



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

September 15, 2020



MEETING ADVERSITY WITH RESILIENCE

Our county has seen its share of adversity this year and Community Bridges has been at the forefront of recovery efforts during the long months of the pandemic, as well as during the recent CZU Complex Fires. As San Lorenzo Valley was being evacuated Community Bridges staff were on site at Mountain Community Resources and at key community locations providing reliable information and direction to people in danger of losing their homes. We quickly mobilized our staff (many who worked throughout the weekend), purchased vital supplies and collaborated with partners such as [Central Coast Energy Services](#) to support the urgent needs of people at county evacuation centers. We understand that the crisis is not over for the 900 households that lost their homes in the fire, so we are building a mobile laundry van that will offer displaced persons access to a washer and dryer while they are in transitional spaces. Additionally our Family Resource Centers are providing assistance with disaster relief applications and direct financial assistance.

[Click here](#) for resources for fire victims and to find out how you can help with their recovery.

Online auction bidding is open this Saturday!

Only a few days left until the Farm to Fork "To-Go" online auction is open for bidding. We have items for every budget and interest!



Check out a few of our auction items below and [click here](#) to see the full list and sign up to bid.



Enjoy a private dinner party within your social bubble. Chef to the stars Jonathan Miller will create a custom menu and prepare a private dinner for you and up to nine of your closest friends!



Coffee of the month club! Enjoy twelve selections of the finest brewed coffees plus gift cards to local favorite coffee shops.



Ready to reconnect with your inner child? You can spend a week on Shel Silverstein's one-of-a-kind houseboat in Sausalito! This whimsical, nautical getaway also comes with recreation and dining passes.

Join us on Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 PM for a Facebook Live closing event! Engaging special guests - a Mystery Treasure Chest of prizes - and live auction updates! Just go to our Facebook page to join.

Do you follow us on social media?



Connect with us today for important program updates, insights into issues impacting our community and inspiration for a future of equality for all.

Client Stories

As a wheelchair bound amputee, Clara faces significant mobility and health challenges that make shopping and cooking for herself nearly impossible. Clara is among the 700 Meals on Wheels participants who are receiving **Listos, Get Ready** emergency preparedness training and among the 30 who also received a backpack of emergency supplies. Having received the training and a backpack of supplies ready to go made all the difference to Clara because two weeks later she was forced to evacuate her home due to the CZU Complex Fires. Clara was grateful for the knowledge and resources she received as it helped her face this devastating event. The training and



Ray's Corner



[Donate
Now](#)

STANDING STRONG THROUGH A CONVERGENCE OF CRISES

I've been thinking for several days where to begin to this month's article. I don't have a perfect message or a quick solution to offer to offset the impact that COVID-19 and the CZU Complex Fire have had on us all. Like many of you, I have been overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of the pain and challenges of meeting community needs during yet another crisis. I have felt overwhelmed at times by the gravity of the challenges to our community and the pain many of us are experiencing, such as the loss of homes, financial burdens from evacuation, fear of being unable to afford to continue to live in the area, instability of knowing if you can rebuild, or the apprehension of losing your home insurance.

Although meeting the community needs that have arisen from these crises has added a resource burden to Community Bridges, I am hopeful that we will continue to face adversity with great resilience, resolve and humility. As we work through these challenges, my coworkers and I will ensure we provide the best support, comfort and empathy to every community member who was affected as they seek our assistance and support.

These are unprecedented times—a massive once-in-a-century fire during a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. So don't underestimate the impact on yourself and your community. It has been hard for all of us.

We know that in the following months the demand for our services is only going to increase. This will cause some programs, already stretched thin, to need additional support. It will cause the demand for new programs to emerge, such as our Mobile Laundry Facility currently being built, which will be stationed throughout the San Lorenzo Valley on a weekly basis to meet community needs as fire victims get back on their feet.

While there are no easy solutions, the situation is not hopeless and we will make our way through these difficult times. I would like to thank our partners and community philanthropists who have already stepped up their

contributions to directly support our CZU Fire Response - either directly to us or through our partner the **Fire Response Fund at Community Foundation Santa Cruz County**.

For those wishing to contribute to our efforts please consider a **direct donation** to our agency - or join us for our first **online auction** which will raise funds for these efforts and many of our long-term programs that benefit over 17,000 local people.



Community Bridges Family of Programs

Child & Adult Care Food Program | Child Development Division | WIC | La Manzana Community Resources | Live Oak Community Resources | Mountain Community Resources | Nueva Vista Community Resources | Elderday | Lift Line | Meals on Wheels

Community Bridges is an exempt organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN #94-2460211. Donations are tax deductible in excess of the value of any goods or services provided in exchange for your contribution.