away from the tree's base. The floor of a redwood forest is an intertwined network of roots, holding on to each other to increase their stability. Like the deep sigh of relief I breathed at the news that the Big Basin redwoods still stand, I feel that relief in the way that we hold on to each other, Santa Cruz County. Together, we'll stay rooted in our love for community, our protective layer of generosity wrapping us in resiliency and hope. We may be scarred, but we will stay standing, and we will grow stronger together.

*Susan True is the CEO of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County. Donors can give to the Fire Response Fund at [www.cfsc.org/fire](http://www.cfsc.org/fire).*

HOW YOU ARE HELPING

## Fire Response Fund Grants

*Photo credit: Shmuel Thaler*

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors – Fire Response Fund Grants

Thank you for supporting our community as we recover from the CZU Lightning Complex Fire.

In these early days of rebuilding, we are working with our nonprofit partners to directly assess emergent needs of those who have lost their homes and are

struggling with displacement. We are coordinating with county leaders to ensure that we maximize public relief resources.

We anticipate that the short and long term needs will be extensive. 100% of the Fire Response Funds go to our community.

**TOGETHER, WE WILL REBUILD AND HEAL OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY.**

**Initial grants have been made to:**

**Boulder Creek Volunteer Fire Department** for their emergency services.

**Campesino Appreciation Caravan** for N95 masks for farmworkers due to poor air quality.

**Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey** to support fire victims and evacuees with critical needs and direct emergency financial assistance.

**Davenport Resource Service Center** (a program of **Community Action Board**) to support fire victims and evacuees with critical needs, direct emergency financial assistance, and case management.

**Mountain Community Resources** (a program of **Community Bridges**) to support fire victims and evacuees with critical needs, direct emergency financial assistance, and case management.

**Office of Emergency Services Santa Cruz County** for emergency gas cards for evacuees.

**Santa Cruz Education Foundation** to support fire victims and evacuees with direct financial assistance.

**Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter Foundation** to care for evacuated animals.

**Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds Association** for onsite improvements to aid conditions for evacuees.

**Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County** to purchase additional healthy shelf stable fruits, vegetables, and food for fire evacuees.

**United Policyholders** for their Roadmap to Recovery Program for households impacted by the fires. To work with families in coordination with community partners to navigate the long term recovery.

**Valley Churches United** to support fire victims and evacuees with critical needs and direct emergency financial assistance.

**Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County** to support coordination of shelter volunteers.

*This page will be regularly updated.*

## **Want to Share Your Nonprofit's Fire Response Needs?**

Grants from the Fire Response Fund are being made proactively, as we listen in to evolving needs identified by key partners, disaster response coordinators, and local leaders. While we are not offering an application process for Fire Response Fund grants, we want to stay in tune with needs as you see them from your nonprofit's perspective.

We won't be able to provide funding to everyone who needs it. However, we hope this will give us a better understanding of the most urgent challenges affecting our most vulnerable people. This will help us prioritize deploying resources to where the need is greatest.

Please complete [this short survey](#) on behalf of your organization. It's a living document, so feel free to complete it again whenever responses need updating. Completion of the survey should not be considered a request for funding. If we see an opportunity to support the work you're doing from the Fire Response Fund, we will contact you directly to learn more.



**CORONAVIRUS**

## Double Whammy of Covid-19, Fires Strain Social Service Providers

Local groups adapt to rapidly meet need amid dual ongoing crises

DAMAGE FROM THE CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRE ON SUMMIT DRIVE OFF HIGHWAY 9 NORTH OF BOULDER CREEK. PHOTO: TARMO HANNULA

BY **TODD GUILD**

POSTED ON AUGUST 31, 2020

The CZU Lightning Complex fire has so far destroyed [more than 800 homes](#) and, at its peak, forced some 77,000 people to evacuate from their communities. Those people flooded evacuation centers throughout the county.

The [destruction and displacement from the fire](#), coupled with the [Covid-19 pandemic](#) that has upended the economy, have posed a particular challenge for the organizations tasked with keeping people on their feet in times of crisis.

This includes Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) and Community Bridges, both of which are headquartered in Watsonville.

SHFB normally provides parcels of food for hungry people to be cooked at home, but it has had to shift that focus to help displaced people who do not have access to a kitchen.

The food bank therefore is trying to provide readily consumable, “grab-and-go” food such as peanut butter, crackers and tuna with pop-tops, said SHFB Chief Development Officer Suzanne Willis.

“The nature of food need has changed rapidly with these rapid evacuations,” Willis said. “Our community is so generous. So many people have been displaced, and it’s one more stressor on people who have already been stressed. This is one more thing that nobody could really have been prepared for.”

To make matters worse, the U.S. National Guard members that had been assigned to help meet the food bank’s increased activity during the Covid-19 pandemic have been reassigned to help with fire suppression efforts, Willis said. In addition, many citizen volunteers wary of working during the pandemic—and in the smoky conditions—have stopped helping during the busy Friday food distribution.

That trouble was eased somewhat by a team of last-minute volunteers mobilized by Twin Lakes Church, Willis said.

“We had amazing support from the people from Twin Lakes,” she said. “The community is willing to support us, and we really need that support at our Friday drive-thru distribution.”

Still, the food bank is always looking for volunteers, Willis said. “It’s just a big challenge,” she said.

It is still too early to tell how the evacuations will affect the food bank, Willis said, since six agencies located in the evacuated area that distribute food have temporarily closed. In fact, the numbers during the weekly distribution at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds on Friday were unchanged. But she pointed out that distribution took place alongside a village of evacuees.

## REBUILDING PROCESS

Community Bridges CEO Ray Cancino said that the organization is continuing its services during the crises, although Covid-19 has made employees more fearful of working around large numbers of people.

Now, with the fire compounding the crisis caused by Covid-19, the organization is looking to bolster its team of caseworkers who will be tasked with helping the displaced residents get back on their feet.

“This is a huge incident response,” Cancino said. He added that on top of the tens of thousands of people [displaced locally](#) by fire, there are “the thousands of people that lost their jobs or have not been able to work since being evacuated.”

“There is a huge economic impact that this is going to have, that we don’t have the resources to address,” he said.

While Community Bridges has been working with the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County to get some financial help for the recovery effort, residents were already falling [behind on their rent due to the pandemic](#), Cancino said.

“This is going to be just an additional pressure,” he said. “We’re just trying to do the best we can and get the resources that we need to be able to address all the community needs that we’re seeing across the county.”

The organization runs Mountain Community Resources in Felton, which Cancino describes as “the heart of all our services up in the valley and the mountains.”

The center is normally used to help low-income residents of the San Lorenzo Valley and the mountain communities with such services as food and family nutrition and case management. But because it lies in an evacuated area, it is only being used as a post for a local Community Emergency Response Team and by a group of ham radio operators.

The center also provides supplies such as tents and sleeping bags for [homeless people](#), a resource that is now being diverted to evacuees, Cancino said.

Community Bridges is now working with the Santa Cruz County to be able to provide large donations of supplies.

Many clients, Cancino said, are asking for help filling out forms to receive financial help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a number that he said will continue to increase.

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the county with limited resources, and the community is going to look to us to help them rebuild.”

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*To make a donation to Second Harvest Food Bank, or to volunteer, visit [thefoodbank.org/volunteer](https://thefoodbank.org/volunteer), call 831-662-0991 or email [foodhotline@thefoodbank.org](mailto:foodhotline@thefoodbank.org). To make a donation to Community Bridges, visit [communitybridges.org](https://communitybridges.org) or call 831-688-8840.*

<https://goodtimes.sc/santa-cruz-news/covid-19-fires-strain-social-service-providers/>



# Working Together to **RETURN THE FAVOR**

The Credit Union recently donated \$40,000 to many non-profit organizations in our community. And we're asking you to join us **RETURN THE FAVOR** by donating to one or more of the organizations below. (**NOTE:** Be sure to say **RETURN THE FAVOR** in the note when you donate online or on your check.)

If you aren't able to donate money at this time, consider volunteering.

[Check here for volunteer opportunities.](#)

## **SHARE** how you're helping our community with us!

Post on one of our social sites:



[Community Action Board](#)

[Community Bridges](#)  
[Court Appointed Special Advocates \(CASA\)](#)  
[DigitalNEST](#)

[Diversity Center](#)  
[El Pajaro CDC](#)  
[Girls, Inc. of the Central Coast](#)  
[Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay](#)

[Homeless Garden Project](#)  
[PV Shelter Services](#)  
[Santa Cruz Volunteer Center](#)

[Save Our Shores](#)  
[Second Harvest Food Bank](#)  
[United Way of Santa Cruz County](#)

[Valley Churches United Missions](#)  
[Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center](#)  
[Watsonville Wetlands Watch](#)

## **Community Action Board (CAB)**

CAB's mission is to partner with the community to eliminate poverty and create social change through advocacy and essential services. They are on the front line every day

helping those who need help in our community.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

## Community Bridges

Community Bridges delivers fundamental resources for the people of Santa Cruz County. Their programs give community members access to transportation, healthy food, health care, senior adult day health care and other support services needed.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

## Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

CASA of Santa Cruz County recruits, screens, trains and supervises volunteers to act on behalf of children in the juvenile dependency court system. They review records, research information, and talk to anyone involved with the child, including parents, extended family members, doctors and teachers.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

## DigitalNEST

DigitalNEST connects youth to a skill-building community that transforms them into professionals who can create successful careers, innovative solutions, and prosperous communities.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

## Diversity Center

The Diversity Center was founded in 1989 to advance the causes and priorities of the lesbian and gay community in Santa Cruz County. It is only LGBTQ+ Community Center on the Central Coast of California.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

## El Pajaro Community Development Corporation

El Pajaro CDC promotes equal access to economic opportunity and helps to transform people's lives through entrepreneurship. They have successfully assisted hundreds of small businesses with technical assistance, loan application and packaging, business plans, marketing, management, and business technology applications.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# Girls Inc. of the Central Coast

Girls Inc. of the Central Coast® is an affiliate of Girls Incorporated, a national organization that has been providing programs for girls (ages 8-18) since 1864 in the United States and Canada. They inspire girls to pursue post-secondary education, develop leadership and decision-making skills, serve their communities, and acquire the ability and wisdom to lead healthy lifestyles.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay

Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay is an independent, locally operated and funded affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. They are committed to building decent, affordable homes and provide home ownership opportunities to qualified families who live and work in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# Homeless Garden Project

The Homeless Garden Project provides job training, transitional employment and support services to individuals in Santa Cruz who are experiencing homelessness.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# PV Shelter Services

Pajaro Valley Shelter Services provides families with a path to stable, self-sufficient futures through short- and longer-term housing and supportive services. Your donation provides those in need with shelter, food, clothing and other services.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# Santa Cruz Volunteer Center

The Santa Cruz Volunteer Center is a "one-stop shop" to connect people with volunteer opportunities on the web, by phone or in person via their match-making appointments.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#) | [FIND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

# Save Our Shores

From policy change to educational programs, Save Our Shores ensures ocean conservation throughout the community. They provide programs designed to support the foundations of a thriving Monterey Bay: clean shores, healthy habitats, and living waters.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# Second Harvest Food Bank

In Santa Cruz County, 1 in 5 people face hunger in Santa Cruz County. For children it's 1 in 4. The Second Harvest Food Bank works hard to feed people who need food now and advocate for policies that tackle the root causes of hunger.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# United Way of Santa Cruz County

The United Way of Santa Cruz County is focused on improving the lives of youth and families in Santa Cruz County by uniting to address the basic needs of education, health, and financial stability. They partner with donors, volunteers, advocates, governments, other nonprofits, and people who are committed to making our community the best it can be.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# Valley Churches United Missions

Valley Churches United is a volunteer-powered, donor-supported non-profit agency providing assistance to low-income residents in need. They serve San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley, and Bonny Doon.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center

For over 85 years, the Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center has provided support and services to improve the quality of life for women, children, and families in Santa Cruz County. They provide an Early Education Center, Services for Children & Youth, Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Family Support Services, and Community Engagement. Many participants of the center come from underserved populations due to poverty, early pregnancy, homelessness, and/or domestic violence.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

# Watsonville Wetlands Watch

Watsonville Wetlands Watch advocates for wetland issues, educates local students, restores degraded habitats, preserves what remains whole, and teaches appreciation for the unique beauty and life of the Pajaro Valley wetlands.

[LEARN MORE](#) | [DONATE](#)

**NOTE:** Be sure to say **RETURN THE FAVOR** in the note when you donate online or on your check.

# How to Help People Displaced By Fires

written by See Below September 1, 2020



## Community Foundation Awards \$400,000+ in COVID grants

*By Kevin Heuer*

As the CZU Lightning Complex Fires burn in northern Santa Cruz County, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to deepen economic instability for thousands across the county and infect people daily. Virus transmission concerns are elevated as nearly 1 in 4 county residents have sought temporary shelter due to evacuation orders.

In the seventh month of the pandemic, needs related to COVID-19 show no sign of abatement. Thanks to community donors, the Community Foundation responded with \$435,562 in grants this week to support nonprofit partners providing emergency financial, food, and rental assistance for September. In addition, the Foundation has released \$233,500 in the first week of responding to fires.

"We are now dealing with twin disasters," said Community Foundation CEO Susan True. "As our neighbors manage economic distress, fear, disruption and chaos in their lives, it is the care of our donors, nonprofits, businesses — all of us that will help Santa Cruz County navigate this incredibly difficult time. We lean on each other."

Since the announcement of school closures on March 13, the Community Foundation has given out a total of \$8.5 million in response grants — including \$5.5 million from donors with donor advised giving accounts at the Aptos-based nonprofit. Grant-making continues to prioritize those already disadvantaged by inequities: low-wage essential workers, frail seniors, undocumented families, and people with severe illness. Grantee partners include Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Center for Farmworker Families, Grey Bears, and Housing Matters.

"The requests for help we've gotten since March have been staggering," said Roxanne Moore, program director for Community Bridges, including Mountain Community Resources, which serves the hard-hit San Lorenzo Valley.



*Volunteers are needed by the nonprofit Grey Bears to pack food for those in need. • Photo Credit: Grey Bears*

relief takes the forefront. But national attention will fade and long-term needs will remain. The Community Foundation will still be here raising money and making grants to rebuild a stronger, more resilient Santa Cruz County. We are so grateful to everyone who has chosen to partner with the Community Foundation as we invest in long-term solutions and help those left behind by other aid programs."

A full list of COVID-19 grants is available at: [www.cfsc.org/covidgrants](http://www.cfsc.org/covidgrants)

A list of Fire Response grants is available at: [www.cfsc.org/firegrants](http://www.cfsc.org/firegrants)

**"We're overwhelmed and grateful for the thousands generous donations to the Fire Response Fund which have come in from all over California and across the nation. In a time when people are already stretched financially from the COVID-19 pandemic, folks are coming together. It's this spirit of kindness that gives me hope that we will be able to rebuild and heal our beloved community, together."**

*— Susan True*

"The cutbacks in hours and layoffs mean people can't pay the rent, the utility bill, the cell phone bill or even the grocery bill," she said. "We've been able to be there for those families, first for the pandemic, and now in response to the fires. From day one, the support and trust from the Community Foundation has been critical to our ability to get needs met."

True said, "We're in this for the long haul."

She added, "Recovery from COVID-19 and the fires will take years. When a disaster strikes, immediate

## How to Give to the COVID-19 Local Response Fund or Fire Response Fund

Tax-deductible donations, in any amount, can be made at the following:

- COVID-19 Response Fund: [www.cfsc.org/donate/COVID](http://www.cfsc.org/donate/COVID).
- Fire Response Fund: [www.cfsc.org/fire](http://www.cfsc.org/fire)

Gifts to each fund will be accepted as long as the need continues. The funds will provide financial support for Santa Cruz County organizations on the front line of COVID-19 and fire response. Contact the Community Foundation at (831) 662-2061 or [info@cfsc.org](mailto:info@cfsc.org) for help making a donation.

Visit [www.cfsc.org/updates/fire-response-fund-grants](http://www.cfsc.org/updates/fire-response-fund-grants) to learn how your donations are helping.



### Actions To Take

#### 1. GIVE SUPPLIES

The County of Santa Cruz is coordinating and accepting donations at two sites Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Santa Cruz County Warehouse: 1082 Emeline, Santa Cruz

South County Donation Site: 114 Walker Street, Watsonville

View the County's Fire Resources website to view the items needed: [www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/FireResources.aspx](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/FireResources.aspx)

#### 2. DONATE TO THE FIRE RESPONSE FUND

Any donation size will help. Make an online donation here: [www.cfsc.org/donate/fire](http://www.cfsc.org/donate/fire)

100% of donors' gifts will be used for grantmaking. All donations are tax-deductible.

#### 3. VOLUNTEER

Volunteer at a Fire Shelter in Watsonville, Santa Cruz or Soquel: [scvolunteercenter.org/vc\\_blog/fire-safety-and-how-you-can-help/](http://scvolunteercenter.org/vc_blog/fire-safety-and-how-you-can-help/)

Learn about opportunities through the Volunteer Center: [scvolunteercenter.org/vc\\_blog/fire-safety-and-how-you-can-help/](http://scvolunteercenter.org/vc_blog/fire-safety-and-how-you-can-help/)

Help pack and distribute food with Second Harvest: [www.thefoodbank.org/volunteer/](http://www.thefoodbank.org/volunteer/)

Resources: The County's Fire Response website is the best location for current information: [www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/FireResources.aspx](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/FireResources.aspx)

#### **4. STAY INFORMED**

CAL Fire San Mateo–Santa Cruz Unit Latest evacuation orders and most up to date info is posted on their Twitter page: [twitter.com/CALFIRECZU](https://twitter.com/CALFIRECZU)

Map of fires and evacuations with zone: [storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f0121f7f2f0941afb3ed70529b2cee75](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f0121f7f2f0941afb3ed70529b2cee75)

List of road closures: [www.sccroadclosure.org/index.html](http://www.sccroadclosure.org/index.html)

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office: [www.facebook.com/SantaCruzSheriffsOffice/](https://www.facebook.com/SantaCruzSheriffsOffice/)

County of Santa Cruz Emergency Services: [twitter.com/sccounty](https://twitter.com/sccounty)

### **Help To Be Received**

#### **1. DIRECT AID**

Victims of the fire can start an application for federal aid at [disasterassistance.gov](http://disasterassistance.gov) or 1-800-621-3362.

American Red Cross: Call 1-866-272-2237 for assistance.

#### **2. SHELTER & PARKING SITES**

Map of current shelter & parking sites and occupancy on the Santa Cruz County website:

- In English <https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/FireResources.aspx>
- En Español <https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/FireResources/FireResourcesSpanish.aspx>

#### **3. FOOD**

Family Resource Calendar Food pantry, meal sites, crisis support, and healthcare. <http://craft-cfsc-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/AUGUST-Bilingual-Family-Resource-Calendar.pdf>

Need Food? Call the Community Food Hotline (831) 662-0991

#### **4. TRANSPORTATION**

Need a ride to an evacuation center or other safe destination in Santa Cruz County? Call Lift Line at (831) 688-9663

#### **5. MUTUAL AID**

Santa Cruz Fire Assistance & Resources Facebook group for mutual aid. Post what you need and what you can offer. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/santacruzcountyfireassistance/>

Santa Cruz County Fire Assistance Community organized mutual aid. Post what you need and what you can offer. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cw5alx8tNIWjpLN3XdhWSEqA7F3YMntk-GupPNcuJAs/htmlview#>

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*Kevin Heuer is director of engagement & impact at Community Foundation Santa Cruz County.*

**From:** Think Local First

**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 1:59:31 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

**To:** Community Bridges

**Subject:** SCCCUs RETURN THE FAVOR Community Giving



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## PRESS RELEASE

### Santa Cruz Community Credit Union's RETURN THE FAVOR Community Giving



#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Cruz, CA – Recently, the Santa Cruz Community Credit Union (SCCCU) Board of Directors approved the allocation of approximately \$40,000 to donate to local non-profit organizations.

“We’re thrilled to be able to give back to organizations in our community who continue to provide essential services to so many in need,” stated Beth Carr, CEO/President of SCCCUs. “It was difficult to determine where to distribute the funds because we have so many wonderful organizations in our community.”

The Credit Union donated funds to the following community non-profit

organizations: Pajaro Valley Shelter Services, Valley Churches United Missions, DigitalNEST, Santa Cruz Volunteer Center, Community Action Board, Community Bridges, Diversity Center, CASA, Homeless Garden Project, and Second Harvest Food Bank.

“We are now in a 2020 environment that seems beyond belief. But what our community is known for best is rising up in the face of diversity and helping others in need,” said Carr. “We’d like to encourage everyone to join us in donating your time or money to your favorite local nonprofit organization – even if you don’t see it listed on our website. We want to RETURN THE FAVOR so these organizations can continue to thrive and provide much-needed support to our community.”

You can easily donate to a community non-profit organization by visiting the Credit Union’s website at [www.scccu.org/support-it/return-the-favor](http://www.scccu.org/support-it/return-the-favor). You may write a check or use the DONATE button to give online to the organization of your choice. Just remember to write RETURN THE FAVOR on your check or in the notes for your online donation.

“If you’re unable to donate money right now, you can RETURN THE FAVOR in other ways. We’d love for you to use our social media channels to share ways you and your family are giving back to our community,” stated Carr.

To find ways to serve in our community, visit the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center website at [www.scvolunteercenter.org](http://www.scvolunteercenter.org). And then SHARE what you’re doing with through one of the Credit Union’s social media sites – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#).

“It’s time for us to stand together and help one another,” stated Carr. “Let’s reach out and unite to help those who need help so desperately right now.”

**For questions or more information, please contact:**

Dyann Meschi, Community Development Director  
Santa Cruz Community Credit Union  
[dyann.meschi@scccu.org](mailto:dyann.meschi@scccu.org) /831-460-2308

**Return the Favor - SCCCU Website**

**Visit the Volunteer Center Website**



[view email in browser](#)

## Santa Cruz Co. Sees More Hunger Amid Pandemic: Find A Food Bank

The coronavirus sent millions of Americans, including some in Santa Cruz County, into an economic tailspin felt at the dinner table.

By Courtney Teague, Patch Staff 

Sep 9, 2020 12:03 pm PT | Updated Sep 9, 2020 4:29 pm PT

[Reply](#)



Americans across the country are struggling with hunger during the pandemic. (Patch News Partner/Shutterstock)

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CA** — When you look around Santa Cruz County, it's easy to see the effects the coronavirus has had on our way of life. What's less visible is the number of people who are now worrying about having enough to eat.

Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief organization, says coronavirus-related economic crises could push the number of food insecure Americans to 54 million by year's end. That's 17 million more Americans than who were food insecure before the pandemic. For some, it's a matter of running short on grocery money before the week is out and eating a lot of boxed pasta and rice dishes.

For others, food insecurity means real hunger.

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In Santa Cruz County, about 10 percent of residents were considered food insecure before the pandemic, according to Feeding America's "[Map the Meal Gap](#)" interactive study.

Job loss and other economic crises associated with the coronavirus could push the rate of food insecurity in Santa Cruz County to nearly 16 percent by the end of the year.

Feeding America, whose 200 member food banks include Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County, reports both higher demand for services and more need for volunteer and donor support.

Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County [partner agencies](#) — such as Aptos Pantry, Live Oak Family Resource Center, Familia Center, Pajaro Valley Loaves & Fishes and Salud Para La Gente — also offer food services and others to local residents.

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RELATED: [Millions Made Hungry During Pandemic Could Include Your Neighbor](#)

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Food insecurity is often thought of as a "poor people's problem," but not all people living in poverty are food insecure, and not all food insecure people live in poverty. Food insecurity is a complex issue sandwiched in with other systemic challenges, including poverty, low wages, affordable housing shortages, chronic and acute health problems, high medical costs and social isolation.

"Our members are reporting that many of the people they're serving have [never sought food assistance before](#)," Kathryn Strickland, Feeding America's chief network officer, told Patch.

"Some people are reporting that people who formerly donated to food banks are now seeking assistance."

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Patch has partnered with Feeding America to help raise awareness on behalf of the millions of Americans facing hunger. Feeding America, which supports 200 food banks across the country, estimates that in 2020, more than 54 million Americans will not have enough nutritious food to eat due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. This is a Patch social good project; Feeding America receives 100 percent of donations. [Find out how you can donate in your community or find a food pantry near you.](#)