



HEALTHY KIDS = HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Community Bridges serves over 7,000 children under age five each year, ensuring they have equitable access to nutritious food and education. These young children are the future of our community and we are committed to giving them a strong foundation of physical health, mental well-being and educational opportunity. Check out how we are accomplishing this in the articles below.

Protecting Health with Good Nutrition



The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program is helping moms of young children get through some of the hard realities of the pandemic. In addition to offering remote eligibility screening and electronic food vouchers, WIC staff have successfully built relationships and provided needed nutritional counseling. In this video, Justina, a WIC nutritionist and outreach coordinator explains how the nutrition education component of WIC has had a bigger impact on its clients during the pandemic. Justina teaches moms the importance of including fruits and vegetables in

their diet to build strong immune systems. "Especially during this time of COVID, it seems to really connect with people," says Justina. [Click here](#) to find out more about WIC services and how to enroll.

Supporting Essential Workers' Families

The six early education centers that make up the Child Development Division have kept their doors open throughout the pandemic to care for children of essential worker families. Parents have been able to continue to work to support their families AND their community, all while knowing their children are safe, nurtured and being prepared for future success in school. Socialization is important to youth of all ages, but especially to those under age five. Due to stringent adherence to hygiene protocols and state guidelines for creating small and stable cohorts, we have been able to continue to provide essential care. However, this has been a costly undertaking for this program that runs on a tight budget. [Click here](#) if you would like to support the kids at our early education centers.



Garden to Table



The Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) provides nutritious meals and snacks for the youngest members of our community that attend daycare facilities. CACFP plays a crucial role in supporting the Pajaro Valley's agricultural and local economy by giving cash reimbursements for healthy foods to daycare home providers, allowing low-income children to have consistent access to nutritious meals. This year, the CACFP team is seeking funding to enable providers to build edible gardens in their back yards to expand food options for the children. [Click here](#) if you would like to support CACFP's garden project.

Ray's Corner

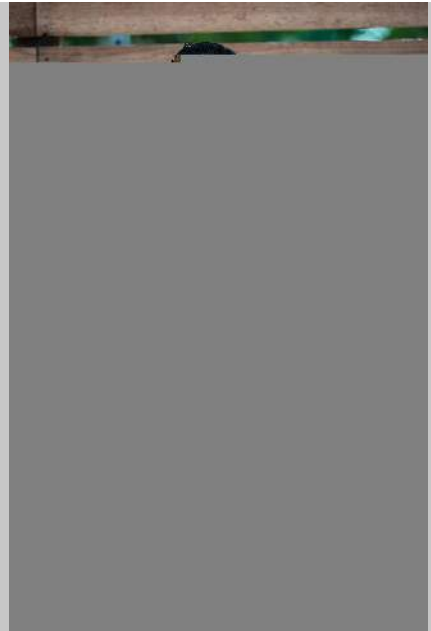
IT'S A NEW DAY

2021 feels like a new day filled with promise and opportunity for a more connected world and community. The last four years have been tumultuous and challenging for everyone, but federal policies have had a truly

devastating impact on our immigrant community. There is no doubt that the immigrant community's trust of our institutions took a strong step back because of these shifts and changes.

As we begin working with a new federal administration and start to unravel the hurt, anger and worry, we are hopeful for a transition to healing, building and recovery. We have an opportunity, and a call, to not go back to normal, but to reimagine a world where we are all better off as a community, no matter our skin color, income or immigration status.

This reimagined world must begin with meeting basic needs in our community to ensure good health, access to food, a roof over our heads and educational opportunities to advance our situations. Meeting essential needs is the foundation of what we do at Community Bridges and is critical to moving ahead to a more equitable and unified Santa Cruz County.



Donate Now

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

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