



**COMMUNITY BRIDGES**  
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

## July 2021



Got your tickets yet? Farm to Fork tickets are almost gone! Join us for an evening of locally-prepared meats, fresh produce, and the Central Coast's award-winning wines at Bargetto's Creekside Courtyard in Aptos on August 7. The sixth annual Farm to Fork Gala and Auction benefits all of Community Bridges programs.

At this year's event, we will be joined by keynote speakers Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel and Santa Cruz Health Services Agency Director Mimi Hall. Join Community Bridges in thanking the entire Santa Cruz County health community for their efforts during the pandemic! Get your tickets at [communitybridges.org/events](https://communitybridges.org/events).

If you aren't able to make it but still hope to support Community Bridges, consider purchasing one of our fabulous vacation getaways, autographed books and baseballs, tickets to sporting events, local wineries and more! Community Bridges is making our [auction available online](#) for attendees who prefer to participate from the comfort of their own homes!



WIC, a program brought to you by Community Bridges, will partner with Watsonville Community Hospital and Salud Para La Gente to highlight World Breastfeeding Week in August with a drive through event at Watsonville Community Hospital on August 5.

The organizations will help new and expectant mothers get connected with the resources they need to achieve breastfeeding success! The event will include information about where to find local breastfeeding support and a goodie bag with (almost) everything a new mom needs to get started.

Join lactation specialists between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Watsonville Community Hospital on August 5. Watsonville Hospital is located at 2468 Neilson St in the city of Watsonville. We look forward to seeing you there!



Did you know that during the pandemic Meals on Wheels added a breakfast package to their menu to help seniors get access to healthy foods? Covid-19 made it more difficult and dangerous for many of our community's seniors to do the things they might normally have been able to do for themselves.

The stress and anxiety created by isolation and fear about the virus were being compounded by food insecurity as the lockdown first began in 2020. Recognizing Santa Cruz County seniors would

need more support, Meals on Wheels, increased its offerings eventually more than doubling the number of meals it provides annually.

Meals on Wheels provided more than 361,000 breakfasts and dinners during the pandemic but the need is still there – even as more locations reopen. Eventually congregate dining facilities are expected to reopen but the Delta variant and the stalled vaccination rate have left many people hesitant to spend time in group settings.

Meals on Wheels [could use your support](#) to continue providing breakfast meals for eligible seniors.

Give breakfast to a senior today!

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## Ray's Corner



Community Bridges' Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is partnering with Life Lab to produce a series of educational opportunities for kids in San Benito, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. The grant, provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will fund the planning, development, and launch of an "Edible Gardens" project.

The project will teach young kids about nutrition, food production, agricultural skills, and more. Most importantly it will enrich their understanding about how to make healthy choices and how to grow their own food one day.

I want to thank Congressman Jimmy Panetta for his unwavering commitment to the children of our community.

Congressman Panetta's commitment to healthy eating to our community is illustrated through his continued unwavering support across various bills that help to reinvest in nutritional programs and services. Our team and CACFP is excited to get growing. We'd love to invite the community to help support this program beyond our initial vision. The grant will cover many of the costs but your help would allow Community Bridges and Life Lab to continue this program well into the future and to

expand beyond the initial 50 family projects. Teaching kids life skills is a great way to expand their opportunities and to invest in the future of our community.

Invest in the future of our community!

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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.



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