

December 2021

Elderday is Moving to A Brand New Facility



Elderday is moving to Watsonville! This fall The Central California Alliance for Health awarded Elderday a \$2.5 million grant that will allow the Adult Day Health Care provider to move from its current location in Santa Cruz to a more modern, spacious facility in Watsonville. Along with Community Bridges Board of Directors which has authorized a significant portion of the programs reserves to invest in the future needs of our aging population.

The new location will allow Elderday to better serve the growing Santa Cruz County senior population in a strategic location that will allow us to serve the fastest growing segment of our community while offering a diverse array of therapeutic services, assessments and onsite social activity programming.

Elderday plans to move to its current location in late 2022 – with the growing demand and the need for increased services and the need to fix our occupancy costs we needed to relocate. The new facility offers an additional 3,600 square feet of space for activities and care.

A huge thank you to the Alliance for making this vision a possibility with their support for Elderday's long term vision for Santa Cruz County seniors!

Join us for a ground breaking event to celebrate our new location in 2022, date coming soon!



Families with Kids Under 18 – Apply for the Child Tax Credit Today

Families with children under 18 years old, who were born in the United States, are eligible to receive the California Earned Income Child Tax Credit (CEICTC) passed by Congress earlier this year regardless of their parents' immigration status.

The credit provides income for all families with children under 18 but parents who did not file a 2020 income tax statement may need to apply in order to receive their child's benefit.

Receiving the tax credit on behalf of your eligible children, will not affect the parent's immigration status or ability to apply for a green card.

For assistance with the application process, Santa Cruz County residents may contact Community Bridges' EICTC/ITIN helpline (831) 316-3332. Our Family Resource Centers can help direct callers but they cannot provide tax advice.



Together, Again

After a break from in-person gatherings due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are so grateful to the many Community Bridges supporters who safely celebrated with us at the Farm to Fork Gala, Mountain Affair, and Food from the Heart over the past few months.

These events are important fundraising opportunities for our programs, but they also give Community Bridges a chance to thank our committed supporters. We are always grateful for all of the ways you help Community Bridges work in Santa Cruz County. But we were overwhelmed during 2020 with all of the challenges our communities faced. Taking a moment to gather and reflect on those contributions and communicate our gratitude is just as important.

Our events focused on safety, with social-distancing measures, health screenings, and vaccination status requirements for those in attendance. But we also offered a way for supporters who still weren't ready for in-person gatherings to participate in an online auction.

Despite the challenges our community turned up – allowing us to surpass our fundraising goals for every event and raise a combined \$140,000 to support essential services throughout Santa Cruz County. You did that!

We are hopefully looking forward to returning to our regular events and activities in 2022 as Santa Cruz County pulls together to put an end to this pandemic.



Ring in the Holidays with New Adventures in a New Car!

There's still time to participate in the [2021 Subaru Share the Love Event](#) and get someone you love a new car for the holidays. Over the past thirteen years, Subaru and its retailers have helped Meals on Wheels to deliver more than 2.5 million meals nationwide to seniors in need. Here's how it works:

Now through January 3, 2022, for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will donate \$250 to four national charities, and Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County will receive a share!



Lookout Santa Cruz Features Meals on Wheels Pandemic Breakfast Program

Check out the feature in the brand new local online publication Lookout Santa Cruz to learn more about Meals on Wheels breakfast pack program and how you can help extend it through 2022!

Read it here: lookout.co/santacruz/wallace-baine/the-here-now/story/2021-11-26/meals-on-wheels-needs-help-bringing-breakfast-to-santa-cruz-county-seniors

Ray's Corner: 2022 and Beyond



For most of us, 2021, continued to bring new surprises – some welcome and some less desirable.

On a personal note, the Cancino's added a new family member! Trisha and I welcomed our son Franklin in late October. We're looking forward to a 2022 that includes lots of new milestones for our family and for our agency.

2021 brought us the full roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine and the less welcomed news that new variants combined with vaccine hesitancy meant that the pandemic might be with us for longer than we ever imagined.

As we head into 2022, Community Bridges remains committed to ensuring equitable access to vaccines and boosters for all members of our community. We are working with our community

partners to increase vaccine education to eradicate any lingering concerns Santa Cruz County residents may have about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. As well as providing additional support for community members who are taking the extra step of testing to ensure they aren't spreading a variant even if fully vaxxed.

Finally, our Community Bridges family will be undergoing its own changes next year. Elderday will move into a new facility in Watsonville; and Meals on Wheels is looking to relocate to a new kitchen and working to find a new mid-county dining site by the end of the year to name just two large projects

Your support in 2022 will help Community Bridges clients flourish in a healthy, happy new year and we look forward to your help in advocacy and ensuring our community has the local government support it needs to be successful along with your community support to help the magic happen. As always we are always looking for volunteers to help at anyone of our programs.

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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.

