COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/613973795, Meeting ID: 613 973 795
REGULAR SESSION DRAFT AGENDA

5:00 **1. CLOSED SESSION**
6:20 **2. Adjourn Closed Session**
6:20 **3. Call to Order/Establish Quorum**
6:20 **4. Agenda Review** (5 min)
6:25 **5. Announcements/Program Updates** (5 min)
6:30 **6. *CONSENT AGENDA – *Action Items*** *(5 min)*
**In approving the consent agenda, the Board is approving recommendations within each committee's minutes listed below.*
6.1 Draft Minutes of the June 15, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting
6.1a **Motion to approve development plan. Motion moved by Michael/Mary, MSP.**
6.1b **Motion to approve budget as written. Motion moved by Erich/Stephanie, MSP.**
6.2 Draft Minutes of the July 14, 2022 Governance Committee Meeting
6.3 Draft Minutes of the August 11, 2022 Governance Committee Meeting
6.4 Draft Minutes of the September 8, 2022 Governance Committee Meeting
6.4a **Motion: Direct the CEO explore other options that work for the committees to meet past 5pm as well as bring back bylaw research on making the FC/GC one committee. Motion moved by Erich/Stephanie, MSP.**
6.4 Draft Minutes of the July 14, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting
6.5 Draft Minutes of the August 11, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting
6.6 Draft Minutes of the September 8, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting
6:35 **7. Receive comments from members of the public on "Items not on the Agenda"** (5 min)
7.1 Sam Burkhardt Presentation
6:40 **8. BOD Chair Report – Jack Jacobson** (5 min)
6:45 **9. CEO Report – Ray Cancino** (15 min)
9.1 MOW – Lisa Berkowitz
9.2 Elderday – Lois Sones
9.3 WIC – Dana Wagner
9.4 Ballot Measure Vote
7:00 **10. Change in GC/FC Meeting Times and/or Consolidation of GC/FC** (5 min)
7:05 **11. Development Report–Jayme Ackemann/ Anna Vaage** (10 min)

11.1 Mountain Affair
11.2 Return the Favor
11.3 Giving Tuesday

7:15 12. Finance Committee Update – Doug Underhill (10 min)

7:25 13. Newspaper Articles

7:25 14. Items for Next Agenda (5 min)

7:30 15. Adjourn Regular Meeting

Next Meeting: *Wednesday, Noivember 16, 2022, 5 pm - 7:30 pm Meeting Location TBD – Zoom will be offered.*

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/613973795, Meeting ID: 613 973 795

Present: Raymon Cancino, Jack Jacobson, Mary McMillan, Sara Seigel, Tyler Smith, Doug Underhill, Michael Babich, Stephanie Ruhl, Erich Friedrich, Silvia Morales (5:21pm), Jayme Ackeman (5:29pm), Anna Vaage (5:31pm), Lisa Berkowitz (5:31pm), Dana Wagner (5:32pm), Brenda Griffin (5:34pm), Lisa HH (5:42pm), Erika Rodriguez (5:46pm), Mayra Melendrez (5:47pm), Lois Sones (5:51), Jesus Bojorquez (6:04pm)
Minutes: Mary Mackenzie

DRAFT MINUTES

5:00 1. CLOSED SESSION
6:52 2. Adjourn Closed Session
6:52 3. Call to Order/Establish Quorum
6:52 4. Agenda Review
6:52 5. Announcements/Program Updates
6:52 6. *CONSENT AGENDA – *Action Items*
**In approving the consent agenda, the Board is approving recommendations within each committee's minutes listed below.*
6.1 Draft Minutes of the March 16, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting
6.2 Draft Minutes of the April 14, 2022 Governance Committee Meeting
6.3 Draft Minutes of the May 12, 2022 Governance Committee Meeting
6.4 Draft Minutes of the April 14, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting
6.5 Draft Minutes of the May 12, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting
6.6 Draft Minutes of the June 9, 2022 Finance Committee Meeting
6.6a ***Motion: Approve the $582.252.00 in prior year funds and to recommend the full board to the FY 22/23 budget as written be approved and amended with a mid-year budget to actual report. Motion moved by Jack/Michael, MSP.***
6.6a moved out of consent – Sara/Erich – Motion to
6:57 7. Receive comments from members of the public on "Items not on the Agenda"
6:57 8. BOD Chair Report – Jack Jacobson
None
6:57 9. CEO Report – Ray Cancino

9.1 EED – Lisa Hindman Holbert

One requirement for CDE is to bring forth the PSE and share it with the Board. Children were needing support with the social and emotional domain and also language issues. EED has almost spent out whole contract, this is a hold-harmless year. EED PD would like to formally invite a board member to participate in this process that would take place from Sept 1 through May 15. Chair: What's happening to the furniture that's not being used? EED PD: EED is going to try to find homes for it in daycares.

9.2 CACFP – Erika Rodriguez

CACFP has received $50k to 100 daycare providers to grow a garden in straw bales. There is a partnership with Life Lab to incorporate kids in the growing process. CACFP has received positive feedback that the kids are engaged and excited, the kids are getting parents involved as well (showed pictures).

9.3 LL – Jesus Bojorquez

See presentation sheet. LL provides rides to Covid vaccination, test, bank, food, and any covid related ride. The LL on demand app is now available. By July will have the instructions and app live. LL provides rides to Cabrillo College stroke center. In September of this year, LL is going to receive a new electric vehicle which will be number four. LL was able to keep some drivers thanks to the raise. LL is close to its goal of having full staff went from five to nine drivers. Due to CORE funding issues, LL is not going to fill a position. LL will also reduce it's rates to Elderday 22%. LL is happy to announce that they have an 88% on time percentage. The standards in the industry is 75%. LL would like to invite the BOD to have a ride and download the app and try it out.

7:18 10. Action Items: Presentation and approval of FY 2022/2023 Development Plan and Agency Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budgets

Sr. Development Analyst: Showed the summary and asked for commitment to show up for events and donation projections. **Motion to approve development plan. Motion moved by Michael/Mary, MSP.**

CFO: Very important to note that despite the loss of over $800K of CORE funding for FY 22-23, CB still has a $1.9M increase in revenues and expenses in the budget. The budget is increasing $1.35M for funds that are for specific causes and are one-time funding. However, overall it displays our strength and adaptability. Take out WIC vouchers and CACFP dollars that goes to day care homes (the pass through funds) and our budget is increasing by 11.94%. Salaries are increasing, and CB is investing in employee's retirements. We are also seeing an increase in contracted services and professional services. Some of the increase is due to property and some is outsourcing by necessity for fulfilling the grants. In all cases, every budget is increasing except for LOCR and Elderday, as a direct result of the loss of CORE funding. Overall, despite the large Agency impacts that are happening due to the CORE reduction, CB is looking strong financially. Chair: How much of an influence was/is the COVID funding? CFO: A lot has already phased out. Some have turned into program reserves. Emergency Rental funding has been extended three months so there's another potential $50k.

MOTION: Approve budget as written. Motion moved by Erich/Stephanie, MSP.

7:28 11. Development Report–Jayme Ackemann/ Anna Vaage
In closed session all letters are in re: core, buy farm to fork tickets.

7:28 11. Finance Committee Update – Doug Underhill
None

7:28 12. Newspaper Articles

7:28 13. Items for Next Agenda

7:29 14. Adjourn Regular Meeting

Next Meeting: *Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 5 pm - 7:30 pm Meeting Location TBD – Zoom will be offered.*

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Governance Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 14, 2022, 4-5 pm
Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/326410777
Meeting ID: 326 410 777

Present: Ray Cancino, Jack Jacobson, Michael Babich, Silvia Morales, Sara Seigel
Minutes: Mary Mackenzie

REGULAR SESSION
DRAFT MINUTES

4:03 1. CLOSED SESSION
5:03 2. Meeting to order/Establish Quorum
5:03 3. Consent Agenda
a. 3/10/22 GC Regular Session Minutes
b. 4/14/22 GC Regular Session Minutes
c. 5/11/22 GC Regular Session Minutes
Motion to approve minutes as written. Motion moved by Sivlia/Sara, MSP.
5:03 4. Agenda Review
5:04 5. Pajaro Valley Heath District - Watsonville Hospital (10 min)
Wanted to invest 20k in new hospital, have been approved by FC.
5:04 6. Items for next GC Agenda/BOD Agenda (5 min)
5:05 7. Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 11, 2022, 4-5 pm
Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/326410777, or call +1 669 900 6833
Meeting ID: 326 410 777

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Governance Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 11 2022, 4-5 pm

Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/326410777

Meeting ID: 326 410 777

Present: Jack Jacobson, Doug Underhill, Erich Friedrich, Seth McGibben, Silvia Morales, Stephanie Ruhl

Minutes: Mary Mackenzie

REGULAR SESSION DRAFT MINUTES

4:02 1. Meeting to order/Establish Quorum

No quorum

4:02 2. Consent Agenda

None. Pushed to September Meeting.

4:02 3. Agenda Review (5 min)

4:03 4. Revenues – New Grants (10 min)

a) *Packard – 2 year $250k*
b) *1440 Foundation - $100k*
c) *Kaiser - $150k*
d) *Sunlight $50k*

Discussed at FC, not covered here.

4:20 5. MOW – LOSD Next Steps (20 min)

CB and other Tenants were hoping to hear a decision from the LOSD Board regarding an extended date for tenancy, however, they sent email a day or two before stating that they had some concerns about the limited paving, and were working with their lawyers about language regarding removing themselves from liability. The LOSD said that they would get back to CB. There is concern where responsibilities for liabilities start and stop for both CB and the LOSD. CAO: CB is working on a letter to take on as much liability as we consider feasible. Chair: Does CB have a deadline right now? MOW PD: The deadline is technically 10/15/22, however the eviction notice was sent to wrong address, so we may have a bit longer. CAO: Agrees with MOW PD that CB will likely not be kicked out in October, however CB wants this in writing, if possible. MOW PD: Things to consider are the needs of three parts of the program: the offices, kitchen, and freezers. One option, is to attempt to house all three parts on the same

property, a second would be to expand and reconfigure spaces and rent kitchen space (LN and Watsonville), and have access to the kitchen at Elderday. MOW PD has looked at other facilities while keeping in mind the costs of having to go in and put in place what you know is necessary to operate. In all of the sites toured there was a tremendous amount of cleaning and sanitation that would have to take place given that CA Dept of Aging has strict standards. MOW will need to use the time if LOSD gives it to continue searching for accommodations and to have time to develop another property. MOW offices may be able to be located at existing space at CBHQ, or by developing second floor of LL, with an estimated cost of $120k. MOW has had discussion about putting freezers on property at LL. A large part of what MOW has to consider is their freezer. Chair: Can the freezer be outside? MOW PD: Yes. MOW has turned in an application for a portable freezer and is working with company from Indiana, Polar Freeze. It would cost $180k including all site preparation. MOW has also put in request for two vehicles and will be finding out about that soon. These items would be purchased then reimbursed from funding. MOW is looking at the possibility of renting office space in Watsonville but is not sure what that time frame would be if they are not able to be accommodated at CBHQ. The kitchen will take 14 weeks once the freezer is ordered. Linear Logistics operates out of Watsonville and Moss Landing. Discussions took place with Watsonville Senior Center and MOW has gotten permission to put 3 freezers and 2 refrigerators there. This would allow MOW to bring smaller batches to Watsonville. There potentially will be a lot of juggling. MOW has been operating from central locations for 46 years and this will require MOW to change the way it operates. It would mean additional dollars to LN. Chair: What about cold meals? MOW PD: There have been many ways we've operated over the years. We are also continuing to explore 525 Water Street.

4:04 **6. General Discussion as Needed** (20 min)

There was some discussion about having the meetings start later in the day maybe after 5pm. There was also discussion about combining FC/GC to create an executive committee. It was brought up that any board member can attend any meeting, but only committee members vote on committee items, other than governance. Board members can vote at governance because we only have 6 full board meetings. It was also noted that Finance and Governance are part of checks and balances.

4:35 **7. Items for next GC Agenda/BOD Agenda** (5 min)

Changing meeting times/structure.

4:35 **8. Adjourn**

Next Meeting: September 8, 2022, 4-5 pm

Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/326410777, or call +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 326 410 777

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Governance Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2022, 4-5 pm
Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/326410777
Meeting ID: 326 410 777

Present: Erich Friedrich, Ray Cancino, Doug Underhill, Jack Jacobson, Seth McGibben Stephanie Ruhl, Silvia Morales (4:25pm)
Minutes: Mary Mackenzie

REGULAR SESSION
DRAFT MINUTES

4:18 1. Meeting to order/Establish Quorum

4:18 2. Closed Session

4:43 3. Consent Agenda

a) *7/14/11 Regular Session Draft Minutes*
b) *8/11/22 Regular Session Draft Minutes*

Motion to approve the consent agenda as written. Motion was moved by Silvia/Erich, MSP.

4:44 4. Agenda Review

4:44 5. Endorsement Request

City of Watsonville's "Yes on R": The City is asking CB to support this bill. It is a General Sales Tax which means that there's a little bit of wiggle room to how the funding would actually be used. The Sales tax would be used to repair the roads, provide recreation support, and general resources. There is some talk about it supporting MOW and senior services. The city hinted that some funds would be used in support of the senior center, specifically to fund new development for the kitchen. CEO is definitely in support of helping the City of Watsonville but is concerned that the proposed use is would not benefit the use of MOW directly. Secondarily, Nick has moved forward with becoming a full board member, both will be addressed at the next board meeting. Chair: What do you want us to do? CEO: Ask any question you have. Member: To what extent are they supporting MOW, they don't want people to say didn't "We just support MOW"? Are they actively drafting a spending plan with the

City of Watsonville? CEO: Would you like them to come to the board meeting? Member: Yes. CEO stated the Board should consider if supporting the measure would be beneficial to CB as we continue to think about a ballot measure.

4:50 6. Changing Meeting Times/Combining FC & GC Meeting

CEO: There is a lot of cross over between the two committees. Member: These were put back to back due to in person. He was wondering whether moving these meetings to different times would be possible. Proposing that Governance and Finance meet at the same time or are combined or absolved. CEO: CB will need to research this in terms of the bylaws. Member: Open invitation for other board members to attend.

Motion: Direct the CEO explore other options that work for the committees to meet past 5pm as well as bring back bylaw research on making the FC/GC one committee. Motion moved by Erich/Stephanie, MSP.

4:57 7. Items for next GC Agenda/BOD Agenda

4:57 8. Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 13, 2022, 4-5 pm

Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/326410777, or call +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 326 410 777

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Finance Committee

Thursday, July 14, 2022, 3:00-4:00 PM
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/326410777
Zoom Meeting ID: 326-410-777
Santa Cruz County, CA

Present: Jack Jacobson, Michael Babich, Mary McMillan, Ray Cancino, Doug Underhill, Lisa Hindman Holbert
Minutes: Mary Mackenzie

AGENDA

3:03 Agenda Review
3:05 CFO Report – Doug Underhill

a) *May 2022 Program Budget Summary / Program Updates & Analysis*

There wasn't a large amount of change month to month. This report covers through through May 31, and fiscal will close out June soon. There was a slight positive change.
WIC saw a reduction in personnel costs and a decrease in CDPH revenues.
EED: The CDE annual report is due July 20, when fiscal closes the month they will be racing to get this done. EED is on track to spend out full contract. EED will show an approximate gain of $90k+. The goal is to fully spent out the CDE contract.
Elderday's ADA was 58 in May, a slight increase from April. There was a $10k gain.
MOW: With regards to food MOW over shot projected expenses, as breakfasts have started to phase out.
LL has 2 positions out for hire, and a mechanic position which is still not hired. There have been some consolidations which will free up some dollars. LL will see some savings if these positions remain unfilled.
FRCs have seen $20k gains in most centers, there is currently a projected loss of $14k at LMCR, but this should go away as funding is shifted around sites. We are deferring as many grants as practical to FY 22-23.
CACFP did see a one-time $8k expense, this was due to the reinstatement of a client. The number of daycare homes was 355, but we had projected at 360 based on trends. Pre-COVID in 18/19 in the comparable month, the number of daycare homes was 372. There is a focus on increasing the home count.
Admin: CFO has been trimming out year-end expenses which has is reducing Admin's projects expenses.
Development is projected with a $40k gain.
Admin constitutes everyone that is not employed by a particular program, which is about 22 employees.
CBHQ has a $19k deficit which is directly attributed to the refinance. This is not because HQ costs

are increasing, but is attributed to the environmental review and appraisal expenses. These expenses are likely to be capitalized at year-end.

Agency net assets will be in the positive: programs +$250k, and another $800k from fixed assets.

b) *Investments and Funds – Status Review June 30, 2022*

Investments are continuing to decline - there were some drops. CEO? authorized $15k be put in. The investment amount is still three times invested amount for LOCR Capital.

c) Cash Flow and Line of Credit

July 1-Sept 30 CB began year with $4M in back, and will end the quarter with a projected$3.65M

3:22 CORE funding and new funding

a) *Expectation of 25% of prior year funding for ELD, EED, FRC's*

b) *New County Contract for Eviction Prevention: 300K FRC's*

c) *LISC Contract extension- new funding 94K July 1, 2022 to Sept. 30, 2022.*

3:22 Vacation Sell-back policies: impact to FY 20-21 and 21-22

Every payroll period an employee accrues their vacation time based on hours worked. While accruing the time, it becomes a pre-paid expense by the program. CB assumes the employees will take their approved vacation time. While the assumption is that employees will take the time, this is not always the case and employees with 5+ years will get 25 days a year. Right now, sell backs are coming mostly from exempt employees (manager level), this causes double expensed time: not using the time (which have been paid for by the program). If an employee uses vacation time, the program saves the cost in hours for that month since it was prepaid. The extra funds could have been used for maintaining the salaries or providing meals for example. PDs/CB will strongly encourage people to use their vacations, and suggest putting a one-year pause on vacation sell backs except for hardship reasons. If you want to continue to accrue vacation when hitting the vacation maximum of 272 hours, then you have to take the vacation. The company does not have to offer vacation sell backs. Management team is split on the idea, there's a couple of members that aren't happy. Nobody absolutely would love it, however it's a benefit that if CB could afford it, it would be great. Example: For MOW it would be the equivalent of 3000 meals or $30k per year. FC Member: Is there any way of changing it in the way of using it to raising people's salaries. You'd have to budget it in. There may be creative ways to bring in additional staff. This may be a way to stave off potential staffing cuts, or hours reductions. If we do this, are there people that are going to lose something? This would only impact people that are at their max or close to their max vacation accrual. You cannot take away vacation that you've earned. Each year the sell backs are costing programs $120k, and by encouraging the employees to use their vacation this year, it could help the agency In a year in which prior year fund usage was required. There are some employees that sell back every year.

Motion: The finance committee recommends to the full board to pause for the FY 22/23 vacation sell backs expect for hardships or special circumstances as approved by the CEO and HR on a case by case basis. Motion moved by Jack/Michael. MSP.

3:36 Program Focus Topics

a) *MOW- 197K Unsecured State OTO funding*

Some AAA money in the BOD budget is unsecured. We know we will receive funding, but we don't know how much. AAA for San Benito and Santa Cruz is the agency for our area. The supplemental state funding in the prior two years' budgets failed to pass through both legislative offices. The amount hasn't been approved yet, but it will be a lot less. We will keep

the board informed once we get a hard number.

b) *ELD ADA trend.*
Elderday tracks ADA, and FY total number of days, and FY ADA. Elderday is hoping to increase that from 60 ADA at the beginning of the year to 70 ADA at the end of the year. Achieving the goals are important and the team has worked hard to meet the goals. CB can work with doctors' offices to try to make sure doctors aren't scheduling appointments during the program. However, it's harder and harder to do that. The cancelation rate will likely go up after September.

c) *EED Enrollment numbers by site*
Thanks to EED PD for taking the challenge of the board, for getting to 85% across most programs. EED PD: It's been a challenging year with navigating COVID. In Jan/Feb EED was hit by Covid, 85% of staff had covid. Low numbers that were required, with no more than 16 students, and EED was operating as much as they could. At SC sights there are some children who have IESOs or IEPs mainly due to speech and developmental delays of the children. Furniture is being delivered this month, and the CDE's hold harmless on days of attendance has really helped. EED will spend out 98-100% of budget. An open house went well, and one family is going to start. It allows people to see what it's like and they will spread the word.

3:48 Update on 501 Main St. Project

Project permitting was approved and it's moving forward. CB will be moving forward with the renovations.

3:50 Contribution towards Watsonville Public Health (Hospital) *Action Item

We talk about being a public agency to help out our community. Watsonville public hospital is still missing about $11M to purchase the hospital. This hospital serves the underserved to do the preventive care. If at any time we're going to be investing/donating outside of the organization, we're committed to using the resources to better community. FC Member: Are people going to think that we're not suffering if we make a large donation? I don't think that that's the impression the County would get out of it. We're going to put the community first, regardless of if we are facing hardships.

MOTION: that FC approve 20k to Watsonville hospital. Michael/Ray, MSP

3:55 Questions and Items for next Agenda

4:00 Adjourn

Next Meeting August 11th, 2022

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Finance Committee

Thursday, August 11, 2022, 3:00-4:00 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/326410777

Zoom Meeting ID: 326-410-777

Santa Cruz County, CA

Present: Jack Jacobson, Ray Cancino, Michael Babich, Mary McMillan, Doug Underhill, Erich Friedrich

Minutes: Mary Mackenzie

AGENDA

3:16 Agenda Review

FC Member: What happened with gift from hospital?

CEO: CB made a $20k contribution to the hospital. The message is that through good financial stewardship CB is in the position to donate. PVHT has been in support of what CB has been doing.

3:16 CFO Report – Doug Underhill

a) *Department updates: Staffing, Audits, Major Reporting*

Fiscal had a new grants analyst after 9 months however, the individual took a job with City of Watsonville, consequently fiscal has to start the search over for a grants analyst. There is a lot of compaction issues, so even if we want to add $3-5 to the budget for a position, then it impacts other positions. Any wage increases have to be sustainable, hence the work we've done with equity. FC Member is not sure why GA wage would cause issues across other positions. CFO: Grants analyst runs the budget for programs. The program that does not have a GA is CACFP, this means that CFO is the GA for that program. Audit season is coming up and CACFP is one of the major audits. Fiscal has gotten all the reports in: AAA, MOW, etc and has made great headway on closing out fiscal year. CB has found a grants writer and she is showing promise.

b) *June 2022 Program Budget Summary / Program Updates & Analysis*

The last fiscal year ending on 6/30 was closed 7/31/2022, and the first month of the new fiscal year will be closed on 8/15. Fiscal will be building the budget analysis. There is a lot of additional funding and increased services since the BOD approved budget. For FY 21/22, programs are showing a gain of $350k and loses in investments and LO Capital Campaign. There is movement going on with closing out grants and moving revenue for FY 21/22.

EED spent out contract.

Elderday is doing well for now and increasing ADA at a steady rate.

MOW has decreased its deficit.

LL has reduced its debt, measure D has been coming in strong and TDA is not being negatively affected by inflation. Both are sales tax derived.

FRCs are going to show gains for the year due to a sizable increase in MAA revenue. There was a sizable drop in Admin revenues due to programs reducing expenditures and moving revenues to next FY. This year fiscal wants to be more targeted.

c) *Investments and Funds – Status Review July 31, 2022*
There was a bounce back in Burroughs and our endowments. It is good that some of the bleeding has stopped, but there are still many uncertainties. CB needs to stay the course.

d) *Cash Flow and Line of Credit*
The cash flow strong. We received an advance for EED in the amount of $480k (1/4 of the contract). CB will end quarter at a projected $3.8M, versus the prior projected $3.5M. Question: Where do fundraisers (agency event) come in? Cash flow hits in June, with expenses mostly hitting the books in August.

3:40 CORE funding and other new funding

a) *3.5 months prior CORE amounts all programs*
The county ended up providing 3.5 months of funding ($240k) into the budget. We have $580k BOD approved prior year funding in the budget, so this helps for this year.

b) *1440 Foundation: $100K FRC's*
Funding B and C, as well as proposals in E are a result of Ray's targeted communications and efforts. The first is a local organization in Santa Cruz County, and geographically located in SLV. The 1440 Foundation knows the FRCs were hurting. The grant will help MCR staff up position to be hygiene technician. The main focus is on getting services back up and running at MCR.

c) *Sunlight: $50,000 General Operating*
CB will be receiving a general operating grant with no restrictions on funding. They really like the work CB does and they're giving an extra $50k this year.

d) *5310 Operating: $240K LL, 3/1/2023 to 2/28/2026*
CB will receive Federal Transportation Act dollars for same day and out of county operations. These funds will be available for use from 3/1/2023-2026. This funding spans 3 years, it doesn't have to be spent equally. It helps to solidify LL's revenues.

e) *Grant requests in pipeline for Kaiser $150K ELD, and Packard $250K FRC's, Possible ERAP Rental Relief extension from Oct-Dec 2022, potentially 80- 100K FRC's.*
Two more situations where Ray met with potential funders are Kaiser and Packard. Kaiser will invite CB to apply for 150k grant which will be applied to Elderday. Some of the money will be for LL to raise amount money for rides provided by LL to Elderday. CEO has already spoken with Parkard and knows the process through which they can support CB, Packard is looking to supply a $250k grant over 24 months and would likely be funded starting 12/1/22. Most of the money will be pushed into the next year. ERAP which funds the rental relief grant is likely going to extend the program from October to December. If they're continuing the program, they will likely keep CB in the program. Member: Will any of the grants allow the mountain FRCs to continue. CFO: Yes, CB wants to ensure this, so we can bring back services including during FY 23/24. CB can't expect this amount of one-time funding to repeat each year, and we need to be good financial stewards. FC Chair: What can we do as a board, so we can continue to build relationships? CEO: Help CB push MOW to do more medically tailored meals, and the FRCs are doing more case

management. CB can work to provide more of a beefier service model. CB can also continue to get Board members with big corporations. FC Chair: We've covered this year, now we need to work to build toward sustainability. CFO: These are relationships that have taken a long time to build up. It has to do with integrity and the way CB handles the funds. People like recognition, so it is nice to get a letter from the BOD thanking them for their contribution.
Action Item: Reach out to Development to do letters on behalf of BOD.

3:40 Program Focus Topics

a) *ELD ADA trend.*
As of 7/27/22 Elderday had a 61 ADA which is moving in the right direction.

b) *EED Highlands Park Enrollment*
EED's enrollment is moving in right direction and they have three more potentials. There is a need to identify metrics for each program. Unfortunately, there is a staffing shortage causing the temporary closure of one of the EED sites.

3:50 Update on 501 Main St. Project – Phase 1 milestone report completed

Skipped

3:55 Questions and Items for next Agenda

4:00 Adjourn

Next Meeting September 8th, 2022

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Finance Committee

Thursday, September 8, 2022, 3:00-4:00 PM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/326410777

Zoom Meeting ID: 326-410-777 Santa Cruz County, CA

Present: Jack Jacobson, Erich Friedrich, Ray Cancino, Stephanie Ruhl, Doug Underhill,
Minutes: Mary Mackenzie

DRAFT MINUTES

3:03 Agenda Review

3:03 CFO Report – Doug Underhill

a) *Department updates*
Fiscal is down a grants analyst and has one that's out on leave. The work has to be picked up by the other two grants analyst and CFO. Fiscal is going into the annual agency audit which will be CACFP, which currently does not have an assigned Grants Analyst and the CFO will be working on it. There are several applicants that are in the pipeline and taking initial testing.

b) *July 2022 Program Budget Summary / Program Updates & Analysis*
WIC-Analysis is 12-month analysis based on Federal fiscal year ending 9/30/2022. They are spending out the contract through equity payments. WIC has received an increased contract for next FY and has just been informed they are increasing it even more ($75k) due to caseload comparisons across the state.
EED-EED has 11 staff vacancies in their budget ($500k-$600k in personnel costs). EED is going to have difficulties spending out the CDE contract if staff is not hired. EED PD is aggressively trying to hire. New staff is required to increase enrollment.
ELD-Projected expenses are very close to the budget approved. Currently ELD has a $147k projected deficit, however, CB has submitted a Kaiser grant application for $150k. It is highly probable that CB will receive the grant. CB had a discussion with CCAH and the reimbursement rate going back from $111 to $103.90 on 12/31/2022, as the temporary increase is slated to end. Attempts are to negotiate a higher reimbursement rate.
MOW – Prior year fund usage down to $226k. Expenses were reduced by delaying the 14 Strong program. MOW added additional revenues and a $30k grant that hit as well.
LL – LL is proceeding along very closely to the budget. LL has received an increase in STA funding of $70k. The RTC is generally conservative with numbers they provide. Some of the extra funding went to immediate wage equity for drivers. Drivers were being recruited away from specific source, so mitigation efforts were put into place.
FRC – There were large increases in contracts and grants since the BOD approved budgets for the FRCs, including the 3.5 months of CORE one-time funding. There was also a lot of additional funding from the emergency rental relief program, eviction prevention, and

1440 Foundation. It is also likely that CB will receive a Packard Foundation grant in the amount of $250k. The Packard Foundation funding could potentially be used for the next fiscal year. The emergency rental relief funding will be continuing from October to December, with the awarded contract amount being unknown.
Admin – All of the additional revenue has brought in additional indirect grantee allocated. That said, $240k is not yet considered secured. CFO is cautiously optimistic, but it is difficult to predict. CEO: A lot of it is tied to personnel, 20-25% of agency positions are vacant.
Development – There is very little activity so far. Projected expenses have gone up $20k, which is the donation to the hospital.
501 Main – An additional $150k of Elderday program reserved were moved to the 501 Main project. This is primarily due to project delays and forecasted cost of carrying two properties. This still leaves a $43k cushion.

c) *Investments and Funds – Status Review August 31, 2022*
In July the investments went up, but then August gave most of the July gains back. FC Chair: What's the overall plan? CEO: It was to create a shortfall protection. The investments still have a gain over the principal invested.

d) *Cash Flow and Line of Credit*
We received an additional advance from CCAH of $1.75M, bringing the total advance to 2.25M. As grants have been obtained, cash flow accelerates. There was a discussion about whether to put the money in an interest baring account i.e. money market, cd, etc.

3:30 Staff vacancies and the potential effect on grants

There are 36 unfilled positions across CB. They are mainly centered in Elderday, LL, and EED. How do we accelerate our wage equity work? CEO: We're doing wage equity when new hires come on. We don't have the resources to attract new staff and maintain current staff. There was a little push back on being able to work remotely. If CB can't offer wages, then it needs to offer remote work. CB's looking at county wages and attempting to use those if possible when hiring. Some programs are able to increase wage equity better than others. CB's being mindful as best that we can, but it makes it difficult. FC Chair: Is there any neutral resources to balance wages out. CFO: Unrestricted funding basically could be the equalizer, but there are limits to what and how much unrestricted funding is available. CEO: One way could be using the stock gains, but right now it is not advisable. We need to figure out a better way throughout the agency. People will stay for flexibility, culture, etc. CFO: Thinks we are hitting the peak of the tight labor market and it is now looking like it will be in the employer's favor, but that it will take some time to complete that shift. How aggressive can we be right now while we maintain services in a potentially recessionary environment? You can limit services in some senses. FC Chair: Wonders if there is a quarterly bump that could be turned back if things start to go sideways. CEO: The question would be from what source? Profit sharing idea. It might be bonus based on CB's performance. We have a monthly recognition program. CFO: The only significant fiscal recognition is by earning a 2-step merit. It's really hard to give something and then take it away.

3:47 Program Focus Topics

a) *ELD ADA trend*
The ADA is coming up, but it's still slightly lower than we'd like to see 61.44, CB wants the ADA to go from 60 to 65 by the end of the calendar year. CEO: We are looking at social

worker ability to do more enrollments, and disenrollment is up 5%. Elderday is trying to get an on-call social worker to help. We can't stop people from moving on. FC Chair: What's our acquisition or referral services? CEO: County social workers and gerontologists.

b) *EED Highlands Park Enrollment 3:45 Update on 501 Main St. Project*
We're going to have to have EED PD come in for some time either next month or at the very least, the following month. We have 6 students (not all full time) at HP and only one teacher. CEO: This is a great service, but is there a need? There is no wait list at HP, so staffing is not the issue, and teachers not responsible for enrollment. That's the only site that is certified at infant and up (6 mos+). We need to consider the well being of the program as a whole. FC Chair: Would like to get a better understanding of how the state funded sites work.

3:57 Update on 501 Main St. Project

Skipped

3:57 Discussion on Watsonville hospital

The hospital is looking for additional funding, we provided the $20k that the board directed since funding the hospital was in our mission. There is still a need for operational expenses. PVHD project knew there was going to be an ongoing operational need. They didn't know what the expenses were. Should we be contributing more? Is there an appetite in doing so, with the backdrop of agency need? It's a genuine question to ask ourselves, what can we do and what is the gap? There will be a transition to sustainable operation, but there is a path to success. What could we be doing to help mitigate the risks? How does the institution and their services overlap with services CB performs? Is there a way we could do more? Is there a chance to strategically insert ourselves in that process?

4:16 Questions and Items for next Agenda

4:16 Adjourn

Next Meeting October 13th, 2022

From:	Sam Burkhardt
To:	Mary Mackenzie
Subject:	Sam burkhardt"s aking to adress the Board
Date:	Thursday, September 8, 2022 9:16:55 PM
Attachments:	Community Bridges final copy.pdf Letter to Govt. Officials 11-1-21 original copy 2.pdf

I want to present this information to your board. Letter #1 is a letter I wrote to Sam Story in 2012. He did nothing. He said he would give the letter to his wife, who worked for CAB. She did nothing. Letter #2 is information I sent to various government officials, hooping they might be able to help in some way. A waste of time. The links below are links to Area on Agging Senior Needs Assessments for the last two funding periods. The #1 and @2 needs of local seniors was help with home repairs and help with yard work. My organization adressed both those needs. I created a non profit to deal with this. No one was interested. I contacted The Santa Cruz CommunityFfoundation a couple years agoand they said they coud not find any people interested in becomming Board Members of the non profit. I contacted everyone, including Assemblyman Stone, who did nothing andd Congressman Panetta who said he read the information and to contact him saying I can contact him again if I need something. Supervisor Coomnerty did nothing. To be blunt, no one gives a damn. I'm 71 and I don't need the job, the income or the frustration.I put in my time! I can walk away knowingi that I tried my best but no one in the community gives a damn, other than in ip service. The last few years, Cancer, Covid and worn out knees have had me me stay at home and unable to work. One new knee is forthcomming this year. Because I know my idea and non profit is an outstanding one, I am concerned about those living in poverty in our country, and because i have spent 40 years on fighting for this cause, I am willing to continue. In spite of Santa Cruz's reputation as a progressive community, I beg to differ. Beauocrats are too frequently inefective and lazy. FActs, not opinions.If Community Bridges is at all interested in hearing what I haveto say, I am willing to tpresent my case. They can be part of the solution or part of the problem. The choiceis is theirs. Thank you.

By the way, I respect Raymon Cancino very much. He was literally the only person who responded to my letters in the past. I wish other EDs were like him.

1. 2012 2. 2021

Links to Area on Aging reports. See most urgent needs.

https://www.seniorscouncil.org/resources/NEEDS_ASSESSMENT_REPORT_FINAL.pdf (2016)

https://www.seniorscouncil.org/resources/areaplan/2020-24_Area_Plan_APPROVED.pdf (2020)

Barbara Frank, President, Board of Directors &
Sam Story, Chief Executive Officer
Community Bridges
236 Santa Cruz Ave.
Aptos, Ca.
4-13-12

Dear Ms. Frank and Mr. Story,

My name is Sam Burkhardt. I am a Licensed General, Electrical and Plumbing Contractor, with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Over the years, I have created a program concept that I call **The Community Home Maintenance Project**. The project will train "economically disadvantaged" and "at risk" young people to provide **FREE** labor to perform home repairs, yard work assistance, handicapped accessibility services, and house painting for low-income elderly disabled people and nonprofit social service organizations in Santa Cruz County.

Recently, I approached the County Office Of Education to get information on their Youth4Work Program and was told that there are currently funds available for a program such as the Community Home Maintenance Project. When I initially contacted the Office Of Education, they were exceptionally excited about my proposal and I was told there was a good chance that funds would be available to hire me to run the project as well as staff made available help me research and secure long term funding sources. Now, apparently, it seems that is not the case. The Office of Education still wants me to partner with them and take young people to work sites, but on a voluntary basis. They have no money to pay me. They have a hiring freeze, Sequestration is still in effect and there is uncertainty over the Governor's budget. I intend to volunteer to the degree I am able, but realistically, I cannot work nearly full time to support myself, work with young people part time, while simultaneously organizing and promoting this project.

I want to talk to you about the possibility of collaborating with me on this project.

Community Home Maintenance Project

Goals

1. Provide on the job employment training for economically disadvantaged and "at risk" young people.

2. Provide charitable services in the form of home repairs, building maintenance and handicapped accessibility for low-income elderly and disabled individuals and nonprofit social service organizations.

Non-profit description

Typical nonprofit social services organizations are group foster homes, residential care facilities for the developmentally disabled, childcare centers, senior centers, teen centers, organizations serving the disabled and homeless, organizations, that provide housing for low income people, and organizations that promote animal welfare.

Services Performed for Low Income Elderly Disabled People and Non-Profit Social Service Organizations

1. **Major house cleaning**
   a. Washing floors, walls, kitchens and bathrooms
   b. Vacuum cleaning and rug shampooing
   c. Window washing

2. **Yard improvement**
   a. Hauling away debris
   b. Weeding
   d. Pruning
   E. Cutting overgrown lawns

3. **Painting**
   Exterior and interior house painting

4. **Minor carpentry**
   a. Adjusting doors, windows and cabinets that operate improperly
   b. Repair broken steps or handrails.
   c. Repair broken furniture
   d. Repair floors under toilets and around bathtubs and showers
   e. Replace windows or doors that are broken or inoperable
   f. Repair or install door weather stripping

5. **Minor electrical**
   Repair or replace broken electrical fixtures, lamps, receptacles, and switches. Install security lighting such as motion sensors.

6. **Minor plumbing**
   a. Repair leaking faucets, toilets, water heaters, sinks, hose bibs, etc.
   b. Unclog drains
   c. Repair toilets that work poorly and install new water efficient toilets
   d. Install water conservation aerators and showerheads

7. **Miscellaneous**
   a. Replace broken glass
   b. Putty windows
   c. Repair door locks and installs additional devices to promote security.
   d. Tile repairs in tubs, showers or countertops
   e. Drywall repairs

8. **Handicapped accessibility**
   a. Grab bars
   b. Hand held showers
   c. Motion activated lighting
   d. Wheelchair ramps
   e. Install handicapped doorknobs
   f. Install handicapped plumbing fixtures
   g. Widen doorways and modifying cabinets
   h. Install handicapped toilets

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education will provide the salaries, vehicles, tools, and associated operational costs for the students and project.

Funds for Materials

The homeowner or non-profit organization will be expected to pay for materials used on their jobs. In the event an individual's resources are inadequate to provide for all materials needed for their job, we hope to establish a revolving fund to be available for seniors and disabled individuals without adequate financial sources to provide for these expenses. The money will be paid back in installments to keep the funds available for other participants in need. We desire to set up a checking account in a local financial institution that will be funded from community donations. We will solicit funds from local churches, individuals, businesses and philanthropic organizations as long as the need exists. Although the labor to our clients is free, we will suggest that they anonymously donate whatever they can afford to be added to the pot to help provide materials for others in need. It is our desire that no one be turned away for lack of money.

Obtaining Referrals

We anticipate getting client referrals form the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center's "Helping Hands" Program, the California Grey Bears "Brown Bag Lunch Program", Community Bridges "Meals on Wheels Program", Santa Cruz County's "Multipurpose Senior Services Program", Santa Cruz County's "Senior Network Services" program,

Shared Adventures and the Central Coast Council for Independent Living. All are nonprofit organizations that assist seniors or disabled persons.

Documentation of Results

We will obtain the services of Community Television of Santa Cruz County; a non-profit community based and oriented Video Production Company that will produce a mini documentary, which will document the success of the project. We will interview the elderly project participants and ask them to talk a little about themselves and what the improvements to their homes will mean for them in terms of safety, security and comfort in their final years. We will interview the youth workers before they start working in the project and ask them what they hope to gain from being participants. We will interview them again after 6 weeks and finally after three months. The video will show the jobsites before, during and after completion of various projects. We will ask both the elderly and youth participants to offer suggestions on how they believe the project can be improved.

Our Philosophy

We believe that putting money into work training programs is a better investment that putting it into Prisons. In California, it costs about $47,000 a year to incarcerate a single inmate. The recidivism rate is 67% after three years of non-incarceration.

It is our belief that enabling young people to contribute to society in meaningful ways, in this case, helping low income elderly disabled people and nonprofit social service organizations, will change their hearts and attitudes, while giving them a sense of self pride and accomplishment while teaching them valuable construction skills and work ethic.

The goal of this project is to demonstrate that this concept is a viable alternative to traditional crime and violence prevention programs. This program is more cost effective, the attitudinal changes to the individual are everlasting, the benefits to the community are more significant and the costs to society are far less than investing in the criminal justice and prison systems.

Lastly, in a day when fewer and fewer young people have the opportunity to attend college or vocational school, we believe a youth service program that guarantees a vocational or college education for those who participate is the best way to promote good citizenship and a strong, vibrant society. We hope the success of this project will enable the concept to be replicated in other communities. We are actively seeking funding sources to make it an ongoing permanent program in Santa Cruz County.

Information About Me

My life goal and perhaps purpose in life has been to administer a non-profit social service organization that would train “at risk” and economically disadvantaged young people to provide minor home repairs, handicapped accessibility, house painting and yard work assistance to low income elderly and disabled people, and non-profit social service organizations, such as child care centers, senior centers, group homes for the developmentally disabled and similar organizations. We would also provide these services to schools and parks. I wanted call this project the “Community Home Maintenance

In keeping with this idea, I wanted to establish a for profit arm of the organization that would provide construction services at market rates to those who could afford it and use the proceeds to subsidize those who couldn’t

To establish or work with an organization that would provide these services has been my unwavering goal for over 35 years. I have devoted my life to it. My education, a B.A. degree in Social Welfare and Corrections and my 35 years in the construction trades have been geared to achieve this end. I have invested immeasurable amounts of time and my own financial resources to try and make this vision a reality. I have become a Licensed General, Electrical and Plumbing Contractor and have become adept at the additional skills of tile work; drywall, roofing, painting and home repairs in general because I knew these skills would be necessary to help provide the services that people were most in need of. .

I have a B.A. degree in Social Welfare and Corrections and had planned on becoming a Social Worker. My interest was in Community Organization.

I was a **Volunteer In Service To America** (V.I.S.T.A. 1973-1975) where I worked for the Self Help Home Improvement Project in Shasta County, Ca. for two years. During my first year as a V.I.S.T.A., I performed remodeling and home repairs for low -income people and the second year, I set up a program, which enabled juvenile and adult offenders to work off jail time and fines by providing minor home repairs, house painting and yard cleanup for elderly, low income, disabled people. I started the program by going to local businesses and getting donations of tools. A local resident donated an old truck and the program was started. During the summer, funds became available from the County Summer Youth Work Program. At is height; the program had 15 workers going around the community helping to provide a decent home environment for elderly, disabled low-income people.

In 1978, I wrote a proposal for C.E.T.A., the Federally funded “Comprehensive Employment and Training Act” which provided funding for youth work programs. The program was funded and I set up a project that trained "at risk" continuation high school students to perform minor home repairs and handicapped accessibility services for low-income elderly disabled homeowners.

For 2 years, (1985-87) I worked for Economic and Social Opportunities in Santa Clara County, Ca. Economic and Social Opportunities was a not for profit organization that provides vocational training programs for low income underemployed people. I supervised its weatherization program, which provided home insulation, door and

window replacement and weather stripping for low- income homeowners. I directly supervised 15 people.

In my community of Santa Cruz County, I've volunteered my building skills with: Habitat for Humanity, the Citizen's Committee for the Homeless, the Resource Center for Non Violence, the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz's Helping Hands Project and the Santa Cruz Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals where I was a board member for six years. I was also a Big Brother in the Big Brother/Sister program for five years.

From about 2004 to 2009, I was under contract with Santa Cruz County to provide home repairs and handicapped accessibility services to recipients of the state funded Multiple Senior Services Program. This program enables low-income frail elderly people to remain in their own homes rather than be institutionalized.

Over the years, I have worked with some of our country's poorest people. In Shasta County, California, while a V.I.S.T.A., I worked with Native Americans, who were living in abandoned cars and makeshift cardboard housing with no running water, sanitation facilities and minimal electrical service. In Santa Cruz County, on a few occasions, I have worked in migrant labor camps where the facilities have been pretty dismal. On the other end of the spectrum, I have worked on luxury homes in areas such as the 17 Mile Drive in Carmel, the community of Woodside near San Francisco, mansions in Beverly Hills, and some of the finer luxury homes in Santa Cruz.

In the past, I considered myself a resource specialist for persons in need of social services. Because of my Social Work background, I was familiar with community service organizations and County and State Agencies having jurisdiction in areas such as housing, social security, physical disabilities, employment, senior services, youth programs, etc. Whenever I observed a problem involving one of my clients or their family members, I would offer them information on where they might obtain assistance or I would look into the matter for them. Because many of the people I was serving were poor, uneducated, or disabled, they were often intimidated by bureaucratic red tape. I helped them because I cared, not because it was my job.

Because of my educational background in Social Welfare and Corrections, I am familiar with counseling techniques, the problems encountered by underserved youth, the barriers that hinder their full integration into society, the effects of poverty upon the family and the results of involvement with the criminal justice system.

My interest and experience in Community Organization has helped me bring together diverse groups of people and together we were able to place minority youth in work programs that would otherwise not have been available to them.

In my supervisory capacity, I have trained staff, set up specific work training programs, done community outreach to attract new participants, and have implemented marketing and advertising campaigns to attract new clients.

I have had grant writing experience in the past, the most notable, being a one-week program at the Grantsmanship Training Center in Los Angeles.

Dear

I am writing you to see if you can help me with some issues concerning a nonprofit organization I established nearly two years ago. Its purpose, stated **most simply,** is to train economically disadvantaged, at risk and homeless youth to provide home repairs, handicapped accessibility services and yard maintenance for low income elderly disabled seniors. It also hopes to establish work programs for homeless people.

There is a great deal of information presented here. Similar information was sent to numerous people and organizations with different interests over many years. For example, information was sent to organizations representing at risk and economically disadvantaged youth, elderly disabled people, developmentally disabled individuals, homeless organizations, educational institutions, elected officials and government departments. These document includes letters to individuals and non profit organizations, photographs of people's homes, cover pages of documents referring to governmental surveys, and technical product data sheets. Why so much information? I make various claims and accusations and I have included documents to back up my claims. Every statement can be backed up by documentation. I have no reason to lie!

In my opinion, one reason for the lack of progress in implementing this non profit organization has been the fact that the people I have contacted don't see the whole picture. The organizations serving the elderly don't necessarily care about "at risk" youth. Organization working within the criminal justice system don't necessarily care about the problems of the elderly disabled people, and organizations focusing on youth don't necessarily care about the issue of poverty in our community. People don't seem to realize that working together, we can all help one another to a greater degree that if we work independently.

More explicitly, the project's purpose is this:

Community Home Maintenance Project Mission Statement

Mission Statement

1. **Home repair, handicapped accessibility and yard work assistance**
The mission of the Community Home Maintenance Project of Santa Cruz is to provide job training for at risk, economically disadvantaged, foster care and homeless youth, so that they will become contributing members of society while simultaneously providing home repairs, yard maintenance and handicapped accessibility services to low income elderly disabled seniors and nonprofit social service organizations. By involving them within the world of community service organizations and their active participation in helping low income elderly disabled seniors in need, they will gain feelings of pride, self-respect and personal accomplishment, knowing that because of their effort and learned skills, they were able to significantly better the life of another human being in need.

Typical Non Profit Social Service Organizations

Group foster homes, residential care facilities for the developmentally disabled, childcare centers, senior centers, teen centers, and organizations serving the disabled and homeless, organizations that provide housing for low income people, and organizations that promote animal welfare.

2. **Weekend help for disabled seniors through Court Referral**
CHMPSC will provide essential services to disabled seniors that allow them lot live independently at home. In order to help alleviate the housework and yard work challenge of these individuals, we intend to use juvenile and adults who have been sentenced to do community service work by the court. We will coordinate with The Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz which currently provides job placement sites for these workers in conjunction with the court system. We will provide these services primarily on weekends when workers are not working at their regular jobs. Past experience has shown that for the most part, the workers enjoy this work, even though menial, and as punishment, because they know they are doing something to help someone else less fortunate than themselves.

3. **Homeless Peoples Work Training Program**

CHMPSC wants to help eliminate homelessness. We believe the work promotes dignity. We desire to provide job training that will allow homeless people to:

a. Install solar powered hot water heaters on people's roofs reducing gas or electric bills.
b. Install economic hot water recirculation systems in people's homes saving thousands of gallons of fresh water per household.
c. Train homeless people to build small semi-permanent powered and plumbed shelter units that can be installed in homed people's back yards and connected by electrical conduit and plumbing to the main house or assembled into villages.
d. Install greywater landscaping plumbing systems in people's homes to reduce water consumption .

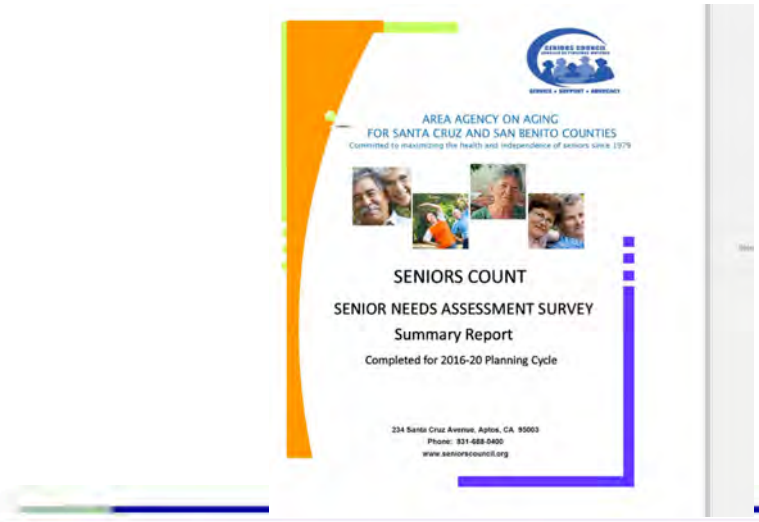
4 **Provide Additional Facilities for Foster Youth Living in Group Homes.**

At this time, there are not enough Group Homes for Foster Youth who are transitioning out of group home living settings once they turn 18 years of age. The CHMPSC desires to work with foster young adults, who may have special needs, living in group homes and train them to help renovate homes to make the houses into suitable homes for additional foster youth. This will provide the youth with valuable work and home repair experience giving them a sound foundation for obtaining work in the construction industry or even just doing small jobs for others or themselves.

As we all should know, because of the recent devastating fires in California, there is a need for tens of thousands of affordable new homes in California. Additionally, the Green New Deal is supposed to provide new well paying, high tech Green Jobs for today's worker's. The

experience gained in CHMPSC can be a pre apprenticeship training program guaranteeing the youth jobs in the New Green Economy.

For the sake of simplicity, lets just say that the reason for doing this is that the California State Area Agency On Aging for Santa Cruz and San Benito Senior Needs Assessment Survey Summary Report 2016-2020 states that the most Frequently Identified Challenges for seniors are:



MOST FREQUENTLY IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

#1 Paying for Dental Care (59%)

"The majority of people my age cannot pay for dental services."

For the third survey in a row, seniors have identified paying for dental care as the most frequently identified challenge. Dental care for seniors tends to be complex and expensive and is not covered by Medicare. While some dental coverage has been restored to Medi-Cal, most seniors have no coverage for dental care at all. Paying for dental care was ranked as a significant issue across all income levels. 3 out or 4 low-income seniors report this as a challenge, and 1 out of 4 with incomes over $50,000 also say it is a challenge.

#2 Home and Yard Maintenance (57%)

"My mobile home is 50 years old; there is a roof leak and the ceiling needs attention. I live on a fixed income that leaves very little for me to get things done."

Home and yard maintenance is the second most frequently identified challenge, for the third survey in a row. The percentage of those identifying this as a challenge rose dramatically, from 40% in 2011 to 57% in 2015. The ability to maintain their homes is key to helping seniors remain there. This category also crossed all income levels; 50% of seniors with incomes over $50,000 identifying this as a challenge.

#3 Doing Housework (48%)

"I need help with lifting things and vacuuming my stairs."

"Need help with laundry and cleaning my house"

Housework is another aspect of home maintenance that is key to the ability to live independently. In 2011, 35% ranked it as a challenge; now nearly half of seniors responding said it is a challenge.

Taking this information into consideration, I decided to identify some of those seniors in need of these services.

Two years ago, I distributed the following flyer to: Senior Network Services, California Grey Bears, Valley Churches United, Community Bridges, Loves and Fishes, the Catholic Diasis of Monterey, the Senior Center of Santa Cruz, the Senior Center of Capitola and the Senior Center of Aptos. I also presented my information to the Senior's Council, falsely thinking they would try to help me. **Why spend state money evaluating and exposing a problem and then doing nothing about it?**

Community Home Maintenance Project

Enabling Youth to Serve the Elderly and Disabled Community
by Providing Home Repairs

Sam Burkhardt
Head Chimp
120 Seaview Ave
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062

ph. 831-244-6677
sam@chmpsc.org
www.chmpsc.org
672860 B,C10,C36

A Nonprofit Construction Corporation

We are seeking low income elderly and disabled homeowners and renters or non profit social service organizations who are in need of home repairs or handicapped accessibility services.

831-244-6677

I didn't get a single response!

I was very dismayed. Maybe people thought this was going to cost them money or was a scam. I know there are people in need of these services. I have lived in Santa Cruz for 39 years and have kept current on issues relative to poverty, youth, homelessness, etc, and have traveled around the county from Boulder Creek to Watsonville doing home repair work.

I want to distribute the following similar but more informative flyer to see if we get a better responses.

HOME REPAIR HELP FOR LOW INCOME SENIORS

At this time, we are trying to document the need and establish a list of individuals who desire these services. Once we have documented the need, we will apply to governmental agencies and nonprofit foundations for the necessary funds.

Community Home Maintenance Project

Enabling Youth to Serve the Elderly and Disabled Community
by providing Home Repairs

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A Nonprofit Construction Corporation

Project Overview

The goal of the Community Home Maintenance Project of Santa Cruz is to provide job training for at risk, economically disadvantaged, foster care and homeless youth, so that they will become contributing members of society while simultaneously providing home repairs, yard maintenance and handicapped accessibility services to low income elderly disabled seniors and nonprofit social service organizations. By involving them within the world of community service organizations and their active participation in helping low income elderly and disabled seniors in need, they will gain feelings of pride, self-respect and personal accomplishment, knowing that because of their efforts and learned skills, they were able to significantly better the lives of other human beings in need.

Participants Will Be Well Supervised At All Times By Qualified Instructors

Typical NonProfit Social Service Organizations

Group foster homes, residential care facilities for the developmentally disabled, childcare centers, senior centers, teen centers, and organizations serving the disabled and homeless, organizations that provide housing for low income people, and organizations that promote animal welfare.

Services Performed for Low Income Elderly Disabled People and Non Profit Social Service Organizations

1. Minor Carpentry
2. Minor Electrical
3. Minor Plumbing.
4. Handicapped Accessibility
5. House Cleaning
6. Water and Energy Conservation
7. Painting

HOMEOWNER PAYS ONLY FOR MATERIALS

CHMPSC.ORG

Here is why I know there are more seniors in need of these services.

These are homes of some of the seniors I have personally worked on. It's difficult to document this need because I can't see from the outside what the inside of someone's home looks like. I have lived and worked in Santa Cruz for nearly 40 years and have traveled all over the county doing home repairs. During that time I have seen many rundown houses, obviously owned by low income people. In addition, I have spoken with doctors at the Santa Cruz Stroke Center and other rehabilitation facilities, so I know the need exists. For HIPA reasons, they can't just give me this information.

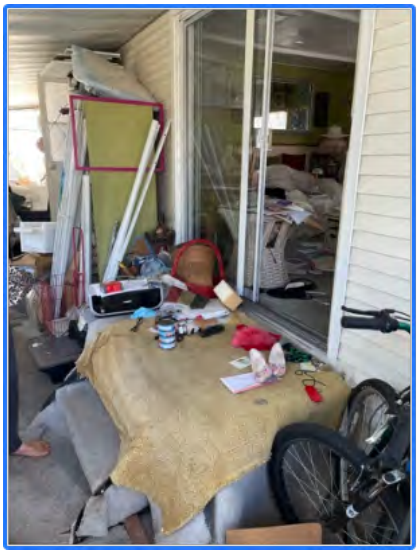
Felton, not Appalachia

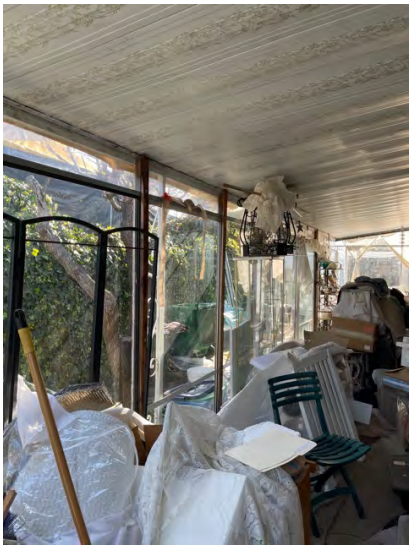
6

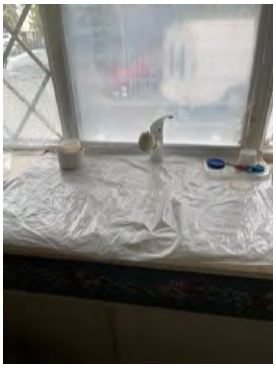
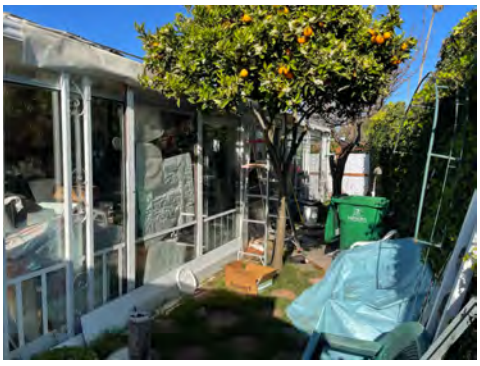
Request from very nice 73 year old single woman who has lived in her mobile home in Santa Cruz for 37 years. She survives on $550 a month from Social Security, is very industrious and does many things to save money.

You & your program will b a Godsend for me. Thank U!☺️
Fire hazard: I have a 'blown" electric outlet in my bedroom that smoldered black & melted a heater plug in January, so I don't have use of this socket.
I wash all my dishes in the antique bathroom sink because I have only a trickle of water in the kitchen.
The bathroom sink needs replacing.
The bathroom cabinets doors need something to keep them closed, otherwise they hang open.
I wash all my dishes in the bathroom sink.
I would like the carpeting taken out & laminate flooring put in.

1. The porch needs a handrail for safety
2. The bathroom sink leaks so she keeps a basin under the faucet to catch the water.
3. The awning leaks when it rains so she keeps items under it covered in plastic
4. Termite infested storage area for things that would be under awning.
5. Kitchen faucet is broken so she uses faucet in bathroom.
6. Tripping hazard in yard





Downtown Santa Cruz

7

Downtown Santa Cruz

These people exist here in Santa Cruz and the surrounding area. They are the unseen poor. They are tucked away where they are less visible. They are not on the front pages of newspapers, or on TV. They are not homeless, they are not in the news and there are few people advocating for them, For the most part, they are not vocal, but they are in need of help nevertheless.

I did not just start working on this last week. I have been working on making this happen since 1975 and in Santa Cruz since 1982. I have contacted more non profit and governmental organization than most people even know exist, but no one has been interested. I have contacted the Executive Director of The Community Action Board, the Superintend of Schools,The County Office of Education, the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Community Foundation, the Executive Director of Encompass Community Services, the Santa Cruz City Council, the Executive Director and Chairman of the Board of Community Bridges, the Director of Community Organizing of the Santa Cruz County United Way, Grey Bears, and the County Chief Probation Officer, to name a few. There are many more organizations in addition to these that I have contacted. A few of these letters are attached at the end of this document and I strongly suggest you read them.

1975

(R-S photo by Tom Dunlap)

MIKE DORMAN, RIGHT, PAINTS AN OLD REDDING HOUSE
Vista workers Gerald Howard and Lynda Ronzone help

Probationers help repair houses

By JON GODDARD

There are mixed reactions to a self-help maintenance program using people on probation to do handywork for low-income homeowners.

The organizers are enthusiastic.

The workers aren't.

Four young men sentenced to varying periods of work are painting the house of Mrs. Ann Dimich, 70-year-old widow on Social Security. Her house was last painted in 1958.

Mrs. Dimich bought the paint and the men on probation are doing the work in lieu of jail. She is not apprehensive about people on probation doing the job.

"It doesn't bother me. They've been real nice."

Although the workers would rather not be out in the hot Redding sun all day bending over with paint brushes, they agreed that it is better than a stay in the slammer.

VISTA volunteer Sam Burkhardt, on the other hand, is full of energy and enjoys his work. If he is conducting a variety of rehabilitation, he says, it is "getting them to help somebody."

Burkhardt's project — Self-help Maintenance Program — is an arm of the VISTA Self-help Home Improvement Project. The improvement project is concerned with large projects.

Burkhardt's project does the handyman work — minor repairs, housepainting, trash hauling, yard work.

He is looking for donations of money, tools or time. Especially needed are pickup trucks.

In a quest for trucks, he has gone to the probation department, California Council on Criminal Justice, General Services Administration and federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"They gave me the run-around."

Like most of the people who will meet the qualifications of the program, Mrs. Dimich is elderly, a homeowner, and on a small Social Security income. Her two-bedroom house had only about half the paint left on it when the painters came. Most had flaked off, leaving the bare wood.

She moved into the house in 1940, a week after Pearl Harbor. And like many senior citizens, she does not want a free ride.

"I never go beyond my means. I don't go into debt for anything. I've never been on welfare," she said.

"I don't feel it's all free (the painting)," she said. She is paying $100 for supplies for the paint job.

It is about time something is done for senior citizens, she said.

The white-haired woman lives alone, but keeps busy in her yard and vegetable garden.

The project works out of a Pilgrim Congregational Church office. The phone number is 241-6943.

There are 16 jobs lined up for the probation workers. There are three crew chiefs, paid with federal funds.

Crew chief of Mrs. Dimich's housepainting is Gerald Howard, a Comprehensive Employment Training Act worker. "I'm not here to push them, but I like them to keep busy — steady work," he said.

"I think they're doing good work," Mrs. Dimich said.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Santa Cruz Sentinel Aug 1 2018

Poverty rate second highest in state

New comprehensive data shows about 1 in 4 county residents impoverished

By Nicholas Ibarra
nibarra@santacruzsentinel.com
@nickmibarra on Twitter

SANTA CRUZ » Santa Cruz County has a higher poverty rate than any California county except Los Angeles when cost of living is taken into account, new data released by the Public Policy Institute of California shows.

According to the data, 23.8 percent of Santa Cruz County residents live in poverty, compared to a statewide average of 19.4 percent. Los Angeles County had the most impoverished population, at 24.3 percent, and El Dorado County the least, at 11.8 percent. The results are based on combined California Poverty Measure data from 2014 through 2016.

"It is a stark reminder that there really are two county realities in Santa Cruz County," said Zach Friend, who chairs the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and represents its 2nd District. "There is a significant amount of wealth, especially tech-centered wealth, that has come into the county over the last two decades, but the gap between that and those who are struggling to make it — especially children who are living in poverty — is pretty extreme."

Santa Cruz County children are disproportionately likely to be impoverished, with 27.2 percent falling below the study's poverty threshold.

But the county's federal poverty rate of 15.1 percent, based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 estimates, is markedly lower. Ranking 33rd out of California's 58 counties, that number paints a vastly different picture that Friend says fails to capture the on-the-ground reality faced by local families.

The Public Policy Institute of California data accounts for cost of living and other key family resources, including social safety net benefits — providing what researchers say is a more comprehensive view of poverty across California's far-ranging counties.

The findings demonstrate how much cost of living drives poverty, according to Tess Thorman, a Public Policy Institute of California researcher who contributed to the report.

"As is the case in Santa Cruz County, families may be earning more than the federal poverty measure," Thorman said. "But because of that, they're not necessarily eligible for as many safety benefits and as a result they may be working full time but they're not able to make ends meet."

A family of four renting in Santa Cruz would need to make at least $33,953 a year to break above the poverty threshold, according to the report. Just five counties — San Mateo, San Francisco, Marin, Santa Clara and Orange — had higher poverty thresholds.

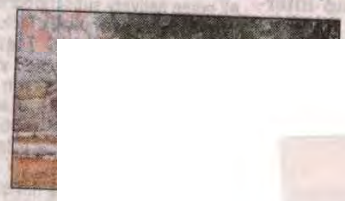
In general, the counties with

POVERTY » PAGE 2

DEMONSTRATOR

Palestinian icon says she has a 'political future'

Ahed Tamimi has vowed to keep demonstrating and says she expects to have a "political future." PAGE A9



OBITUARY

INDEX Lottery .....A2 | Coast Line

23)

sue 212

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018

DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL FILE

Beach Flats along with downtown Santa Cruz is in a census tract with a poverty rate of 44 percent, an area worth considering for a new federal economic development incentive, according to the state.

Poverty

FROM PAGE 1

higher poverty thresholds are concentrated on or near California's coast, Thorman said, driven by the generally higher cost of living in coastal areas.

Another trend that emerged from the data is that social safety net programs, such as CalFresh and the Earned Income Tax Credit, disproportionately benefit people living in low cost-of-living areas.

In Santa Cruz County, removing those programs would lead to a 5 percent increase in the poverty rate, but inland counties would see an impact as high as 16 percent.

"You see much bigger impacts from safety net programs in places where income is lower but cost of living is also lower — it's just possible for those resources to make a bigger impact," Thorman said.

The California Poverty Measure is a joint research project by the Public Policy Institute of California and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality.

The report underscores the need for continued investment in affordable housing and economic development to try to tackle the poverty problem from both ends, Friend said.

"I truly hope that this PPIC study really is a wake-up call for not just policymakers and nonprofit leaders but the community at large," he said. "We have a lot of work to do to help our fellow community members out to ensure that this cycle doesn't continue."

POOREST COUNTIES

County	Poverty Rate
Los Angeles	24.3
Santa Cruz	23.8
Santa Barbara	23.0
Lake	21.6
Mendocino	21.6
Orange	20.9
Butte	20.6
Tulare	20.3
Imperial	20.3
Yolo	20.2
Average	19.4

Source: Public Policy Institute of California

Letter to Santa Cruz Water Supply Advisory Committee. No Reply

Burkhardt Construction

Plumbing and Electrical

120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
License # 672860
831-212-7019

A Licensed General, Electrical, and Plumbing Contractor

Saturday, July 26, 2014

To:
Santa Cruz Water Supply Advisory Committee

Re: Proposal for water conservation program:

An average home has 125 feet of ¾ pipe. 125 feet of ¾ pipe holds 3.14 gallons of hot water. If hot water is used 10 times per day, 31 gallons of water is wasted running the faucets and shower to get hot water. In a year this equals 11,461 gallons of potable water down the drain per home.

A simple solution to this problem is the installation of hot water recirculating systems that provide nearly instant hot water. The yearly operating cost of such a system is a few dollars a year. The simplest hardware system is about $200 and the best is from $500 to $800 depending on features. Installation time for the simplest system is a couple of hours and does not take the skill level of a professional plumber. I am enclosing some literature on these systems for your information.

In 1992 a new standard was put into effect for water saving toilets. Prior to that an average toilet used about 3.5 gallons per flush. The new standard was 1.6 gallons per flush which saved about 50% over the 3.5 gallon toilets. The new standard is 1.25 gallons per flush, and that is what the code requires today, but there are toilets available now that use .8 of a gallon for a single flush toilet and dual flush models that use .5 gallon for liquid and .9 gallon for solids with an average of .65 gallons per flush, which is a substantial saving.

I am proposing a non-profit organization that will train economically disadvantage youth to install these products in the homes of people who live in our community.

Niagara Conservation, a leading manufacturer of water and energy saving products has launched a program called Niagara Green Cities which allows utility customers to have their toilets and faucet heads upgraded to ultra high efficiency fixtures with no cost to the utility. The customers will pay a small monthly fee, included on their utility bills, which is less than the money they save on their water bills. The program will be administered through Niagara Conservation, who will administer the program, including management, installation, reporting, customer service and marketing services. The high utility fixtures will be installed by a State Licensed Plumbing Contractor who is a Certified Green Plumber. (see attached Green Plumber Information). I happen to be both.

My salary will be pid for in part by grant money and I will be an employee of the non-profit. I would expect to administer this program. I have experience administering youth work programs and grant writing as well as being a licensed professional plumber. There will also be money provided by Niagara for installing the the toilets, shower heads and aerators and additional money will be from the installation of hot water recirculation systems. More than likely, there will also be money available from the Work4Youth program which is a 501c3 non profit. The Work4Youth program is a partnership between local businesses, the Workforce Investment Board and the Santa Cruz Office of Education.

I am attaching some information on another youth work program I tried to establish in Santa Cruz County. That proposal is entitled the “Community Home Maintenance Project”.

The benefits of this proposal are obvious. Saving hundreds of thousands of gallons of fresh water while providing vocational training to economically disadvantaged youth.

In your request for proposals, you asked for not more than a 2 page narrative about ideas. In all humility, I know you will call me back for more information, so I am enclosing it here. I am not an egotist, I just know my concept is exceptional. It is workable and cost effective. I am seeking an opportunity to create a demonstration program that once proved successful, can be replicated in other communities.

I am always available to discuss my ideas further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Burkhardt

SYSTEM.

How does the ACT Advanced Conservation Tech system work?
The ACT Advanced Conservation Tech SYSTEM is an electric water pumping system that quickly (typically within 30 seconds) brings hot water to the fixture by pulling water from the hot water tank and returning ambient house temperature water back to the hot water tank or tankless heater. The D'MAND® system is usually installed under the sink farthest from the water heater. When activated, it circulates the ambient house temperature water normally discarded down the drain, back to the water heater through the cold water line. At the same time, the D'MAND® system pumps hot water rapidly from the hot water heater to the fixture. When hot water is detected in the line the pump stops automatically and hot water is available at the faucet.

In typical residential applications it costs less than $1.00 per year to operate the pump. It can be activated by any combination of methods such as buttons, wireless remote control, or motion sensors. Life expectancy is 15 to 20 years and servicing is not required.

ACT Advanced Conservation Tech D'MAND® SYSTEM

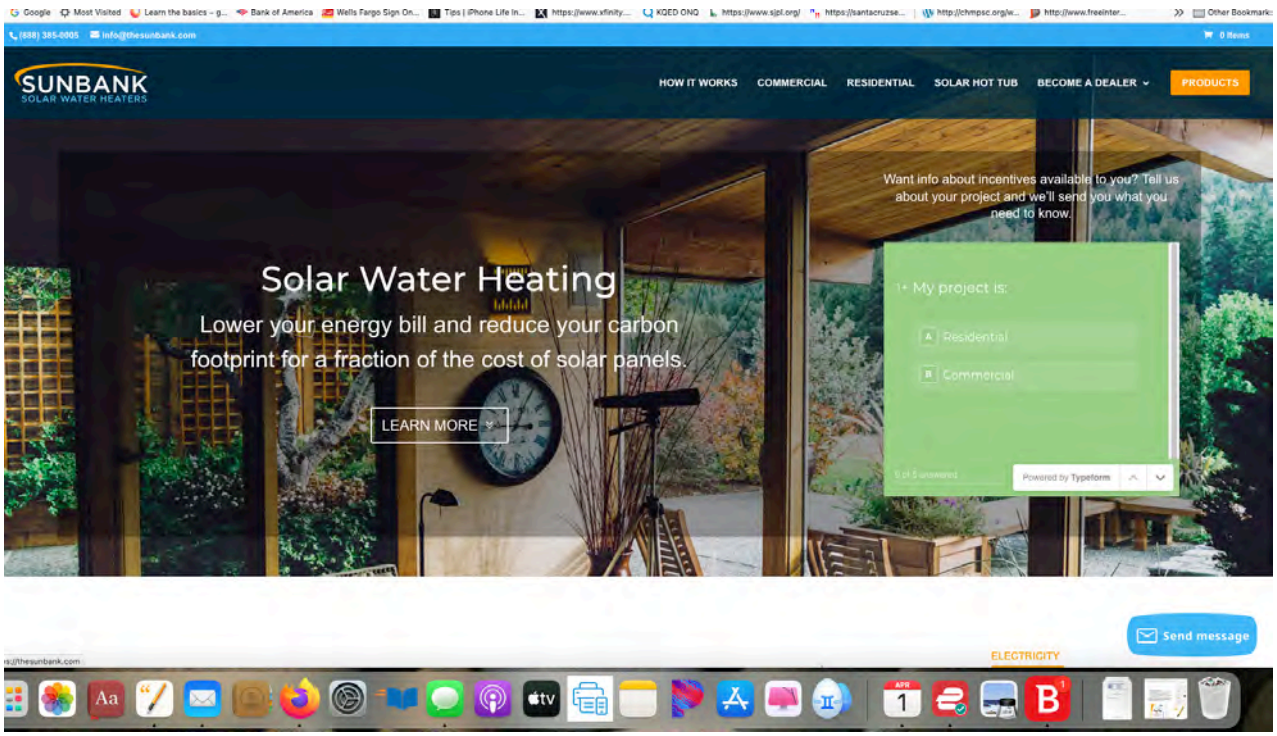
- Ventilating multiple bathrooms with 1 fan
- Whole House Fans
- Dryer Booster Fans (Residential)
- Wiring: 1 fan and 2 FD 60EM timers
- Wiring: 1 fan serving 2 baths with 1 switch per bath
- Wiring: Generic 120V coil relays
- Server/Electronics Cooling
- ACT Pumps - Save Money, Water, and Energy
- ACT and Laing Instant Hot Water Systems
- Ductwork Sealing
- Duct Booster Fans
- Stego Wrap for Sealing Crawl Spaces

Tankless?
The ACT D'MAND® KONTROLS SYSTEM pump (C1-100 models which replace the S-70 and S-02) and the Laing AutoCirc E10 are the only pumps on the market approved for use with tankless water heaters. Smaller pumps available from other manufacturers do not have enough volume or pressure capability to activate most tankless water heaters.

Why use it?
- Saves energy and water: The loss of water while waiting could be 3 to 7 gallons. Since most homeowners do not stand and wait for hot water to arrive, another 1 to 3 gallons may be lost before they notice hot water has arrived.
- Easily installed in new or existing homes.
- Will work with any water heating system.
- Typically installed within two hours or less on any existing or new home. Does not require major plumbing.
- Return on investment: Will have a payback of one to three years.
- Extends water heater life.
- Reduces sewage and air pollution.

How much water is saved?
Water savings for a household of four occupants varies from about 900 gallons to about 3000 gallons per point of use, per year (DOE study). Point of use is a single location at a home, for example a faucet where hot water is available. The water savings in a home with four points of use, on the average, would be 3,600 to 12,000 gallons per year.

If a home saved only 20 gallons of water each day (7,300 gallons per year) then in one year the impacts would be:
- $151 Saved (including natural gas for water heating, water, and sewer - @ $1 per therm) or
- $175 Saved (including propane for water heating, water, and sewer - @ $1 per gallon) or
- $242 Saved (including electricity for water heating, water, and sewer - @ $0.1 per kWh)



SUNBANK
SOLAR WATER HEATERS

HOW IT WORKS | COMMERCIAL | RESIDENTIAL | SOLAR HOT TUB | BECOME A DEALER | PRODUCTS

Control your energy costs

Heating water is 25% of the average home's energy consumption. You can reduce this cost and take the first step toward personal energy independence by installing a residential solar water heater. When compared to solar panels this is a low cost way to go solar and start saving now.

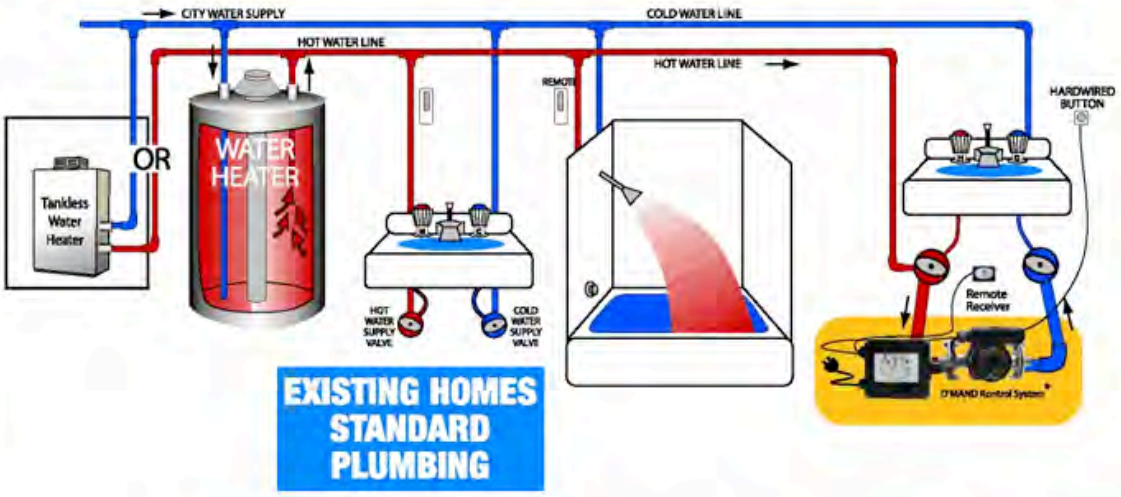
Federal Tax Credit

There is currently a 26% tax credit in 2020, 22% in 2021, and 0% after that. This is a very generous tax credit that applies to both the cost of equipment and installation of a residential solar water heater. As a credit (not a deduction), it amounts to a dollar for dollar reduction in your tax bill.

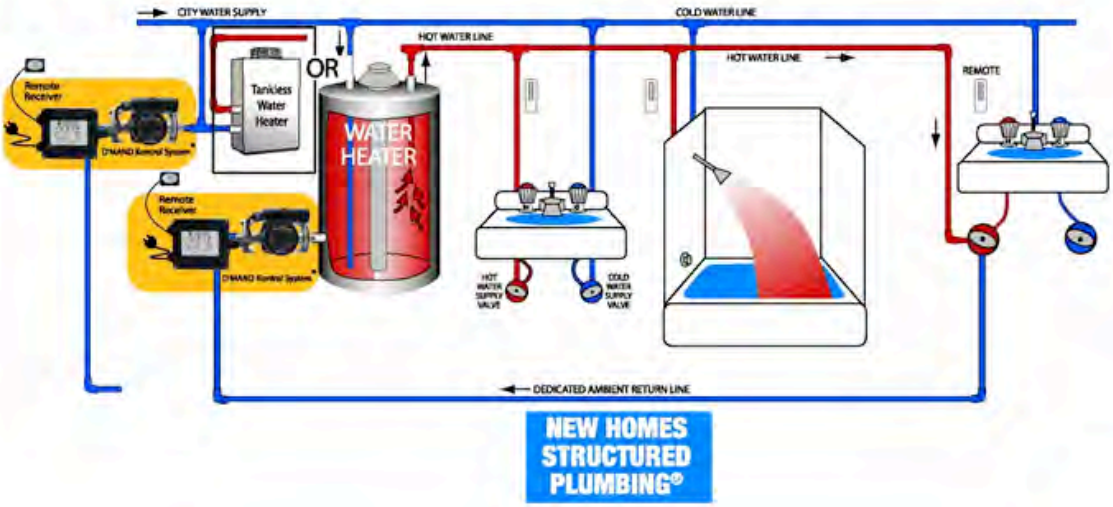
State Incentives

Many states and local utilities have incentives and rebates that will pay for another portion of your residential solar water heater installation. The California Solar Initiative (CSI) has $100M dollars in performance incentives to help persuade people to be leaders in going solar. This incentive expires in July of 2020. For a list of residential solar water heater incentives in your area use the database at www.dsireusa.org

Send message



2. Structured Plumbing®: Locate the pump and the controls at the water heater on the dedicated return line. Hardwired and wire used to activate the system from multiple locations.



The **Democrat's American Rescue Plan of 2021 and Green New Deal** are going to have funding available for programs like **The Community Home Maintenance Project** and I want to make sure the project is not left behind because leaders in this community are lazy, have closed minds or are part of the Good Ol's Boys network, which I unfortunately am not. The Green New Deal is supposed to provide high tech, well paying jobs that will help protect the environment while providing new skills for today's workers.

The Community Home Maintenance Project will get passed over because we are new and small with no track record and can't compete with the local big boy non profits who, for whatever reason, don't want to cooperate with us to develop this program. They will promote studies and pay high executive salaries. We will work in the trenches and provide working results!

I am a Certified Green Plumber, which means I have taken many courses in a curriculum on how to protect our water and provide services to people that will allow them to conserve and protect our water by installing water conservation devices in their homes and installing hot water recirculating systems, solar hot water heaters and greywater waste systems that drain water to the landscape rather than public sewers. I submitted my proposal to The Santa Cruz Water Supply Advisory Committee, but they were not interested. **I proposed a program that would save our community hundreds of thousands of gallons of fresh water while providing jobs for homeless people.**

I do my very best not to lie or speak in hyperbole and it is not my intention to cast aspersions on anyone, but facts are facts and I have documents to back up my claims. I have worked too hard and too long give up without a fight and I am not doing this for own benefit. I want to improve my community and country and provide homes and jobs for homeless people and implement programs that help the elderly, the disabled and the disenfranchised. You'd think more people would want to help me!

Why do I want to do this? As a country, we can do much better than we have done helping our poor. When I started helping people back in the 70's, I considered myself a warrior in The War Against Poverty. It's 50 years later and the homeless problem is many times worse than it was back then. **We have failed miserably as a country! We are the richest country on the face of the earth and have more material wealth than any people in the history of the world, and yet we have people living in tents on the street and people without enough to eat.** This is unacceptable, disgusting, and immoral!

I am 70 years old have been working on this for nearly 50 years. Everyone tells me what a great idea it is, but yet few people have the time to help me. In the last two years, I have spent over $3000 and put in hundreds of hours of work on this non profit. **I just want the concept to be successful, so it can be replicated another communities,** but I can't do it alone. It is a great concept that will change people's lives and our country for the better.

What is it I think you can help me with?

I expect there will be federal and state money available for all sorts of community service projects, such as green work programs, building and renovating affordable housing and better ways to help eliminate poverty. Why always fund the same sources who are afraid to try anything new and whose main objective is to keep their jobs, as opposed to finding more productive and less expensive ways of doing things. I am requesting an opportunity to be heard and my ideas considered. I contacted Encompass Community Services, the largest non profit in the county and wrote letters to **both** the Chairman of the Board and the Executive Director. I received no replies from either!

This organization receives Federal, State, County and City funding. Am I such a low life piece of human garbage that I am not even entitled to a "Thank you for contacting us with your idea, but we are not interested at this time?" Judge for yourself. Read the following letters and see what I am requesting to speak to them about. Do I appear to be an uneducated, illiterate, ignorant fool, not even worth ten minutes of their time? Was I rude or condescending to anyone? The changes I was advocating for in the distant past are the same things our society is advocating for today. Obviously those in positions of authority have not been successful in making the necessary changes to eliminate poverty, provide better housing for the poor or provide adequate jobs.

It is not that all non profit and government employees are just too busy, overworked and underpaid, like most people proclaim. The Executive Director of Encompass Community Services, who used to be the Executive Director of the Homeless Services Center, whom I have never met, makes $150,000 a year. Apparently, she is doing a good job and is being well paid for her services.

My gripe is not solely with Encompass Community Services. Other local non profits I have corresponded with have been no better. They receive public money and they should at least have the decency to consider ideas from concerned community members who want to make ours a better community.

I would like you to work with me and determine if the need for these services actually does exist, and if so, help me do something about it. I am not by any means a wealthy person, but it is worth it to me to see if I should give up or continue.

Here is what my gripe is about:

I don't have a Masters Degree in Non Profit Administration from Stanford, but I do possess a bachelors degree in Social Work and Corrections, 40 years of experience

in the trades and experience working with developmentally disabled people, homeless people, elderly disabled people, at risk youth and years of actual experience in the trenches with people going through hard economic and emotional times. I have worked on multimillion dollar homes along the 17 Mile Drive in Carmel, for oil rich Iranians in Beverly Hills, on mansions in Woodside and on multimillion dollar homes right here in Santa Cruz. I have worked with American Indians living in abandoned cars, in farm labor camps right here in Santa Cruz where there was no indoor plumbing, and with homeless people living in cars and in the woods. I have seen the full range of how different people live in this country. As a VISTA, I experienced poverty firsthand and I think I have some insight on how things can be done differently in order to better the lives of those living on the bottom echelons of society. I think I deserve a little more respect from local leadership than I have received and I haven't asked for much!

I have worked extremely hard and long on developing my project ideas. They are professionally sound, well thought out, well presented and deserving of a chance to demonstrate their effectiveness. Don't take my word for it. Speak with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. You hopefully wouldn't hire an MBA to establish a program to help mentally ill or drug dependent individuals and you wouldn't hire a psychologist to set up a youth work construction program! The problems we are trying to solve here are poverty, housing, education, employment opportunities and discrimination. They all work in conjunction with one another and people who can see this are those you need to listen to.

This paragraph was part of the letter I sent to Monica Martinez, The Executive Director Of Encompass Community Services. (I received no reply and also sent a letter to their President of the Board and received no reply.)

"I have met once and have been in regular contact with Davina Polanco, The Director of Haven of Hope Group Home for Foster Children where we discussed the possibility of doing a room addition at one of their homes and allowing the organization's kids to help with the work and gain valuable work skills. We also discussed the possibility of training some of the same young people to provide home repairs, handicapped accessibility services and yard maintenance to the homes of low income elderly and disabled seniors and nonprofit social service organizations in the community. Thirdly, we spoke of the ideal possibility of obtaining properties and using the Haven of Hope's participants to help rehabilitate the facilities to provide affordable housing. There is a shortage of housing for foster kids who have aged out of the group home setting at 18. Many are now homeless. "

This is the first page of the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury Report 2017

Published June 19, 2018 Page 1 of 18

These Are Our Children
Responding to Youth Homelessness in Santa Cruz County

Summary
The vision statement in Vision Santa Cruz, the draft 2018 Santa Cruz County strategic plan, imagines "a healthy, safe and affordable community that is economically and environmentally vibrant for all."[1] And yet, the 2017 Santa Cruz County Homeless Census and Survey found that there were 588 homeless unaccompanied minor children and young adults in our community.[2] If Santa Cruz County hopes to become the community imagined in its vision statement, a comprehensive network of services will need to be available to the unaccompanied minor children and young adults who are living unsheltered and uncared for in our community.
The Grand Jury investigated the assistance and support Santa Cruz County provides to our homeless young adults and unaccompanied children, compared to the services available to foster youth aged 18 to 21 who remain in the foster care system as they transition into independence. Based on our investigation, the Grand Jury recommends that the County implement a system of proactive outreach to homeless unaccompanied children and youth as an urgent priority of its program to end youth homelessness by 2020.

1. Are foster kids in the county in need of additional living facilities?
2. Do foster kids need employment opportunities?
3. Is this county in need of additional foster care homes?
4. Does California have an extreme affordable housing shortage?
5. Is youth homelessness a serious problem in our community

Letter to Executive Director of Encompass Community Services 2019 No Reply

Community Home Maintenance Project

Enabling Youth to Serve the Elderly

by Providing Home Repairs

A Nonprofit Construction Corporation

Tuesday Jan 29, 2019

Sam Burkhardt
Head Chimp
sam@chmpsc.org

120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, Ca
95062
831-2446677

Monica Martinez,CEO
Encompass Community Services
380 Encinal St. #200
Santa Cruz, Ca.95060

Dear Ms. Martinez,

I am writing to you today because I would like to talk to you about a non profit organization I have created that has been accredited with 501C3 status, which I feel will benefit many of your clients and the Santa Cruz community. I would appreciate an opportunity to present my ideas to Encompass Community Services.

I recently received non profit 501C3 status from the IRS and State of California to administer an Nonprofit Construction Corporation/Social Service Organization that will train low

income, at risk and foster care young people to provide home repairs, handicapped accessibility services and yard maintenance for low income, elderly and disabled people and non profit social service organizations in Santa Cruz County. I call my idea The Community Home Maintenance Project. I am attaching information on the project for you to review and consider. I believe the project will be able to provide many significant benefits to those participating in Encompass's numerous programs.

I am contacting you specifically because of your knowledge and experience in working with the homeless population when you were the Director of the Homeless Services Center.

I hope that we will be able to work together in some way to the advantage of both organizations. On your website, it is stated that Encompass Community Services is recruiting, compassionate change makers and emerging leaders who strive for excellence in their fields who wake up every day ready to do good.

I am a Licensed General, Electrical and Plumbing Contractor with over 40 years of experience in the trades. I have a BA Degree in Social Work and have administered youth work training programs in the past. I was a VISTA Volunteer for 2 years where I created a program that enabled juvenile and adult offenders to work off community service time by providing minor home repairs, house painting and yard work assistance for low income elderly disabled people.

I have met once and have been in regular contact with Davina Polanco, The Director of Haven of Hope Group Home for Foster Children where we discussed the possibility of doing a room addition at one of their homes and allowing the organization's kids to help with the work and gain valuable work skills. We also discussed the possibility of training some of the same young people to provide home repairs, handicapped accessibility services and yard maintenance to the homes of low income elderly and disabled seniors and nonprofit social service organizations in the community. Thirdly, we spoke of the ideal possibility of obtaining properties and using the Haven of Hope's participants to help rehabilitate the facilities to provide affordable housing. Lastly we want to provide job training for homeless people.

Homeless People's Work Training Program

The CHMPSC wants to help eliminate homelessness. We desire to provide job training that will allow homeless people to:

1. Install solar powered hot water heaters on people's roofs reducing gas or electric bills.
2. Install economic hot water recirculation systems in people's homes saving thousands of gallons of fresh water per household.
3. Train homeless people to build small semi-permanent powered and plumbed shelter units that can be installed in homed people's back yards and temporarily connected by electrical conduit and plumbing to the main house. These semi-permanent

unit’s electrical and plumbing systems can meet the building codes under most conditions and will not be a major undertaking. There can be an Adopt a Homeless Person Program whereby homed people can install a small shelter in their back yard. An organization such as the Homeless Resources Center or Encompass can screen homeless people and find an appropriate compassionate family who may provide assistance when necessary. In this way, we can help prevent homeless villages and caring families can help one homeless individual.

I have attached, essentially, a full fledged proposal which describes the Community Home Maintenance Project, what it intends to do and how it intends to do it. It lists the other community organizations that will also be involved and gives ideas on how the organization can achieve its funding.

I am interested in training foster care youth to install solar hot water heaters on people's homes. These state of the art units are manufactured right here in Santa Cruz. With the current rebate, the tax write off covers the cost of the units. The only cost is the cost of labor. If we can obtain grant money to train participants, we can install these on the homes of low income people very economically. I also have a plan to install hot water recirculation systems in low income people's homes as well, saving our community literally hundreds of thousands, of gallons of water per year. I contacted the creator of the best hot water recirculation system available about buying the units in bulk and told him about my idea of creating a youth work project that will install the units in people's homes. He was really interested! In fact, he is already working with Ecology Action, a nonprofit located in Santa Cuz, to install these units in other localities in California, but not yet in Santa Cruz.

As you know, hundreds of thousands of homes need to be built in California. The fires burned tens of thousands of homes and tens of thousands more are needed for low and moderate income families. The Community Home Maintenance Project can serve as a pre-apprenticeship program. It can be a doorway to bigger and better things. What’s more, I want the project to be a demonstration project because I believe in its potential and I want it to succeed here so it can be replicated in other communities.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I look forward to presenting my ideas to you.

Sincerely,

Sam Burkhardt

Letter to Housing Matters Board Members NO REPLY

Community Home Maintenance Project

Enabling Youth to Serve the Elderly and Disabled
Community by Providing Home Repairs

Sam Burkhardt
Head Chimp
831-212-7019

120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, Ca
672860 B, C36, C12.

A Nonprofit Construction Corporation

Board Members
Housing Matters
115 Coral St.
Santa Cruz, Ca.

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Dear Board Members,

Congratulations on your new Mini-Cottages. If you are interested in providing better semi-permanent or temporary housing options for homeless people in our community for less money, are interested in having them built locally by your program participants and if you are also interested in providing job training and work opportunities for these participants, please read on.

Kindly read the first three and one half pages of the **Community Home Maintenance Project of Santa Cruz Overview** to get a quick overview of its goals. If what you read piques your interest, great! Please read on for ideas on how we can work together to provide more great services for our community. If you don't feel homeless people in our community and in other communities need additional social services or better housing opportunities, thank you for your time.

Should you like what you see after reading the overview, please read the entire document. I have attached the following additional documents to provide you with information that will help you better understand what we hope to do and how we plan to do it.

Document #1	**Plans and Costs.** This document provides plans, a description and costs of building small totally self contained housing units, complete with electrical, plumbing, a toilet, shower, bed, refrigerator, etc.
Document #2	A letter sent to the Santa Cruz City Council in Feb. of 2019 describing program benefits to our community and asking for help implementing this idea. This letter provided a great deal of additional information and listed the many non profit organizations I had contacted about working with me on the implementation of this project.
Document #3	A letter sent to Housing Matters E.D. Phil Kramer in 2019.

If you think my ideas are realistic and you might be interested in speaking to me further about providing additional opportunities for your homeless population, please feel free to contact me. The Community Home Maintenance Project of Santa Cruz is in a dormant state at the moment due to multiple issues, but if circumstances improve, it will most likely forge ahead.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Burkhardt

Letter, phone calls and email send to every Council Member **No Replies**

Community Home Maintenance Project

Enabling Youth to Serve the Elderly and Disabled
Community by Providing Home Repairs

Sam Burkhardt
Head Chimp
120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062

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www.chmpsc.org
672860 B-C12-C36

A Nonprofit Construction Corporation

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Santa Cruz City Council
Santa Cruz, Ca.

Dear Fellow Santa Cruzans,

I went to the Housing Action Partnership last week and knew there would be money very soon for homeless projects such as mine. I knew I was short on time and had no one who could help me. The prior day I had dropped off in formation for Monica Martinez, the ED of Encompass and PhIl Kramer, the ED of the Homeless Shelter Services. The next day I hoped to drop off similar information for Reyne Marr, the Homeless Services Coordinator. Wed.
Night, I stayed up all night and finished the letter to Peter Gaarn, the Chairman off the Board at Encompass Community Services and the first draft letter to the Santa Cruz City Council. In these letters, I tried to explain as simply as I could and as completely as I could that information that would provide the best understanding of what I was attempting to accomplish with the new nonprofit. The most important idea, in my opinion, at this time, being to use foster care youth and homeless people to provide training to construct small wired and plumbed shelter units, roughly 12 feet by twelve feet that would have a shower, toilet, water heater and utility sink for a bathroom. There would also be enough room for a single bed, a small desk and chair, a small refrigerator, and a small microwave and toaster oven. There would be adequate lighting, a small window in the bath for ventilation, insulated walls, and a small operational skylight for summer ventilation. There would be pocket door leading into bath fort privacy and to allow room for a small refrigerator, a small food preparation area with a small toaster oven and microwave. All the plumbing would be on one wall outside wall which could easily be removed at the end of the program, leaving the compassionate homeowner with a decent legal

wired storage area that could be used or another propose. The furniture can be purchased from Ikea cheaply and assembled by the new inhabitant. A sump pump would deliver the waste to the main house.

These would not be deluxe units, but would provide for necessities and would keep the inhabitant safe, dry and relatively comfortable enough so that they didn't need to worry about the daily battles of homeless life, but could carry on to better his or her lot in life.

These inhabitants will be hand picked by social workers who will match them with appropriate families who would consider helping them and allowing a homeless person to live on their property in order to qualify for a free quality shed and possibly some assistance with utility costs. If we cannot find enough compassionate families in Santa Cruz to do this, we can install the shelters on a site somewhere and cluster them together as long as there is an adequate power and a sewer connection.

These participants will be at an age and physical ability that they can be trained to build these units and work with the Community Home Maintenance Project and eventually provide home repairs, handicapped accessibility services for low income disabled people and non profit social service organizations.

The youth group participants would be required to commit for one year of service and will be given their own set of tools which they will be responsible or keeping and maintaining. At the end of their commitment they may be given the option of staying or moving on, in which case the project will provide them with reference and help them to find a regular job. If they commit for two years and finish their service in a satisfactory manner, they will be given a bonus and get training and accreditation from the Center for Employment Training in Watsonville which will provide advanced training and lead to high paying regular advanced skills construction jobs.

Our objective here is to prevent individuals from falling further in failure, thus saving society money by not having to pay possible social service, correctional or mental health associated costs, which far outweigh the costs to society for prevention.

Another serious problem we need to consider is the amount of disease being spread among the homeless village. With people living so close to one another there has been a unhealthy amount of Hepatitis A and C, with some cases of Tuberculosis and Mirza, all contagious diseases that can cause very serious health issues. Moving people away to healthier facilities and separating them from each other will save our city many thousands dollars in medical expenses.

One more major advantage of allowing the Community Home Maintenance Project to come into existence, is its ability to save Santa Cruz tens of hundreds of thousands of gallons of fresh water and hundreds of thousands of dollars in utility costs. In 2015 I submitted a proposal to the Santa Cruz City Water Conservation Committee describing my plan to train youth to install ultra high efficiency toilets, which only use .8 gallon of water per flush as opposed to 1.28 or 1.6 gallons. I also told them of my plan to install hot water recirculating systems on people's homes saving thousands of gallons of fresh water per home per year at extremely minimal cost. In my current proposal, I have described my idea of training homeless people to install state of the art solar water heaters which are made right here in Santa Cruz, increasing our tax base. The cost of the units themselves will be covered by the current tax rebate so if we can additionally subsidize the labor by using training costs and programs to provide jobs for homeless people we can install many more on the homes of low income people in the community.

Realize also if you will, that the Community Home Maintenance Project is a hybrid nonprofit social service corporation construction company. We will be also doing standard construction projects on regular homes and businesses and governmental agencies with

all proceeds going back into the corporation so that we can continue with our charitable objectives. It is definitely a win win for everyone.

I recently applied for funding from Rotary International in Watsonville to train foster kids tp do home improvements on their group home. This particular proposal was to build raised garden boxes, a drip irrigation system and some railroad tie steps to make the access easier for disabled kids, but was unable to submit the application in time. A group of volunteer students from UCSC wanted to show the foster kids how to grow their own vegetables. I also received a request from Second Harvest Food Bank from Watsonville to remodel two bathrooms and make them ADA accessible, replace a sump pump and build about forty feet of fencing to hide an ugly and unsafe utility area.

Think what a fabulous image this would present for our city. We partially solve a terrible blight upon our city by training some of our homeless to build simple but adequate safe and affordable shelter for other homeless people in our community. In addition, we train them to do home repairs for low income elderly disabled people and non profit social service organizations. We encourage compassionate city residents to allow a single person to live in one of the units in their back yards and that person receives a stipend to help pay for extra utility costs. We also allow the homeowner to keep the quality built legal but gutted unit as a storage unit in his yard once the danger has passed and the homeless issue has been resolved however long that takes.

The newly homed trainee, once the shelter units are fabricated and ready for set up are allowed to install solar hot water heaters and hot water recirculating systems saving our community hundreds of thousands of gallons and dollars by not wasting so much fresh water.

We want this project to be as successful as humanly possible so that it can be replicated elsewhere in other parts of the country.

I can't do this all by myself. I am for all practical purposes a one man show. That is why I have contacted Monica Martinez, the ED and Peter Gaarn, the Chairman of the Board at Encompass Community Services, Phil Kramer, the ED of Homeless Shelter Services, Reyne Marr, the County Homeless Services Coordinator, and prior to that, Community Bridges, Santa Cruz Community Action Board, California Grey Bears, County Office of Education, Superintendent of Schools, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Pajarro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Watsonville City Council, Central Coast Center For Independent Living, Mid Pen Housing Corporation, Seniors Council, Youth Services, Santa Cruz Volunteer Center Helping Hands Program, Senior Network Services, Habitat For Humanity, Santa Cruz County Counseling Center, Santa Cruz County Redevelopment Agency, United Way of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Community Options, Santa Cruz Community Housing Corporation, Santa Cruz County Commission on Aging, Santa Cruz Association of Faith Communities and more, going all the way back to 1990.

Burkhardt Construction

Plumbing and Electrical

120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
License # 672860
831-212-7019

A Licensed General, Electrical, and Plumbing Contractor

Friday, January 9, 2015

Maria Elena De La Garza, Executive Director
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County

Dear Ms. De La Garza,

I am contacting you because I would like you to look over a project that I have created. Essentially, the purpose of the project is to train "at risk" and economically disadvantaged young people to provide minor home repairs, building maintenance, yard-work assistance, house painting and handicapped accessibility services for low income elderly disabled individuals and not for profit social service organizations such as group homes for developmentally disabled individuals, senior and childcare centers and other non profit organizations providing services for people and animals.

I worked with C.A.B 20 years ago, for about two years, as a volunteer and tried to implement this project, but for various reasons the project never came into fruition.

I would consider it a great personal favor if you would be so kind as take a few minutes of your time and look over the enclosed information. I have years of experience working with and for non-profit social service organizations, I was a V. I. S. T. A. volunteer for two years from 1973 to 1975. I have a B.A.degree in Social Welfare and Corrections, have been involved in Homeless Connect as well as other homelessness prevention activities, was a Big Brother for 6 years, a Board Member of the Santa Cruz SPCA for 6 years and a founding member of the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center's Helping Hands project. I walk my talk. All I desire is a little consideration. I think I have something to offer CAB and the community.

I have divided the information into three sections so that you can get a clear picture of what I am presenting.

Section 1. The **Gang Prevention Proposal** has four subsections.The first is a letter I sent to Community Bridges that describes the program in detail and explains what the project will do and how it will do it. I personally met with Mr. Story, who told me he thought CAB would be a better organization for this project and said he would give the information to his wife, who as you know, is CAB's assistant director. I never heard back from anyone, for whatever reason. The second is some information about myself that I

believe you will find extremely interesting. It tells of my 40 year attempt to bring my concept to reality and how I have prepared myself for the job. The third is a survey I sent to various non-profit organizations while I was working as a Volunteer Program Developer under the auspices of CAB back in 1993. I included this letter on CAB letterhead to prove that I was actually doing ? by Tom Hellman and myself submitted by Community Options in about 1984. The last is a newspaper clipping from the Redding Record Searchlight in 1974 describing the new program than provides home maintenance help for low income elderly disabled people.

Section 2 . Watsonville Gang Prevention Letters are letters I sent to 2 Watsonville City Council members, one who was the mayor at the time. 2 letters were to non-profit organizations working on gang prevention activities and the third is a letter to a gang prevention non-profit in Salinas in 1992 when that city was having problems similar to yours.

Section 3. These letters are samples of the very many letters sent to **local** non-profit organizations, governmental entities, and educational institutions I contacted in trying to implement the project.

Section 4. Please read this! A good letter to Mary Theurwachter, lead attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Santa Cruz. Also relevant information on opportunities missed at Murphy Camp and the San Andreas Labor Camp.

In view of what is again happening in Watsonville pertaining to gang violence, deaths in the community and an upsurge in criminal activity among young people, perhaps it might be time to try a different approach. It appears that the old standby methods have not provided the desired results.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendations on Homelessness 2019

CHMPSC Partial Solution

Sections of the 2019-2020 Santa Cruz Civil Grand Jury Report
Arranged for Brevity, Copied and Pasted

Homelessness: Big Problem, Little Progress

It's Time To Think Outside The Box

It is no secret homelessness is a significant issue for Santa Cruz County (SCCO). What may not be fully understood is the amount of time, money, and energy that has been devoted to the search for solutions. Even with all the efforts, very little progress has been made in reducing the number of individuals and families affected by homelessness. Why? The Grand Jury identified five main reasons the homeless problem persists.

First, the community views homelessness as a problem that should be addressed by elected officials; however, whatever “political will” that exists to propose housing solutions is often overcome by community resistance. Second, the County lacks an effective governance structure with the authority to manage the complexity and size of the homeless problem. Third, there are insufficient resources to support those affected by homelessness. Fourth, there is an under utilization of existing resources in the County. And fifth, the County lacks comprehensive and effective data collection and analysis systems.

Solutions to these problems are complex. However, steps can be taken to enable Santa Cruz County to more effectively manage the homeless crisis, which has become even more of a challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This report illuminates local barriers to homelessness relief, and proposes potential solutions. Ending homelessness will provide significant benefits to the entire community far beyond the relief to the individuals receiving services. Together we can care for and restore dignity to some of the most vulnerable in our community, but it will take a renewed commitment on the part of all stakeholders in our County.

No to Shelter, Yes to Housing

The Grand Jury asked multiple witnesses about the chronically homeless, and those who often read and hear about those who are unwilling to go to shelters. We were told that while these individuals would say “no” to a shelter bed, most would say “yes” to housing. Witnesses identified, the “3 P’s” possessions, pets, and partners, and not being able to bring them into a shelter, as the most common reason given for not wanting to enter a homeless shelter.

Sadly, for women, it is often a fear of violence that prevents them from accepting a bed in a shelter. Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women, and homeless women are more likely to be, or have been, victims of violent physical and sexual assaults than women who are housed.

Thinking Outside of the Box to Build Homes

Innovative Housing Alternatives Cal Matters related tiny home communities and cabin communities built using “Toughshed structures” as being relatively inexpensive and quick to build. Oakland has created 4 such communities containing 20 cabins, each cable of housing two individuals. Each cabin has an estimated building cost of $5,000 per unit and an annual operational coast of $21,250. In addition to housing, these communities provide meals, case managers, and supportive services. Many Grand Jury witnesses agreed that tiny home communities would be an innovative and creative idea. Such a community could be useful in serving those who are more challenging to house and need more intensive support.

Tiny homes can be an attractive housing option as they tend to be less expensive and faster to build than multi story facilities. CalMatters puts the upfront cost for building apartment structures at hundreds of thousands of dollars. Cabin communities (total building cost of $5,000/unit), like tiny homes, trailers, and low cost projects are a very reasonable alternative. Two features that make these alternatives great options for our County are their small size, and the fact that some are built on wheels and can be moved from location to location as needed.

The Roundtree Detention Facility in Santa Cruz County offers a variety of skills classes to inmates.On a recent Grand Jury tour of the facility, jurors learned that inmates assemble small home-like structures in one of these classes. As an option, to create more housing and possibly ADUs, the Grand Jury suggests the SCCO Sheriff utilize the Rountree Jail’s skills classes to build structures that could assist in housing the homeless population. Such a program could be a win-win by improving the skills of inmates and building much needed housing for the county.

It Can Be Done

While some Santa Cruz County and City officials were quick to throw out the standard, “It can’t be done," “There is nowhere to build," and other excuses, many were in favor of these outside of the box solutions and several identified land where PSH and tiny home communities could be built if there was the political and community will to support these solutions. Interviewees from nonprofit organizations and FBOs were very enthusiastic and the Grand Jury heard testimony that some nonprofit organizations in SCCO have either looked at and/or have implemented some variation of some of these

options. From the FBOs and nonprofits, the Grand Jury heard a willingness to partner with the County on these projects.

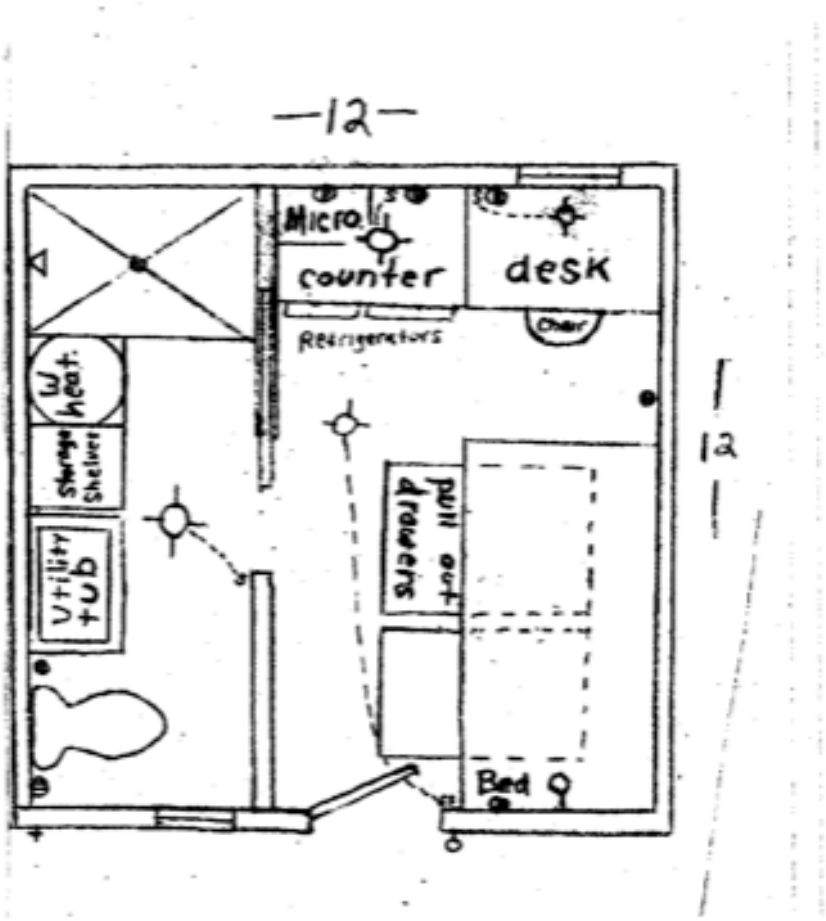
As outlined above, other communities have been able to implement successful alternative housing options. The Grand Jury believes some of these could be viable options for SCCO, and should be implemented in scales that are appropriate.

Community Home Maintenance Project's

Homeless Woman's Shelter Project

CHMP's Director is a Licensed General, Electrical and Plumbing Contractor with over 40 years in the trades. He thinks CHMP can build small self contained semi-temporary units that may be located in homed people's back yards that can be attached temporarily to the main building and will be safe and meet electrical and plumbing building codes. There can be an Adopt a Homeless Woman Program whereby homed people can have a small shelter installed in their back yard. An organization such as Housing Matters, Encompass Community Services, Walnut Ave. Family and Women's Center, Women's Crisis and Support or Pajaro Valley Shelter Services can screen homeless people and find an appropriate compassionate family where a shelter can be built where the family may provide assistance when necessary. In this way, we can help prevent homeless villages and caring families can help one homeless women at a time

Community Home maintenance Project's design for a low cost, long term, site assembled, safe, secure and affordable self contained small home, suitable for one person or a community of homes.



These building are designed to meet the plumbing and electrical codes, but a variance would be required because they do not meet habitability codes such as square footage, earthquake, egress, etc. This building is designed with modular components for easy site assembly and movability. There is a 2 foot x3 foot skylight roughly in the center of the ceiling which is not shown for lack of space.

A sewage ejector pump is incorporated into the toilet. The shower and lavatory waste drains into the small pump behind the toilet to be pumped out. The plumbing components can be installed on the outside of the exterior wall for easy accessibility for repairs, if required. The waste line for the pump is ¾ inch copper pipe, eliminating a 3 inch waste line. If multiple buildings are built in close proximity, the individual sewage ejector pump can be eliminated and separate buildings can drain into a common sump pump tank. The electrical sub panel can be installed in multiple locations. The waiter heater holds 10 gallons and runs off 110 volts. There re 2 small refrigerators that sit side by side under the countertop, providing 6.4 cubic feet space

including a freezer section. A standard portable, electric, oil filled room heater will provide plenty of heat at minimal cost. The walls and ceilings, as built, have a minimum of R13 insulation. The pocket door in the bathroom provides privacy if required. There is room for additional storage above the water heater. The bed, desk and other furniture can be purchased from IKEA inexpensively. A small loft can be easily and inexpensively be installed above the bed for a additional bed, or to get the lower bed off the floor for additional living space.

18 piers	$70	4, 12’ 2x6	$70	3 sheets ¾ CDX	$93
4, 12’ 4x6	$70	50, 2x4 studs	$142	120 ‘ 2x4plate	$43
2 ,10’ cripple wall	$8	9, 14’ 2x6 rafters	$77	2, 10’ 2x4 cripples	$7
6 sheet T111	$216	3 sht CDX roofing	$93	Felt paper	$10
1.5 rolls rolled roof.	$150	5 metal drip edge	$41	5 rolls R13 ins.	$150
3x3 vinyl window	$80	2x1 vinyl window	$60	stl. prehung door	$220
Macerating toilet kit	$1100	32x48 shower pan	$320	shr. valve&trim	$100
Util. tub & faucet	$115	10 gal. W/heater	$306	misc. plum.fit.	$200
17 she. ½ drywall	$192	2 sheet bluebird	$32	gal. Red Guard	$40
Mud and tape	$30	elect. Sub. Panel	$22	breakers (afci)	$300
Wire	$60	elect box& trim	$50	light fixtures	$100
Paint	$250	vinyl and laminate	$250	2 small refers.	$360
Microwave	$100	bed w/drawers	$250	desk & chair	$200
Misc. material	$250				

Sub total retail $6377 Home Depot 2018
Tax $579
Total $6427

If built in village setting, deduct $900 for macerating toilet.

Letter to Executive Director Homeless Resource Center 2020

Work Program for Homeless People

NO REPLY

Sam Burkhardt
120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA. 95062
429-897 11/30/2000

Ken Cole, Executive Director
Homeless Resource Center

Dear Mr. Cole:

I am in the process of starting a nonprofit organization that simply put, will be a community service work training program. I am trying to gather some information about community services that may or may not be provided to homeless persons who frequent the Homeless Resource Center. I would appreciate any information you can provide and would welcome referrals to other individuals who might provide additional information. . Possibly a representative of the Homeless Task Force might be able to provide me with some of the more obscure information if you don't have it at your disposal. It just seemed like you would be the most likely person to approach initially. I sincerely appreciate your help. I would be glad to come speak to you in person if you so desire.

Are there any organized work programs that provide either money or services to homeless people in exchange for work performed? I know for instance that some people are paid as "supervisors" in the churches where homeless people stay during the winter nights. I know that many homeless men stand in front of San Lorenzo Lumber hoping to find day work. Are there any other opportunities that you know of either for homeless men or women? Is the Employment Development Department involved in any manner with registering homeless people who frequent the Center, or are the only homeless people involved with EDD those who take it upon themselves to register with EDD. Do you have any guess as to the number of homeless people who are seriously actively seeking employment either full or part time? Do you have any statistics on the number of people using H.R.C. services who have steady part or full time work?

Has any organization provided any counseling or provided any type of job related services to aid those, (if any) who might want a "real job"? Realizing that homeless people have particular problems related to homelessness that may make finding work more difficult, is

anything being done to address these problems? I am assuming that there are enough homeless people actually desiring work to make such services feasible, but I may be wrong in my assumptions. If you were to make a guess, off the top of your head, what percentage of those who use your services, who currently are not working, might be physically and mentally capable of working at least part time, if services were offered to them to help them obtain “legitimate” work?Are any statistics available on the number of people who use the Homeless Resource Center and also the services of the County Mental Health Center? Are there any social workers

that frequent the H.R.C., actively seeking to aid those in need of mental health services, or do those in need of services simply take it upon themselves to go to County for mental health services?Do those persons who use your facilities generally know what sort of mental health services are available to them? Are any statistics available on the number of homeless people who are in need of Mental Health Services but for one reason or another aren’t getting them? Is adequate funding available to provide quality mental heath services or are there unmeet needs? Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Burkhardt

Letter to Director of Community Organizing, United Way

NO REPLY 2015

Burkhardt Construction

Plumbing and Electrical

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Santa Cruz, CA 95062
License # 672860
ph.831-212-7019

A Licensed General, Electrical, and Plumbing Contractor

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Ms. Megan Joseph

Director of Community Organizing
United Way of Santa Cruz County

Dear Ms. Joseph,

I am contacting you with regard to the Santa Cruz County Youth Violence Prevention Program. In a recent Santa Cruz Sentinel article that talked about the new program, it said the goal of the program is to reduce youth violence, raise school attendance, and increase job training and employment.

Within the last few years, and the last few months, I have tried to develop such a program in conjunction with the County Office of Education and the Community Action Board. Enclosed is that proposal.

I am a Licensed General, Electrical and Plumbing Contractor, with a Bachelor's degree in **Social Welfare and Corrections.** I have been a licensed Contractor in Santa Cruz since 1994. Over the last 40 years, I have created a program concept that I call **The Community Home Maintenance Project**. The project would train "economically disadvantaged" and or "at risk" young people to provide low cost labor to perform home repairs, yard work assistance, handicapped accessibility services and house painting for low-income elderly disabled people and nonprofit social service organizations in Santa Cruz County.

In 1975, while a Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA), working with the Self Help Home Improvement Project in Redding, CA., I created a community service program that enabled juvenile and adult offenders to work off their jail time by providing minor home repairs, house painting and yard work assistance for low income elderly and disabled people. Prior to that, there were no community service programs in the county. Offenders served their time in jail.

In 1978, I wrote a proposal for CETA, the Federally funded “Comprehensive Employment and Training Act” which provided funding for youth work programs. The program was funded and I set up a project that trained "at risk" continuation high school students to perform minor home repairs, house painting, yard work assistance and handicapped accessibility services for low-income elderly disabled homeowners in Shasta County, Calif. The students worked a half day and went to school a half day. If they didn’t go to school, they couldn’t work. There were two morning crews and two afternoon crews of five student each, both men and women, led by a crew leader. The demonstration project was funded for a year

Within the last few years, in trying to implement this program, I have been in contact with the Community Action Board, County Office of Education, Community Bridges and Grey Bears. In previous years, I have contacted Community Options, the Central Coast Council for Independent Living, The County Housing Authority, The Area Agency on Aging, The Senior Network Referral Services, the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center and many other non profit organizations operating in the county.

I would like to speak with you about my attempts to develop this project locally. If possible, I would like to meet with you and explain my idea in more detail. I would like to show you which community organizations would be involved, how they would work in conjunction with one another, where the sources of funding would come from, and explain the many ways our community would benefit from such a program.

In my opinion, one reason for little progress has been the fact that the people I have contacted don’t see the whole picture. The organizations serving the elderly don’t necessarily care about “at risk” youth. Organization working within the criminal justice system don’t necessarily care about the problems of the elderly disabled, and organizations focusing on youth don’t necessarily care about the issue of poverty in our community. They don’t seem to realize that working together, we can all help one another to a greater degree that if we work independently.

In my vision, preventing youth violence, promoting education and developing character is part of the package and part of the funding. Helping to end poverty, bettering the lives of the elderly poor and building stronger communities are the other components.

Enclosed is the Community Home Maintenance Program narrative and some information about myself. I have worked very hard on this and have spent many years and thousands of hours trying to develop and implement this idea.

A packet of information very similar to this will be delivered to Mr. Giraldo because of the Youth Violence Prevention Aspect of the project.Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Burkhardt

Letter to County Chief Probation Officer NO REPlY

Burkhardt Construction

Plumbing and Electrical

120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
License # 672860
ph.831-212-7019

A Licensed General, Electrical, and Plumbing Contractor

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Fernando Giraldo
Chief Probation Officer
Santa Cruz County Probation Department

Dear Mr. Giraldo,

I am contacting you with regard to the Santa Cruz County Youth Violence Prevention Program. In a recent Santa Cruz Sentinel article, that talked about the new program, it said the goal of the program is to reduce youth violence, raise school attendance, and increase job training and employment.

Within the last few years, I have tried to develop such a program in conjunction with the County Office of Education and the Community Action Board. Attached is that proposal. I call the program the Community Home Maintenance Project

I am a Licensed General, Electrical and Plumbing Contractor, with a Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare and Corrections. I have been a licensed Contractor in Santa Cruz since 1994. Over the last 40 years, I have created a program concept that I call **The Community Home Maintenance Project**. The project would train "economically disadvantaged" and or "at risk" young people to provide low cost labor to perform home repairs, yard work assistance, handicapped accessibility services and house painting for low-income elderly disabled people and nonprofit social service organizations in Santa Cruz County.

In 1975, while a Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA), working with the Self Help Home Improvement Project in Redding, CA., I created a community service program that enabled juvenile and adult offenders to work off their jail time by providing minor home repairs, house painting and yard work assistance for low income

elderly and disabled people. Prior to that, there were no community service programs in the county. Offenders served their time in jail.

In 1978, I wrote a proposal for CETA, the Federally funded “Comprehensive Employment and Training Act” which provided funding for youth work programs. The program was funded and I set up a project that trained "at risk" continuation high school stu- dents to perform minor home repairs, house painting, yard work assistance and handi- capped accessibility services for low-income elderly disabled homeowners in Shasta County, Calif. The students worked a half day and went to school a half day. If they didn’t go to school, they couldn’t work. There were two morning crews and two after- noon crews of five student each, both men and women, led by a crew leader. The demon- stration project was funded for a year

I am still very much interested in trying to make this idea a reality. I would appre- ciate it very much if you give me your opinion as to whether or not you feel the concept would work within the parameters of the Youth Violence PreventionProgram. If possible, I would like to meet with you and explain my idea in more detail. I would like to show you which community organizations would be involved, how they would work in con- junction with one another, where the sources of funding would come from, and explain the many ways our community would benefit from this program.

Enclosed is the Community Home Maintenance Program narrative and some in- formation about myself. I have worked very hard on this and have spent many years and hundreds of hours trying to develop and implement this idea. I respect your position and knowledge and hope you might be willing to give me some guidance on how best to proceed to make my dream a reality. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Sam Burkhardt

Letter to Superintendent of Parks and Recreation City of Santa Cruz 1999
NO REPLY

Burkhardt Construction
120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062
831-429-8971
Contractor Lisc. # 672860
April 7,1999

Carol Scurich, Superintendent
Santa Cruz Dept. of Parks and Recreation
323 Church St.
Santa Cruz, CA. 95060

Dear Ms. Scurich:

I am starting a nonprofit organization that will train economically disadvantaged and “at risk” young people to provide home repairs, maintenance and handicapped accessibility services for low income, elderly and disabled individuals as well as nonprofit social service agencies.

I was wondering if the Department of Parks and Recreation subcontracted out any of its work to independent contractors, or if there were any jobs on a waiting list that were not going to be done in the near future for lack of funds. I am asking this because I hope to get foundation or other grant money to put these people to work, and there might be funds available for doing work on public facilities.

I am thinking of construction related jobs such as bathroom repair, upgrading and maintenance, retaining walls, walkways, landscaping, building or maintaining playground equipment, painting, graffiti removal, etc.

I know that the City of Watsonville will soon be accepting bids from contractors to do graffiti removal from public and private buildings. I was told that the Parks and Recreation Department handles graffiti removal in the City of Santa Cruz.

I think I have given you a good idea of the kinds of services my organization might be able to provide the City. Any thoughts, comments, or suggestions you have would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Letter to Executive director of Habitat for Humanity NO REPLY

Community Home Maintenance Project

Enabling Youth to Serve the Elderly and Disabled Community
by Providing Home Repairs

Sam Burkhardt
Head Chimp
120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, Ca.95062

ph. 831-244-6677
sam@chmpsc.org
www.chmpsc.org
672860 B-C12-C36

A Nonprofit Construction Corporation

Sunday, January 20, 2019

David Foster, Executive Director
Habitat For Humanity
Monterey and Santa Cruz County

Dear Mr. Foster

Will you please take a few minutes of your time to read the enclosed information about the Community Home Maintenance Project. I believe you will be intrigued. I recently met with Davina Polanco, who is the Director of Haven of Hope group home for Foster Children. We are interested in working together to train some of her residents to do repairs on their facilities as well as to do home repairs for low income elderly disabled people in our community. The County and City of Santa Cruz recently received over 10 million dollars for programs to aid homeless people with an emphasis on foster youth and youth training programs. I have some ideas on training foster youth to construct Tiny Houses for homeless people and perhaps even work with Habitat for Humanity. I am a Licensed General, Electrical and Plumbing Contractor with experience in youth work programs. I would like to speak with you and possibly your Board of Directors about my ideas. I know that in some areas of the country, Habitat for Humanity has what is called The Critical Repair Program, which essentially does the kind of things the Community Home Maintenance Program desires to do. Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to meeting with you. Sam

Letter to Haven Of Hope Girls Home Executive Director to Establish Women's Construction Project to Rehabilitate Girls Homes

I did get a Good Response from Ms. Polanco

1

Community Home Maintenance Project

Enabling Youth to Serve the Elderly and Disabled Community
by Providing Home Repairs

Sam Burkhardt
Head Chimp
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Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062

ph. 831-244-6677
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www.chmpsc.org
672860 B-C10-C36

A Nonprofit Construction Corporation

Davina Polanco
Executive Director
Haven Of Hope

I am sending you this information for two reasons. The first is that I wanted to offer the young women participating in your program an opportunity to participate in this program. As you know, this has traditionally been a male dominated vocation, but there is no reason it is required to be so. For someone who perhaps does not want to go to college but wants a decent paying job with lots of future opportunity, this may be a possible position.

My educational background is in Social Work. I have a BA degree in Social Welfare and Corrections. I understand more than most the Mission Statement of Haven of Hope and I comprehend the structure of your Treatment Team. I read your Bio on your website and understand what you have been successfully accomplishing as a Recreational Therapist.

My desire was to be a "Vocational Therapist" if you will, in that I wanted to train at-risk young people to use their abilities to help low income elderly disabled people.

It has been my belief that enabling young people to contribute to society in meaningful ways, in this case, helping low income elderly disabled people and nonprofit social service organizations, will change their hearts and attitudes, while giving them a sense of self pride and accomplishment while teaching them valuable construction skills and work ethic.

I would be grateful if you could you might be able to connect me with one of your colleagues who might be interested in working me to provide opportunities for boys with the same needs. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Sam Burkhardt

Note, this letter was never sent to the CAB Board

Community Home Maintenance Project

Enabling Youth to Serve the Elderly and Disabled Community
by providing Home Repairs

Sam Burkhardt
Head Chimp
sam@chmpsc.org
95062
WWW.CHMPSC.ORG

ph. 831-800-2651
120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, Ca.
lic# 672860 B, C10,C36

A Nonprofit Construction Corporation

Monday, May 3, 2021

Members of the Board
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County
406 Main Street
Watsonville, Ca.

Dear Board Members,

My name is Sam Burkhardt. I was a volunteer with the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz for about 2 years, 27 years ago in about 1994. At that time, I was trying to set up a youth work program that would train at risk, and economically disadvantaged youth to provide minor home repairs, handicapped accessibility services, yard maintenance help and house painting for low income elderly disabled people in the county. I received no physical help or money of any sort through CAB, but was allowed to use their name when contacting other individuals and agencies about what I was attempting to do. After about two years of doing this, I gave up because federal funding for social service programs were being cut back all over the country and all the local non profit organizations joined forces and determined together who should get what money. No new programs were being funded. Since that time, I have worked diligently in an attempt to bring this idea into fruition.

I created a nonprofit organization nearly two years ago with the goal of training economically disadvantaged, at risk, homeless and foster youth to provide home repairs, handicapped accessibility services and yard maintenance assistance for low income elderly disabled persons and non profit social service organizations.

Community Home Maintenance Project

Mission Statement

The mission of the Community Home Maintenance Project of Santa Cruz is to provide job training for at risk, economically disadvantaged, foster care and homeless youth, so that they will become contributing members of society while simultaneously providing home repairs, yard maintenance and handicapped accessibility services to low income elderly disabled seniors and nonprofit social service organizations.

Typical Non Profit Social Service Organizations

Group foster homes, residential care facilities for the developmentally disabled, childcare centers, senior centers, teen centers, and organizations serving the disabled and homeless, organizations that provide housing for low income people, and organizations that promote animal welfare.

2. Weekend help for disabled seniors through Court Ordered Community Service

CHMPSC will help provide essential services to disabled seniors that will allow them to live independently at home. In order to help alleviate the housework and yard work challenge of these individuals, we intend to use juvenile and adults offenders who have been sentenced to do community service work by the court. We will provide ese services primarily on weekends when workers are not working at their regular jobs.

3. Homeless Peoples Work Training Program

CHMPSC wants to help eliminate homelessness. We believe that work promotes dignity and self respect. We desire to provide job training that will allow homeless people to:

A. **Install** solar powered hot water heaters on people!s roofs reducing gas or electric bills.

B. **Install** hot water recirculation systems in people!s homes saving thousands of gallons of fresh water per household.

C. **Build** small semi-permanent powered and plumbed shelter units that can be installed in homed people!s back yards and connected by electrical conduit and plumbing to the main house or assembled into villages.

D. **Install** Greywater landscaping plumbing systems in people's homes to reduce water consumption.

4. Provide Additional Homes for Foster Youth Living in Group Homes.

At this time, there are not enough Group Homes for Foster Youth who are transitioning out of group home living settings once they turn 18 years of age. The CHMPSC desires to work with foster young adults, who may have special needs, living in group homes and train them to help renovate homes to make the houses into suitable homes for additional foster youth.

Past Attempts At Project implementation

I have proposed these programs to numerous people and organizations with different interests over many years including those which represent at risk and economically disadvantaged youth, elderly disabled people, developmentally disabled individuals, homeless people, educational institutions, elected officials, and government departments.

Implementing this non-profit organization has been a challenge because those I have contacted do not see the whole picture. People advocating for youth are not necessarily interested in the problems of elderly disabled people and vice versa. People do not seem to realize that working together, we can all help one another to a greater degree that if we work independently.

Here is what we plan to do now, in more detail:

Provide minor home repairs, handicapped accessibility and yard work assistance to low-income elderly and disabled people and nonprofit social service organizations. This can be accomplished with job training for at risk, economically disadvantaged, foster care and homeless youth, so that they can become contributing members of society while simultaneously providing the above-mentioned services. By involving them within the world of community service organizations and their active participation in helping low-income elderly disabled seniors in need, they can gain feelings of pride, self-respect, and personal accomplishment, knowing that because of their effort and learned skills, they were able to significantly better the life of another human being in need.

Weekend help for disabled seniors through Court Referral.

The CHMPSC can provide essential services to disabled seniors that allow them to live independently at home. To help alleviate the housework and yard work challenge of these individuals, we intend to use juvenile and adults who have been sentenced to do community service work by the court. We will coordinate with The Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz, which works in conjunction with the County Court System to place these workers at appropriate locations We will provide these services primarily weekends when workers are not working at their regular jobs. Past experience shows that the participants enjoy this work, because they know they are doing something to help someone else in need.

Up to this point in time, I have failed repeatedly to bring this concept into fruition. The reason being is that it is a large, somewhat complicated, expensive endeavor and I have not been able to get any assistance from other non profit organizations or governmental entities. I have tried nearly every non profit or governmental entity involved with youth, seniors, homelessness, youth education, low income housing or poverty. If you have not heard about it, it is because your Executive Director did not bring my request for assistance to your attention. The following are some of the organizations I have contacted:

The Santa Cruz City Council, Monica Martinez, Executive Director of Encompass Community Services, Phil Kramer, the Executive Director of Homeless Shelter Services, Reyne Marr, the County Homeless Services Coordinator, the County Community Bridges, Santa Cruz Community Action Board, California Grey Bears, County Office of Education, Superintendent of Schools, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Watsonville City Council, Central Coast Center For Independent Living, Mid Pen Housing Corporation, Seniors Council, Youth Services, Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz Helping Hands Program, Senior Network Services, Habitat For Humanity, Santa Cruz County Counseling Center, Santa Cruz County Redevelopment Agency, United Way of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Santa Cruz Community Housing Corporation, Santa Cruz County Commission on Aging, Santa Cruz Association of Faith Communities and more, going all the way back to 1990.

Before I provide the Letter I sent to Ms. De.LaGarza, let me refresh your memory with regard to CAB's Mission Statement.

CAB's mission is to partner with the community to eliminate poverty and create social change through advocacy and essential services.

Burkhardt Construction
Plumbing and Electrical

120 Seaview Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
License # 672860
831-212-7019

A Licensed General, Electrical, and Plumbing Contractor

Friday, January 9, 2015

Maria Elena De La Garza, Executive Director
CommunityAction Board of Santa Cruz County

Dear Ms. De La Garza,

I am contacting you because I would like you to look over a project that I have created. Essentially, the purpose of the project is to train “at risk” and economically disadvantaged young people to provide minor home repairs, building maintenance, yard-work assistance, house painting and handicapped accessibility services for low income elderly disabled individuals and not for profit social service organizations such as group homes for developmentally disabled individuals, senior and childcare centers and other non profit organizations providing services for people and animals.

I worked with C.A.B 20 years ago, for about two years, as a volunteer and tried to implement this project, but for various reasons the project never came into fruition.

I would consider it a great personal favor if you would be so kind as take a few minutes of your time and look over the enclosed information. I have years of experience working with and for non-profit social service organizations, I was a V. I. S. T.A. volunteer for two years from 1973 to 1975. I have a B.A.degree in Social Welfare and Corrections, have been involved in Homeless Connect as well as other homelessness prevention activities, was a Big Brother for 6 years, a Board Member of the Santa Cruz SPCAfor 6 years and a founding member of the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center’s Helping Hands project. I walk my talk.All I desire is a little consideration. I think I have something to offer CAB and the community.

I have divided the information into three sections so that you can get a clear picture of what I am presenting.

Section 1. The **Gang Prevention Proposal** has four subsections.The first is a letter I sent to Community Bridges that describes the program in detail and explains what the project will do and how it will do it. I personally met with Mr. Story, who told me he thought CAB would be a better organization for this project and said he would give the information to his wife, who as you know, is CAB’s assistant director. I never heard

back from anyone, for whatever reason. The second is some information about myself that I believe you will find extremely interesting. It tells of my 40 year attempt to bring my concept to reality and how I have prepared myself for the job. The third is a survey I sent to various non-profit organizations while I was working as a Volunteer Program Developer under the auspices of CAB back in 1993. I included this letter on CAB letterhead to prove that I was actually doing this work in conjunction with CAB in case you had any doubts. The fourth is a proposal created by Tom Hellman and myself submitted by Community Options in about 1984. The last is a newspaper clipping from the Redding Record Searchlight in 1974 describing the new program than provides home maintenance help for low income elderly disabled people.

Section 2 . Watsonville Gang Prevention Letters are letters I sent to 2 Watsonville City Council members, one who was the mayor at the time. 2 letters were to non-profit organizations working on gang prevention activities and the third is a letter to a gang prevention non-profit in Salinas in 1992 when that city was having problems similar to yours.

Section 3. These letters are samples of the very many letters sent to **local** non-profit organizations, governmental entities, and educational institutions I contacted in trying to implement the project.

Section 4. Please read this! A good letter to Mary Thurwachter, lead attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Santa Cruz.Also relevant information on opportunities missed at Murphy Camp and the SanAndreas Labor Camp.

In view of what is again happening in Watsonville pertaining to gang violence, deaths in the community and an upsurge in criminal activity among young people, perhaps it might be time to try a different approach. It appears that the old standby methods have not provided the desired results.

I guess my idea of training youth to provide home repairs, handicapped accessibility services, house painting and yard work assistance for low income disabled seniors didn't meet CAB's criteria for youth job training, social change or essential services.

Ms. De La Garza told me to see Andrew Stone, Director, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, who told me to see Joanne Allen, Manager of Youth Services, Department of Education who I had corresponded within the past. She did not reply to my letter, I also contacted Supervisor Coonerty, who was on your Board, and he referred me to someone else as well

Having experienced this runaround previously, I recognized no one wanted to do anything and this pursuit was again, a waste of time.

An Old LetterAttempting to Establish the CHMPin Santa Cruz 1994
Well Worth Reading!!

April 3, 1994

Linda Perez, E.D. and Don
Eggleston Pajaharo Valley
Prevention and Student Assistance
Watsonville, Ca.

Dear Linda and Don,

I am a volunteer, working with the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, which as you undoubtedly know, is a not for profit social service agency which administers various social programs for people in poverty. I am developing a program which hopes to train economically disadvantaged, at risk, and/or gang involved young people to provide minor home repairs and handicapped accessibility for low income elderly and disabled people, as well as not for profit residential care facilities, such as group foster homes and group homes for developmentally disabled individuals.

I am a licensed general contractor with 20 years experience in home remodeling and repair. I have a BA degree in Social Work and two years experience as a V. I. S. T. A. (Volunteer in service To America) where I performed home repairs and remodeling for low income people, and set up a work program that allowed juvenile and adultoffenders to work off jail time and fines by

performing minor home repairs, house painting and yard cleanup for low income elderly disabled people.

I also wrote the proposal for and set up a C.E.T.A. (Federal, Comprehensive Education and Training Act) youth work project which trained at risk young people to provide home repair and handicapped accessibility services to low income elderly disabled individuals. The young people involved in the project were at risk youth who were attending a continuation high school. The students went to school a half day and worked a half day. If they didn't go to school, they didn't work. In this way, they were encouraged to remain in school.

Currently, through the auspices of CAB, I am under contract with the Santa Cruz County Department of Human Resources, to provide home repairs and handicapped accessibility services to recipients of the State Funded, Multiple Senior Services Program, a program which enables the frail elderly to remain in their own homes rather than be institutionalized.

I recently submitted a concept paper to Santa Cruz County Careerworks, Summer Youth Employment Training Program, and briefly described an idea for a summer youth work project using at risk young people. Please see the attached letter labeled Summer Youth Work Program.

I have also been a participant of the Santa Cruz Area National Service Planning Group, a group composed of representatives of governmental agencies, not for profit organizations, U. C. S. C. and Cabrillo College. Together, we are organizing to submit a proposal to the Foundation For National and Community Service, and hope to be able to fund positions for Community Service Volunteers in our community. This program would, among other things, allow an individual to serve his country in the capacity of a Community Volunteer, and earn credit to be used towards a college or trade school education. The participants
receive a living allowance, healthcare, childcare, and accrue approximately $4700 per year to be used towards their education.

As incredible as it may seem, this has been my personal goal for nearly 20 years. I have been working on developing this concept in Santa Cruz for 12 years and have tried every appropriate not for profit organization in the area, including Youth Services, Community Options, Democratic Management Services, Santa Cruz Community Housing corporation, Pajaharo Valley Affordable Housing Corporation, Youthworks and the Superintendent of Schools. I chose to work through CAB because I felt it would offer me

the widest base from which to operate. Poverty is at theroot of so many of our nation's most pressing social problems, and I have many ideas relative to helping the poor.

I recently received an RFP from the Office of criminal Justice Planning, Gang Violence Suppression Program. I believe my program would have a good chance of getting funded if I can put together their proposal. I feel that the program I am developing would offer great opportunities for many of the students your organization is working with. If we were to work together, we could devise a program that would provide on the job training for at risk or gang involved youth, provide a gang violence suppression counseling component, and at the same time, could provide home repairs and handicapped accessibility for low income elderly and disabled people, not for profit social service organizations, and residential care facilities. In addition to this, if our community receives a Community Volunteer Service Grant, we can offer some of these young people an opportunity to attend college, a chance they might not otherwise have.

In all modesty, I can't even envision a better program. We have a vocational training program for at risk or gang involved kids who are trained to do community service work that helps economically disadvantaged elderly disabled people and not for profit social service agencies. The youth participating in the program will be part of a counseling program that addresses the issues of anti social behavior, substanceabuse, and other factors leading to social disfunctionality. In addition to developing good work habits on the job, the young people will be instructed in the areas of job searching, applications and Interviewing, and will beencouraged, by a combination school/work program, to remain in school. Lastly, if all goes as planned, qualified people will be able to participate in the National Community Service program and receive wages, benefits, and a grant for college.

I truly believe that in the core of each of us is the desire to do good and receive praise. I know that by helping these young people develop skills that will enable them to help others in need, and by involving them in, and educating them about the network of people working together to make this a better world, we can channel their energies to more constructive endeavors, build confidence and self esteem, and help them become rebonded to the community. Helping other people in need is therapeutic. There is no way to not be affected in a positive way.

I know that passing tougher laws, building additional prisons, and hiring more police is not a solution. This is. Pure and simple. No ifs ands or butts!

I want to point out that the program development I am doing through CAB is totally voluntary. I receive absolutely no compensation for this work, and virtually the only assistance I get from them is the use of their name, and stationary. They are willing to act as an umbrella agency, should I be able to obtain funding for my project, but they are unable, for financial reasons, to provide me with any significant assistance. All associated costs of developing this project have come out of my pocket.

Over the last two years, I have been diligently working on the development of this project. I have sent a survey to virtually every not for profit social service organization in the county, asking about the need for facility repairs and handicapped accessibility, and have inquired about the whereabouts of disabled people needing accessibility services. I've done foundation research and have established a list of foundations offering the best chances for funding. I've recruited letters of support from other not for profit agencies and can demonstrate that there is a need for the services this project hopes to offer.

My desire is to make this project one that gets noticed! I believe that if successful, this program can be duplicated across the country. We know that poverty, substandard housing, homelessness, gang violence, overcrowding of prisons, lack of educational and vocational opportunities, etc., exist in thousands of communities across the nation. In view of this, our country seems unable to implement programs that get at the root of the problem.

One of my main problems is that I am unable to do all the work that has to be done alone. I must try to make a living while I am working on the project. I also don't have the time or experience necessary to singlehandedly obtain the information I need to write proposals, such as the one for O.C.J.P. Believe me, I have asked for help.

What I usually hear is, "Good idea, Good luck".

After hearing about my ideas, Eula suggested that I contact you. She had only good things to say about your agency and said that you probably would be interested in my idea, or at the very least, could help me obtain some of the information I need to complete the OCJP proposal.

Thank you very much for your consideration I look forward to hearing from you, and hope we can work together for the benefit of our community and it's young people.

Very Sincerely yours,

Sam Burkhardt
Volunteer Program Developer

So it is now 27 years later and I have created the Community Home maintenance Project in the hope that people will take me seriously, I have created the non profit during the Time of Trump. I have gone through The Great Recession, the Covid Epidemic and serious personal health issues which have kept me from working at my regular job, but also providing me with time to again work on this nonprofit.

With a new government administration in place and our society having barely survived economic and social destruction, our country has decided to try some new ideas. As a nation, we have again decided to try to eliminate poverty, create economic and social justice and provide new jobs that will help rebuild our society while protecting the environment. It is the Green New Deal and Infrastructure Program which intends to provide housing for the homeless, rebuilding of our dilapidated buildings and roads, provide hightech jobs and educational opportunities for todays work force and childcare for working mothers, among other things.

Apparently there is going to be Federal money available for such innovative programs as The Community Home Maintenance Project and I hope that I will be successful in implementing the ideas this time around. I do however have enough brains to know that I will not be able to do this without the support of a more established organization behind me. CAB has always been the best choice for a sponsor for obvious reasons, but has always shined me on and never offered any significant assistance. It is my hope that perhaps the organization has more enlightened Board Members and can see the

promise of the Community Home Maintenance Project has for our community and our country.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

11

In considering what a wonderful job those currently in authority have accomplished over the last 27 years, please carefully read the following letter, and after that, please remind me why my ideas were not worth considering.

My attempts to form a Homeless Coalition of Area Nonprofit Organizations 1994

56

Inc. CAB COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD
Established 1965
of Santa Cruz County, Inc.

Santa Cruz Service Center
501 Soquel Ave., Suite E, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
❑ The Shelter Project ❑ Administration
❑ Natural Resource & Employment Program ❑ Energy Services
(408) 457-1741 · FAX (408) 426-3345

Watsonville Service Center
406 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
❑ Energy Services, Suite 220, (408) 688-7075
❑ The Shelter Project, Suite 220, (408) 728-4634
❑ Santa Cruz County Immigration Project, Suite 217
(408) 724-5667

Davenport Resource Service Center
P.O. Box 97
100 Church Street
Davenport, CA 95017
(408) 425-8115

March 16, 1994

Dear....

The purpose of this letter is to attempt to form a coalition of not for profit social service agencies directly involved in providing low cost housing, temporary shelter, or direct services for low income or homeless residents in Santa Cruz County. The agencies receiving these letters are:

Citizen's Committee for the Homeless
Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program
Habitat For Humanity
Santa Cruz Community Housing Corporation
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County
Homeless Community Resource Center

The purpose of the coalition would be to, acting as a unified group, use our combined knowledge, expertise, and experience to identify the best approach to combatting homelessness in our community. I am hoping that through this coalition and the assistance of the Corporation for National and Community Service, (the President's community volunteer program), we will be able to significantly improve the living conditions, and social services, to homeless people in our community.

I would greatly appreciate it, as a deeply concerned citizen in the community, if the boards of directors of the above agencies would take a few minutes to at least consider the ideas expressed in the letter. A great amount of time and thought has gone into it's development.

Thank you so very much for your consideration. I would really appreciate your comments.

Very sincerely yours,

Sam Burkhardt
VOLUNTEER, program developer

I am a volunteer who has been working with the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County for about two years. During that time, I have been trying to develop a youth work program that will train "troubled", "economically disadvantaged","at risk", " gang involved", or any combination thereof, young people to provide minor home repairs and handicapped accessibility, to low income elderly and disabled individuals, and not for profit residential care facilities in Santa Cruz County. I have been working on developing this program in the county for 12 years, so this is not just a spur of the moment idea.

Being a former V. I. S. T. A. (Volunteer in Service to America), I am interested in using Community Service Volunteers to implement my project. The Community Service Volunteers hopefully will be obtained from the Corporation for National and Community Service which was established last year, under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

The purpose of the Corporation for National and Community Service is "to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service. This service will address the nation's education, human, public safety and environmental needs to achieve direct results. In doing so, the Corporation will foster civic responsibility, strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people, and provide educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service".

This program would, among other things, allow any individual to serve his country *in* the capacity of a domestic volunteer and earn credit to be used towards a college or trade school education. In our society, where an education is becoming more of a privilege of the rich than a right guaranteed to all, I see this program as offering hope for the future. Perhaps if people were able to earn benefits comparable to those offered in the military, by doing community service,

we could have an army of doctors, teachers, and scientists instead of soldiers.

I am hoping to recruit “at risk" and "gang involved" young people into my program. They will receive a living allowance, health insurance, childcare, (if required) and will accrue approximately $5,000 per year to be used to pay for a college education.

There have been four meetings of the Santa Cruz Area National service Planning Group, and although at this point little progress has been made, there is an active core group representing county agencies, not for profit organizations, U.C.S.C, and Cabrillo College.

All the agencies receiving this letter, the Citizen's Committee for the Homeless, Habitat for Humanity, Santa Cruz Community Housing Corporation, Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program, Community Action Board, (through its Shelter Project and my not yet realized Home Repair and Accessibility Program) are working towards the same goal, to enable every person residing and contributing to our community a decent, affordable place to live.

I believe that if all of the above agencies will get together and discuss ways we may be able to work together for mutual benefit, as well as for the benefit of our community, then perhaps through a coalition of some sort, we might be able to obtain community volunteer positions which will enable us all to further our mutual and individual goals.

Even if our community is not successful in participating in this program, I can only envision positive results from a meeting such as this.

I would very much like to see our community quality for a Community Service Grant. I am sure there are many ways we could make use of these service positions, considering that the National Corporation for Community Service will pay 75% of the associated costs.

I personally have an idea for a project, that to be most effective, would involve the cooperation of the above mentioned agencies, but could also work without that cooperation. Additionally, other public service agencies and not for profit organizations, I am sure, would be more than willing to participate.

I would like to see the above organizations work together on one project, a project that would make a significant contribution to our community, and could perhaps lead the way to the alleviation of some of our nations most serious social problems.

Simply stated, the idea is this:

The Citizens Committee For The Homeless owns some property on Coral Street, for which the purpose is to build temporary shelter for the homeless. To the best of my limited knowledge, not much progress is being made, however. What if the above organizations, acting as a unified group sought foundation money to provide materials for building the shelter. Would it not be possible, additionally, to use community development block grant funds or other federal and state money to provide materials for this building.

Because it is probably the best suited for the job, the Santa Cruz Community Housing Corporation would be involved in the fiscal management of the program. They have the experience in dealing with large scale development programs. Habitat For Humanity would be responsible for the scheduling of volunteer r professional tradesmen and community volunteers. The Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program would work closely with Habitat For Humanity and would be responsible for recruiting and scheduling volunteers from the religious community.

The CAB Home Repair and Accessibility program will work with young people, initially as part of the County Summer Youth Work Program, (to which I have submitted a

proposal). Hopefully by the time the actual work begins on the shelter, the youth will have the required experience, having been involved in a training program, to make a significant contribution to the building. When the youth are not working on the shelter project, they will be providing home repair and handicapped accessibility for not for profit community organizations and residential care facilities, and eventually, if the program is successful, for low income elderly disabled homeowners.

The Community Service Volunteers can be used in any number of capacities. Many homeless people suffer from mental illness, drug addiction, ill health, hopelessness, depression, lack of motivation, and a multitude of social problems related to poverty, unemployment, and alienation from society. If we request community volunteers who are college educated or experienced in the fields of public health, education, counseling, social work, nutrition, employment development, childcare, etc., then we will have a chance to actually remedy the problem, instead of just providing a temporary solution.

The community volunteers can work in conjunction with and perhaps under the supervision of professionals in the community. In this way they will not only provide services to the homeless population, but they will gain valuable practical experience in their chosen fields that will help them with their career development.

Another major social problem in our community involves young people who are living in group foster homes. When they turn 18, they must leave, whether or not they have found employment or another place to live. Where do they go? What do they do? They have no family to stay with! We spend money to provide them with a safe and supportive home environment until they are 18, and then turn them loose, to fend for themselves with little hope for employment. I suppose they can live on the street and sell drugs or get involved in some criminal activity to make money.

> Hey, no problem! If we just leave them alone, they may end up living in one of the nice new prisons we're building, especially if they're black or hispanic. Prison living is affordable too!

To incarcerate one young person in the California Youth Authority only costs $31,500 per year! To incarcerate one youth in the County Juvenile Hall only costs $770 a week! What a steal!!! We're not even talking probation officers, police, court costs, etc.

I know it's a stupid idea, but what if we were able, as a group, to persuade a property owner to allow us to use his run down house as a safe haven if we promised to rehabilitate it using Home Repair and Accessibility Community Service Volunteers and homeless people?

I believe that many homeless people can be trained to provide valuable community services. We owe it to them to provide them with the basic necessities of life, but we must also expect them to do their fair share to help others, just as we have helped them. One does not really have to look far or be very imaginative to see what improvements are needed in our community.

By serving as a model community of how we should treat our fellow man, we will not draw the world's homeless to our doors, rather, we will serve as an inspiration to other communities to follow our example.

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
Program Budget Summary
June 30, 2022

Projections for Year Ending 6-30-2022

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	J	K
PROGRAM NAME:	6/30/21 Audited Balance	Annual 21/22 Approved Budget	Current Projected Expenses	Current Projected Revenues	As Yet Unsecured Revenues	(E-D) Net 2021-2022 Gain/Loss	(B+G) Cumulative Gain/Loss	Goal 25% Reserve %	Change from Prior Mo	% Change	14.53% Gen'l & Adm Exp
WIC (CB FY)	202,467	2,396,283	2,381,813	2,385,991	0	4,178	206,645	8.7%	577	0.0%	343,288
Early Education Division	396,803	2,129,942	2,238,679	2,342,388	20,000	103,709	500,512	22.4%	5,054	0.2%	258,280
Elderday	374,009	2,115,484	1,727,616	1,829,213	100,000	101,597	475,606	27.6%	(9,875)	-0.6%	234,226
Meals on Wheels	1,482,216	2,226,420	2,380,131	2,346,993	50,000	(33,138)	1,449,078	63.6%	35,291	1.5%	337,494
Lift Line	(162,360)	2,394,240	2,598,805	2,629,413	75,000	30,608	(131,752)	-5.9%	(1,581)	-0.1%	250,686
La Manzana Commty Res	301,521	895,605	1,375,808	1,402,894	55,700	27,086	328,607	24.1%	41,143	3.0%	171,482
Mountain Commty Res	359,168	556,714	592,037	610,453	64,920	18,416	377,584	64.9%	(3,041)	-0.5%	70,103
Nueva Vista Commty Res	292,144	352,453	439,378	484,471	38,800	45,093	337,237	77.5%	22,641	5.2%	62,571
Live Oak Commty Res	186,265	374,781	419,049	427,605	29,000	8,556	194,821	46.5%	(10,984)	-2.6%	60,894
CACFP (CB FY)	21,931	4,178,223	3,945,977	3,982,497	120,000	36,520	58,451	6.8%	4,331	0.1%	67,373
Administration	167,049	2,090,173	2,113,511	2,051,983	40,000	(61,528)	105,521	5.0%	(20,719)	-1.0%	19,616
Philanthropy	244,344	316,214	254,602	321,250	10,000	66,648	310,992	122.1%	26,294	10.3%	36,997
TOTAL PROG OPERATIONS	**3,865,557**	**20,026,532**	**20,467,406**	**20,815,151**	**603,420**	**347,745**	**4,213,302**	**26.27%**	**89,131**	**0.4%**	**1,913,010**
LOCR-Capital Campaign	531,628	27,240	24,070	(64,888)	0	(88,958)	442,670	NA	(25,400)		0
CBHQ FY 20/21 Activity		-	293,260	277,670	0	(15,590)	(15,590)	NA	(6,009)		0
501 Main Street	850,000		730,794	0	0	(730,794)	119,206	NA	(123,355)		11,449
Fixed Assets & Gen'l Agy	4,475,620	-	1,780	14,260	0	12,480	4,488,100	NA	(34,886)		0
TOTAL AGENCY	**8,872,805**	**20,053,772**	**21,517,310**	**21,042,193**	**603,420**	**(475,117)**	**9,247,688**	**26.27%**	**(100,519)**	**-0.5%**	**1,924,459**

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

Program Budget Summary
June 30, 2022

PROGRAM NAME:

WIC	-5K personnel / CDPH rev., -10K raw food and other exp. / vitamin angel rev. to next FY
Early Education Division	Spent 100% CDE contract, deffering 72K CDSS and CDE Stipends
Elderday	Slight +Personnel, Moved 50K hardware grant to FY 22-23
Meals on Wheels	-10K personnel, -10K other costs, +4K participant contributions, +4K interprogram rev.
Lift Line	-12K personnel (new hires), +29K PGE/LCTOP Exp/Rev, +Taxi ,trimmed year end expenses
La Manzana CR	+3K personnel, +20K contracted, -80K direct aid (moved to 22-23), -17K rev, -HRSA, -CF direct aid, +25K MAA
MCR	-15K exp (9k aid), -17K rev. CF aid, first 5, donations, +6K MAA
Nueva Vista CR	-10K exp. Multiple lines, and direct aid.+19K MAA, +6K CAFB, -13K CF aid,
Live Oak CR	-12K exp direct aid, -23K rev: rectal income, first 5, CF aid, +11K MAA
CACFP	slight gain due to applying hours to Farm grant and DCH count for May 376, +5 over May projection
Administration	+4K personnel, -51K year end expenses - Strategy moved to FY 22-23, -69K Indirect from programs
Philanthropy	Ending year +66K after beginning budget with 80k+ prior year funding
LOCR-Cap Campaign	Actual YTD less proj FY 21/22 expenses, 6/30/2022 $445,746
La Manzana Property	Actual Revenue/Expense through 6/30/2022
501 Main Street	Actual Expenses as they occur, CCAH grant not yet realized revenue
FAs & Agy Unrestr.	Actual YTD less projected FY 21/22 expenses, Endowment Balance 6/30/2022 $695,860
Total Agency	Proj Program +345, Proj Agency -477K, +1027 FA

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
Program Budget Summary
July 31, 2022

Projections for Year Ending 6-30-2023

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	J	K
PROGRAM NAME:	6/30/22 Unaudited Balance	Annual 22/23 Approved Budget	Current Projected Expenses	Current Projected Revenues	As Yet Unsecured Revenues	(E-D) Net 2022-2023 Gain/Loss	(B+G) Cumulative Gain/Loss	Goal 25% Reserve %	Change from Prior Mo	% Change	14.53% Gen'l & Adm Exp
WIC (CB FY)	206,645	2,620,475	2,467,653	2,467,541	80,000	(112)	206,533	8.4%	-	0.0%	381,944
Early Education Division	500,512	2,344,980	2,238,679	2,406,180	300,000	167,501	668,013	29.9%	-	0.0%	339,402
Elderday	325,606	2,043,432	2,066,763	1,919,140	479,785	(147,623)	177,983	8.6%	-	0.0%	296,303
Meals on Wheels	1,449,078	2,856,854	2,736,660	2,510,471	618,921	(226,189)	1,222,889	46.4%	-	0.0%	364,071
Lift Line	(131,752)	2,807,659	2,873,797	2,882,234	220,000	8,437	(123,315)	-4.9%	-	0.0%	291,999
La Manzana Commty Res	328,607	1,135,721	1,459,461	1,461,311	150,000	1,850	330,457	22.9%	-	0.0%	204,203
Mountain Commty Res	377,584	674,721	830,088	836,736	75,800	6,648	384,232	46.9%	-	0.0%	88,275
Nueva Vista Commty Res	337,237	354,910	430,237	439,680	65,000	9,443	346,680	81.4%	-	0.0%	61,169
Live Oak Commty Res	194,821	308,834	401,652	427,166	98,000	25,514	220,335	54.9%	-	0.0%	58,366
CACFP (CB FY)	21,067	4,233,196	3,941,947	3,967,250	120,000	25,303	46,370	5.5%	-	0.0%	67,986
Administration	105,521	2,283,002	2,270,517	2,344,506	234,450	73,989	179,510	7.9%	-	0.0%	16,064
Philanthropy	310,992	338,535	357,067	338,535	229,059	(18,532)	292,460	81.9%	-	0.0%	51,887
TOTAL PROG OPERATIONS	**4,213,302**	**22,002,319**	**22,074,521**	**22,000,750**	**2,671,015**	**(73,771)**	**3,952,147**	**22.40%**	**-**	**0.0%**	**2,221,669**
LOCR-Capital Campaign	445,746	25,000	25,000	23,895	0	(1,105)	444,641	NA	-		0
CBHQ FY 20/21 Activity		-	21,954	25,332	0	3,378	3,378	NA	-		0
501 Main Street	269,206		3,313,316	3,088,000	0	(225,316)	43,890	NA	-		12,282
Fixed Assets & Gen'l Agy	4,605,620	-	1,780	27,502	0	25,722	4,631,342	NA	-		0
TOTAL AGENCY	**9,533,874**	**22,027,319**	**25,436,571**	**25,165,479**	**2,671,015**	**(271,092)**	**9,075,398**	**22.40%**	**-**	**0.0%**	**2,233,951**

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

Program Budget Summary
July 31, 2022

PROGRAM NAME:	
WIC	FFY ending 9/30/2022, trying to maximize spending of contract
Early Education Division	+61,454 CORE, 11 new hires in budget, if not hired cannot increase CSPP enrollment and will create a large CDE surplus to spend
Elderday	ADA July = 60.45, August = 61.44, 150K reserves moved to 501 Main (total = 1M), 150K Kaiser grant applied for
Meals on Wheels	7K endowment gain, -34K Food/consumables HDM (14 strong), +26K Arpa Funding, -60K personnel: -driver position and -hours
Lift Line	+67 STA funding per RTC projections, EE Equity Increases, 4 positoins currently vacant, +July Taxi = $14.4K
La Manzana CR	+47,452 CORE, +96K ERAP July - Sept 2022, +297K County Eviction, 2 vacant positoin + Clinical Supervisor and Legal
MCR	+44,917 CORE, +100K 1440 Foundation, +40K PGE, 3 vacant positions
Nueva Vista CR	+18,288 CORE, 1 vacant position. For all FRC's spending out contracts will require vacant positoins to be filled
Live Oak CR	+17.500 CORE, 2 vacant positions. Revenues for all 4 FRC's if unable to spend will be moved to FY 23-24 redusing Admin G.A.
CACFP	Slightly under June DCH projections = 385, Reimbursements +8% starting July 1, 2022, 1 EE term (personnel savings)
Administration	+120,575 in G.A. admin revenue if programs spent out funding, no longer using prior year funding in BOD approved budget (53.7K)
Philanthropy	FTF revenue & expenses will come in over next month, -20K donation to PV Hospital
LOCR-Cap Campaign	Actual YTD less proj FY 22/23 expenses, 7/31/2022 $469,641
La Manzana Property	Actual Revenue/Expense through 7/31/2022
501 Main Street	Actual Expenses as they occur, CCAH grant not yet realized revenue
FAs & Agy Unrestr.	Actual YTD less projected FY 22/23 expenses, Endowment Balance 7/31/2022 $723,363
Total Agency	Total Programs -73K, Total Agency -271K, BOD aproved budget -582K

Board of Supervisors move forward with service programs funding request

Final vote to approve funding recommendations is scheduled for June 28

By **PK HATTIS** |
June 9, 2022 at 4:58 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ – The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted unanimously to move forward with a proposal seeking to fund numerous social service programs across the county.

The awards proposal comes from the Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) investments program, designed and funded by the Santa Cruz County Human Services Department and the City of Santa Cruz.

The vote was met by opposition from the public, voiced to the supervisors during a period of public comment in advance of the vote. Dozens of community members attended the meeting both in person and online and shared comments for more than an hour.

“We need to see the full scope of which programs and services will lose funding, how many people it will impact, where it will impact,” said Community Bridges CEO Ray Cancino. “None of this was provided to you in the report you saw.”

Individuals voicing displeasure with the funding announcement included employees and participants of Community Bridges and its various social service programs. The organization also held a press conference Monday morning to publicly condemn the proposed action, saying that the new slate of grants represented a $816,000 funding cut to its programs.

What was presented

The Collective of Results and Evidence-based Investments program was originally approved in 2015 by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in an effort to move toward a more equitable funding model, according to the county's staff report. The first round of grants was approved five years ago for a three-year term period but was extended twice – a one year period each time – for budgetary reasons and in response to COVID-19.

The program's history and goals were presented to the board by Randy Morris, director of the county's Human Services Department. He was joined by Kimberly Petersen, the department's deputy director. Morris began the presentation by underlining that the 2015 process was established in an effort to provide equal grant opportunities for county service providers. "There are a number of service providers who have not had access to this money for sure for 35 years," Morris said. "To create a level playing field we put in place a technical assistance program to help make sure all service providers had a fair opportunity to apply for these service funds."

Petersen followed up on Morris' comments by sharing application data. According to Petersen, 127 application proposals were received, requesting more than $15.5 million in funding. The total available funding is $5.8 million. The applications were then scored through a review process led by 58 trained independent analysts, ultimately leading to 53 total award proposals.

Tuesday marked the second request for proposal submitted under the collective program. According to Morris, the first proposal that was approved five years ago funded many of the same programs that had been received funding the previous 35 years, which is why this new slate of awards is so challenging. Morris also said that 12 meetings were held during the current recommendation process where stakeholders had an opportunity to comment and provide feedback.

"This is a difficult moment. These recommended awards honor the process your board asked us to follow," Morris said. "We respect the passion and the debate that is to follow and ultimately I hope…that you support our recommended awards."

Community feedback

Cancino was the first to make a public comment after the staff presentation to the board. He took issue with Morris' claim that there had been adequate opportunity for stakeholders to share comments and questions. "We have raised some of the questions that are being denied by the HSD director. We have asked questions about how we (are) going to keep the social safety net," Cancino said. He rejected the notion that he was advocating for defunding other programs so that Community Bridges could receive adequate awards. "Those conversations were never, never intended to be about, 'we should have funding over someone else.' "

Representatives from Community Bridges say the organization applied for more than $1 million in funding requests, but received $436,221. If funding is cut, it anticipates partial closure of all four Family Resource Centers which serves more than 6,000 participants each year and provides lockers, showers, laundry, food and mailing services to houseless participants.

Clay Kempf is the executive director of the Seniors Council and Area Agency on Aging in Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties. These agencies are the primary funder for several elderly programs in the Live Oak Senior Center including Meals on Wheels, which is operated by Community Bridges. Like Cancino, Kempf was critical of what he experienced as a "zero sum" approach to the process. "Being challenged to say which community programs we should be pitted against and take money away from in order to address seniors – I'm not going to say seniors deserve money over children … that's a zero sum game," Kempf said. "That is also a very weird dynamic today."

Many organizations that were recommended for funding also showed up to express their gratitude and some even advocated for Community Bridges. "We are deeply honored and grateful to be recommended to receive the CORE target impact grant and serve multiple communities across our county," said Cradle to Career Director Allison Guevara. Cradle to Career works to empower families and deliver community resources that help children thrive. "We truly value community partners including Community Bridges Family Resource Centers and Childcare Centers and feel it's critical we work together to ensure their doors remain open," she said.

Comments from the board

Each member of the Santa Cruz County Board acknowledged the difficulty of the moment and encouraged programs experiencing cuts to take advantage of the appeals process. According to Morris, organizations have until Friday to submit appeals, where they will be processed and evaluated by the collective investment program's staff. Morris also clarified that while Tuesday's vote moves the process forward, a final motion for awards approval will come before the board on June 28.

After the public comment period, Supervisor Ryan Coonerty stood by the collective results and evidence-based process and commended its fairness. “In a better, more perfect world, we would have the resources to fund everybody and more for the work, because the needs are great and the resources are scarce,” he said. “I recognize this is a hard moment and a hard hearing…but I do think that’s because we’ve opened up this process and when you open up a process and invite a lot of new groups into the room it makes the existing resources more scarce and it’s more difficult.”

Board Chair Manu Koenig also acknowledged the independent approach and review process, but said he feels he did not see enough of that data and evidence during the presentation. “Am I seeing number of people served, efficacy of the money being used, results from the last round of funding?” he said. “Something that we can improve in the next round, but I definitely heard that comment a couple times today and it does resonate with me. It feels like that work was done by the 58 reviewers and very little of it is available to the public.”

Nonprofits Push Back on County Funding Plan

Organizations like Community Bridges and those similar in size face losing a considerable amount of county assistance

https://www.goodtimes.sc/nonprofits-push-back-on-county-funding-plan/

By Aiyana Moya

June 14, 2022

Community Bridges CEO Raymond Cancino says the county's new recommendations for how to fund local community organizations are "like the nonprofit Hunger Games." PHOTO: TARMO HANNULA

"It's like the nonprofit Hunger Games," says Ray Cancino, the Chief Executive Officer of Community Bridges.

Cancino is referring to the latest funding recommendations for local community organizations that the county announced last week. Nonprofit leaders were in disbelief as they looked at their awards for the next three-year cycle: some larger organizations had funding for their programs cut in half compared to the previous funding rounds, jeopardizing the future for vital programs that county residents rely on. Some smaller programs weren't funded at all, leaving leaders scrambling to find new funding sources ahead of the new fiscal year in three weeks.

Overall, 128 organizations applied for awards, requesting a total of $16 million. 35 organizations were recommended for an award, splitting up the $6 million the county and City of Santa Cruz dished out for the nonprofits.

Cancino says these recommendations will lead to drastic changes in the resources available to county and city residents. His warning was echoed by the dozens of people who showed up at the Board of Supervisors meeting last Tuesday, many of whom shared how these potentially defunded programs have changed their lives. Community Bridges—a nonprofit that serves families, children and seniors from low-income backgrounds—will likely see an $800,000 cut in funding from the county. It may even be forced to end programs like its Santa Cruz County Early Education Child Care—or at least reduce its open slots and resources.

The reason for the unexpected changes is a shift in the funding process. In 2015, the county and the City of Santa Cruz worked together to create CORE, an application process intended to give newer organizations a shot at money that the county and city allocate for local community organizations. Multiple county supervisors say the old way of handing out county dollars was uncompetitive, and limited pathways for new organizations to get money.

“There are a number of service providers who have not had access to this money for 35, 40 years,” Human Services Director Randy Morris said at the Board of Supervisors meeting. “To create a level playing field, we put in place a technical assistance program to help make sure all service providers had an opportunity to apply for these funds.”

But nonprofit leaders across sectors question whether a level playing field is what was ultimately achieved, and why a more abstract sense of “fairness” is being prioritized over the practical services these programs provide.

“We all as nonprofits trusted the county, and the Human Services Department specifically, to redesign the CORE program to really do two things,” Cancino says. “To find equity in our social services and to provide better return on investment for our community. Now we hear [Human Services Department] says its goal is to get new programs funding and new services, irregardless of the impacts of existing service.”

As nonprofits search for revenues to cut—a difficult task within the financially restricted, already strained nonprofit sector—the new CORE process is becoming a battle for survival.

“If you’re going to ask for more money,” County Supervisor Ryan Coonerty said at Tuesday’s meeting, “you’re going to need to tell us which organization we should take that money from, and why we should give it to you instead.”

The Core of CORE

When Sandy Davie opened her email to see that the Toddler Center was not recommended to receive funding from the county, her heart dropped.

“It felt like a bomb hitting my chest,” says Davie, the organization’s director. Her voice is tight, and she asks if we can take a break from speaking. “I’m sorry, I’m not usually like this. But the county and the city are saying childcare doesn’t matter.”

The CORE funding makes up around 20% of the Toddler Center’s budget. That money is set aside to provide a sliding scale of services for lower-income families. Without that money? Well, you can do the math, says Davie.

“Basically, we’ll only be able to provide childcare to the upper middle class,” she says. “But this is bigger than just us.”

Davie thinks the entire childcare sector is at risk of seeing major cuts. The county only funded one childcare program, Walnut Avenue Family & Women’s Center. Community Bridges’ Family Resource Centers are expected to be defunded, with programs similarly gearing up to discontinue subsidized child care services.

Davie says data shows low-income families in Santa Cruz County have limited access to childcare services, and that this limited access negatively affects low-income households. She was asked to prove the importance of childcare, so she used this data in her CORE application. So she wonders on what basis applications were evaluated, and if there was an effort to look at the impacts defunding these programs will have on a sector comprehensively.

“I’m using all of the data you gave me and I’m proving to you childcare is important. And for the decision to come out, basically, childcare is not important?” says Davie. “There’s a tension between the data and the results.”

CORE used a grading system for the work that organizations are doing around the county. Programs were split up into small, medium and large tiers, and graded based on the corresponding rubrics for each tier. Answers to the questions were graded by a diverse and trained group of 58 panelists, and a program’s final grades were then used to determine funding.

But the questions, and how answers were weighted, seem arbitrary, some leaders say. Cancino points to a question that asks organizations what kind of impact their program will make in the community. That question is only worth 5% of the total points, despite being one of the most consequential determinants of a program's value, says Cancino.

The county, for its part, defends its process, saying there were multiple stakeholder meetings held for organizations to have input on the different elements of the application, and that the resulting process is one that all organizations gave feedback on.

"There were 12 opportunities for the current service providers to share their perspective about how to prioritize a particular population, or a particular region, or for a particular provider to say why they felt they deserved more money," says Morris. "There were also 64 training sessions provided before the applications that ended up supporting 298 participants. The rankings are fair."

Davie says she went to these training sessions. She says she was often one of the few Directors there: many other larger organizations sent grant writers, because the process was tedious and required significant research and writing. Davie wonders if this limited smaller organizations' shots at funding.

Davie also disagrees with how the county is portraying the previous award system as not competitive or friendly to new programs—and as a teacher at Cabrillo in History, she's one for historical accuracy.

"I had a person working for the county that was dedicated to going and visiting the places to see what was happening, in addition to rigorous reporters," Davie says. "There was a lot of oversight and interaction between the county and the nonprofits that were being funded."

Ultimately, what leaders across organizations repeated was that although the CORE process might be flawed, there's only so much that can be done with the $6 million budget—especially in the context of $16 million of requested funding. "Ultimately, the process isn't going to matter very much," says Cancino. "Because these budget policy conditions are unsuited to the reality of where we are at right now."

Where's the Money?

The county's budget is estimated to reach the billion mark for this year—an increase of 27% compared to the last fiscal year. With that influx of cash, nonprofit

leaders wonder where all that money is going, as they fight over the $6 million that was divided up between 36 programs.

The top two categories that the county's funds go to are employee salaries (46%), and services and supplies that include things like office expenses and building maintenance (33%). When looking at the breakdown of which departments get the most money, the departments receive as follows: Health and Human Services (38%); Land Use and Community Service (18%), and Public Safety (16%).

The Health and Human Services Department (HSD) receives the largest chunk of money out of the all county departments: nearly 400 million. Yet the CORE funding program, which falls within the HSD, only sees around 9% of that money. Part of the reason, says Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, is because the HSD has separate awards and contracts that it hands out to nonprofits. The other part is that the county is providing homeless services and mental health services.

"To the extent that people want us to reallocate other general fund dollars," says Coonerty, "that means cuts to parks, roads and public safety. There's no pot of money out there that's left unspent."

Coonerty also promises that the county has plans in the works to soften the blow for some of the programs that were left with no funding this cycle, and to provide supplemental services in the areas needed.

"I and other board members have heard that these funding allocations have some very real impacts on important community programs," says Coonerty. "So we're looking at how we reduce some of those impacts."

In the next few weeks, organizations dissatisfied with their funding allocations will be working on their appeal case, which they will present at the county's next meeting on June 28. That's when the final awards will be announced.

Still, Coonerty emphasizes that the sum of money will be the same—it will just be sliced differently.

"I don't think it's good for organizations to be pitted against each other," says Coonerty. "But if what you're doing is standing up and asking us to fund your organization, you're implicitly saying that we need to cut somebody else. So whether you want to say it or just want the board to do it and not take responsibility for that, the reality is the same."

Family Service Agency of the Central Coast feels pinch of lack of CORE funding

By **MOLLY GIBBS** |
PUBLISHED: June 15, 2022 at 4:11 p.m. | UPDATED: June 15, 2022 at 4:13 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ — For the first time in 40 years of its partnership with the county and city of Santa Cruz, the Family Service Agency of the Central Coast – which has provided mental health services to the area for 65 years – did not receive funding for its programs and services.

The agency provides counseling, suicide prevention and supportive services – including the suicide prevention hotline – for Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. Previously, the Family Service Agency received $172,000 from the CORE funding grants.

David Bianchi, executive director of the Family Service Agency, said that the local government funding is the organization's largest source of funding and estimated its loss equates to about 8.5% of the agency's revenue and support.

"We're obviously scrambling to try to figure out for our next fiscal year, starting July 1, exactly what the impact is," said Bianchi. "There's no easy way to go about telling people who are trying to access your services that you don't have adequate resources to see them."

The grant comes from the county and city of Santa Cruz's Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) Investments, which is a local competitive funding application program that aims to achieve equitable health and well-being in Santa Cruz County.

Jason Hoppin, county spokesperson, explained that the process was established in 2015 to distribute scarce local community funding dollars.

"The problem was that for almost 40 years, we had given money to the same nonprofits over and over again. There were no provisions to see how well that money was being used or what the community benefits were," he explained. "And it shut out other nonprofits that might be worthy and have new ideas from the process."

Equity is central to the CORE program. Awarded funding focuses on programs that provide equitable improvements in the well-being of disadvantaged community members. Around $5.8 million is available for various three-year grants – $4.8 million from the county and $1 million from the city – beginning July 1 and extending to 2025.

County and city staff partnered with outside panelists to review and award funding, which was approved by the board June 7 and will be adopted in the June budget at the end of the month. According to the board, of the 58 panelists, 21% of the panelists were Latino, with a total of 31% panelists identifying as Black, Indigenous and people of color.

Applications were scored and judged by the panel based on the extent that: the application understood the needs and inequities within the community; the proposed services will influence those needs and inequities; and the agency has the necessary capacity to succeed. Nearly half (47%) of this year's applicants were from new organizations, and out of the total 128 applicants, only 36 were recommended for funding.

Hoppin explained that the recommendations were simply based on which organizations wrote the best proposals. He pointed out that change is necessary to make a difference and improve the way the local government spends money on behalf of the county's community.

"If you're going to run a fair and open process, you can't look at two proposals and then say, 'well this organization always had funding so we're just going to go with them, even though this other organization has a better proposal.' It's just not fair to everyone involved," he said.

Bianchi pointed out that funding from the county doesn't need to be all or nothing.

"Unfortunately, the impression is that we shouldn't be presuming that we would get funded from cycle-to-cycle. And I think that basic premise is wrong," said Bianchi. "It's not that we want to stop other agencies from accessing funds, the question is, if you're funding existing services and clients, how do you then accommodate new applications that have merits as well? … If the existing services are still important and being done well, then you inject new money into the process to add on to the safety net, not destroy the foundation to bring new agencies and services in."

The Family Service Agency requested $195,970 for funding – $47,250 for suicide prevention services and $148,720 for mental health services. Both its requests were not included in the recommendations to the board since the organization's applications scored below the required 84 score cutoff.

Bianchi spent more than six months preparing his organization's application including attending trainings, meetings and discussions about the process.

“Even though our scores on previous applications have been high, we still took this seriously,” he said. “The notion that non-recommended applications, many of which were from existing agencies like ours that all of a sudden, none of us could write an application, I think is an unfortunate premise.”

The Family Service Agency was not the only previously funded agency to be excluded from this year’s recommendations.

Community Bridges, a Santa Cruz nonprofit that has provided a variety of essential services to the community at little to no cost for more than 40 years, was denied it’s request of $816,000 in funding – making it the applicant with the largest amount of funding denied. The agency’s request for funding for its Meals on Wheels program was the only one to be accepted and was recommended $436,221 in funding.

Jayme Ackemann, marketing manager for Community Bridges, said the agency was shocked to find out that they would not be receiving funding for most of their programs and services.

“What I really take issue with is the way that [they’re] looking at total dollars and saying in total dollars ‘We’re actually expanding the pot, there are more nonprofits being funded,’” she said. “And while that may be true, and we’re all for bringing new nonprofits into the mix so there are new opportunities, the fact of the matter is that by reducing the funding allocations for these other vital services, there are communities that are just going to go unserved geographically.”

According to Community Bridges, its family resource centers serve more than 6,600 Santa Cruz County families across four locations – 7% of all family households according to the 2020 census.

Ackemann explained that the funding the organization normally receives from Santa Cruz goes to operating costs necessary to keep its facilities open. Without the funding, Community Bridges anticipates having to partially close all four Family Resource Centers and significantly reduce its services – at a time when the organization has seen a 50% increase in the number of people requiring its services.

“Right now, I can only focus on the number of real people in Santa Cruz County who will be hurt at a time when they are already hurting,” she said.

The World Health Organization announced in March that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a 28% increase in cases of major depressive disorder and a 26% increase in anxiety disorders worldwide in 2020.

The pandemic caused a significant disruption in mental health services as well, according to the organization's study, which stated that before COVID-19, only a minority of people with mental health problems received treatment and the pandemic has further widened the mental health treatment gap.

The timing of the funding recommendations also coincides with the Family Service Agency's transition to the three-digit 988 mental health crisis hotline number.

The hotline launches nationwide July 16 and is expected to improve access to psychiatric care for people seeking mental health help, but it's also expected to increase the number of callers. Many organizations, including the Family Service Agency, are concerned that they won't have the infrastructure or staffing to handle the increase.

Bianchi explained that the agency was counting on the city and county funding to help ease the transition without affecting the organization's other services but now may not have all the resources it had hoped to.

With the hotline launching July 16 and the organization's new fiscal year starting July 1, the Family Service Agency is scrambling to find other sources of funding in a few short weeks.

"All of this unfolded basically in the span of a week," Bianchi explained.

Ackemann said the CORE recommendations were published online the first week of June, but Community Bridges wasn't notified personally until the morning of June 7 – less than an hour before the board's meeting to approve the recommended funding awards. Organizations had until Friday, June 10 to appeal but were sent the feedback of their applications that day.

Around 19 organizations have appealed the funding decisions made by the board, which will be reviewed and decided at the board's meeting on June 28. Until then, the Family Service Agency and Community Bridges are asking community members to call the board of supervisors and tell them their stories and why the organizations' services are necessary.

"It's easy to talk in a sterile atmosphere about this, but when you're talking to someone who's lost somebody to suicide and is asking, 'why are you doing this?', until they hear from those folks, they don't understand," explained Bianchi. "I think that's the unfortunate part of this. This was a process that a great deal of time and money was put into. But in the end, when you have a process, and you want to hold how great that process was and then suddenly you look at the wreckage of the results – maybe you need to take another look."

COUNTY GRANTS: WINNERS & LOSERS

written by See Below June 16, 2022

Spread the love

By Jondi Gumz

There were winners — and quite a few losers — in the Santa Cruz County process to award nearly $6 million in grants to nonprofits to provide services the county doesn't — and the losers are distressed.

- United Way's Cradle to Career got $770,089.
- Meals on Wheels, a program of Community Bridges, got $436,221.
- Semillitas College Savings Accounts, an initiative of Santa Cruz Community Ventures, got $436,221.
- South County Housing Collaborative (Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County) got $338,798.
- Second Harvest Santa Cruz County got $241,680 for equitable access to food & nutrition.
- Dientes Community Dental Care got $208,998 for equitable dental care.

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- Live Oak Family Resource Center, La Manzana Resource center, Nueva Vista Family Resource Center, and Mountain Community Resource Center in Felton, all programs of Community Bridges, got $0.
- Elderday and Liftline, two more programs of Community Bridges, both got $0.
- WomenCARE (support for women with cancer), under the umbrella of Family Service Agency, got $0
- Suicide Prevention Service, under the umbrella of Family Service Agency, got $0.

These services were funded a year ago. What gives? Why are services deemed valuable last year no longer worthy of county funding?

It's all about the process.

The decision on who gets grants arises out of the Collective of Results and Evidence-based investments process adopted in 2015, county spokesman Jason Hoppin said.
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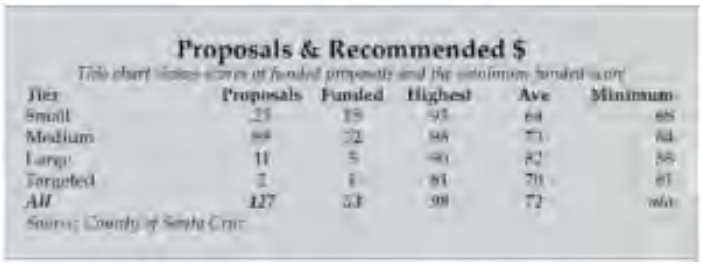
The process, which uses a panel of independent reviewers (see names in box), prioritizes Thriving Families and Health & Wellness.

Numerically, 32% of the money went to Thriving Families and 31% to Health & Wellness.



Proposals & Recommended $

This chart shows scores of funded proposals and the minimum funded score

Tier	Proposals	Funded	Highest	Ave	Minimum
Small	23	19	93	84	80
Medium	89	32	98	93	84
Large	11	5	90	82	80
Targeted	2	1	81	79	81
All	*127*	*53*	*98*	*72*	*n/a*

Source: County of Santa Cruz

Then 13% for Stable Affordable Housing & Shelter, 12% for Economic Stability & Mobility, 7% for Lifelong Learning & Education and 3% each to Safe & Just Community and Community Connectedness.

The city of Santa Cruz uses the same process to focus its investments as to assign grants.

The two governmental entities are awarding $545,000 more compared to a year ago.

In all, 78 organizations filed 128 applications seeking $15,179,382.

Several agencies submitted multiple requests, and 47% came from new applicants.

The county encouraged new applicants, the goal to achieve equitable health and well-being.

With requests more than double available dollars, “many highly rated proposals,” Hoppin wrote, “unfortunately could not be recommended for funding.”

Who Recommended Grants?

Community Members: John Fleshers, Jerry Smith, Linda Wilderson, Emily Ball, Carl Goodman, Mary Hoerner-Asher, Nancy Kashap, Tobias Paige, Antonio R. Rivas, Anne Smrekli

Philanthropy: Katarina Elizabeth Csarnai

Researchers: Lorna White, National Association of Broadcasters, Christine Megaritis, UC Santa Cruz

Community Agency: Rebecca Skinner, Cabrillo College, Vicki Bonach, First 5 Santa Cruz County, Priscila Rocha, Health Improvement Partnership of Santa Cruz County, Tony Gardner, Homeless Action Partnership, Dana Bancroft, Kids to Counsel

City of Santa Cruz Staff: Annalise Bryant, Heidi Luckenbach, Larry Imwalle, Michael Lefevre, Morgan Bostic, Tiffany Lake, Robert Oatey

City of Watsonville Staff: Adriana Flores, Kamrel Zavala

County Health Services: Amy Parker, Andrea Solano, Anthony Jordan, David Davis, Joel Ginsberg, Karen Kem, Lisa Gutierrez Wang, Naseeb Kamil, Shelly Barker, Alicia Morales

County Human Services: Bridget Semlek, Carol Coleman, Dean Kashiwagi, Griselda Vazquez Irene Martinez, Jessica Culbertis, Jessica Schreiber, Julia Sheehan, Karina Aragon, Kitty Chevalier, Monica Lippi, Olga Zuniga, Robin Luckett

Other County Staff: Sarah Shea (Parks), Sara Jamison (Probation)

County Staff Elsewhere: Kit Woolbright, Alameda, Sun Hyung Lee, Alameda, Jessica Regala Pazos, Marin, David Dobrowski, Monterey, Matt Graves, Solano, Oscar Chavez, Sonoma

When the recommendations appeared on the county supervisors’ agenda, more than 100 people emailed them, pleading for mercy for the nonprofits that save lives, keep families in Santa Cruz or offer a service not available elsewhere.

“The $2.2 million shift from existing programs to new programs will disrupt the lives of thousands of low-income people and kick them ut of the services they need,” predicted Karen Delany, executive director of the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County.

Hoppin pointed out Community Bridges got the second largest award.

Also, its funding request was cut by $816,778, according to Community Bridges, which is searching for a new kitchengpt Meals on Wheelse as its lease with the Live Oak School District at the Live Oak Senior Center is expiring after 45 years.

“We must ask the simple question of how many families will be served under the new recommendations,” wrote Ramon Cancino, Community Bridges CEO, whose organization hosted a press conference June 7 in protest.

Cancino said he would discontinue the “sliding scale program” for child care families, lose 32 subsidized child care slots and likely close one center.

Hours at the family resource centers will be cut by 50%, he said, and no center will be open more than 3 days a week. Afterschool programs will be reduced, along with counseling and eviction support.

“Elderday will go into a structural deficit for three years until we can find a solution,” he added. “That’s just the tip of the iceberg.”

He said his programs stepped in to serve CZU fire families and took the lead on vaccine outreach, making 25,000 calls and 4,000 appointments.

Capitola parent Tania Ryan emailed to support Community Bridges and especially the Live Oak Family Resource Center, which helped her find Soquel Nursery School for her 2-year-old when she was new to the county.

“Do not drive families out of Santa Cruz County to seek work elsewhere because county and city funding is not designated for childcare,” emailed Melanie Sluggett, a child care administrator at a local school district.

David Bianchi, executive director of Family Service Agency, tallied the losses due to lack of county grants for his agency at $121,000, and $53,000 in lost city funding

They include: WomenCARE, $15,000, Suicide Prevention, $16,000, Survivors Healing Center, $25,000, Senior Outreach, $22,000, I-You Venture, $15,000, and counseling, $28,000.

He said Suicide Prevention, I-You Venture, WomenCARE and Survivors Healing Center had merged with Family Service Agency to become cost-effective and that the programs had an “exemplary record of meeting all benchmarks, outcomes and levels of satisfaction to these vulnerable target populations.”

“I don’t know if I would be alive today without their affordable services,” emailed Elky (last name withheld by Aptos Times).

Eva Brunner, a volunteer with WomenCare for nearly 20 years, explained it became clear in 2011 WomenCare could not sustain on its own, and the Family Service partnership allowed WomenCare to survive and thrive.

She added, “Even through the pandemic, WomenCare has not skipped a beat providing services – because cancer has not skipped a beat.”

Randy Peyser emailed, “WomnCare provides a light in the vast darkness, helping women cope with the hardest experience of their lives.”

Two residents pointed out the void for grants in San Lorenzo Valley.

Nancy Macy, Boulder Creek resident since 1974 and a former president of the Valley Women's Club, said the funding budget "failed" San Lorenzo Valley by not recognizing the importance of Mountain Community Resources, founded by Valley residents. "Keep the volunteers involved," she advised.

"The recommended recipients offer no programs that take place in the San Lorenzo Valley, home to over 25,000 citizens," emailed Nancy Gerdt of Felton.

Santa Cruz County budget hearings begin Tuesday

Board of Supervisors will weigh proposals for $1.03 billion in spending for 2022-23

By **PK HATTIS** |
PUBLISHED: June 20, 2022 at 3:42 p.m. | UPDATED: June 20, 2022 at 8:06 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ – It is officially budget week in Santa Cruz.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors will begin public hearings this week for the 2022-23 proposed county budget of more than $1.03 billion.

A total of six hearings are listed on the board's calendar, with the first set for 9 a.m. Tuesday and the final scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 28. All hearings will offer both in person and remote Zoom public attendance options.

Budget overview

An overview of the proposed budget was presented to the board in May by County Budget Manager Marcus Pimentel, who also used the opportunity to highlight the newly launched interactive county budget website.

"The goal of this project was to unite our budget policy – how we fund things to our strategic plan," Pimentel said. "But it was also to build trust confidence and accountability in the budget process."

Some projects and services highlighted in the county staff report were a fully staffed public defender's office, support for the Pajaro Valley Health Care District and Watsonville Community Hospital, expanded broadband and continued development of the recently purchased South County Service Center.

Still, the presentation didn't shy away from assessing the county's challenging forecast and unique disadvantages. According to the report, about 50% of the population lives in unincorporated areas that are served by the county – a higher percentage than virtually all neighboring counties. Pimentel said that this figure, combined with a comparatively low county property and sales tax rate leads to the county being "systematically underfunded."

Status quo financing is expected to leave the county with a $9.7 million funding gap by 2026, according to the budget staff's forecast. The budget must be approved before the start of the July 1 fiscal year.

Hearing details

The Tuesday hearings kick off with a review of the Human Services Department's budget in the morning. In the afternoon, the board will aim to schedule a public hearing on June 28 for a proposal to provide $20 million of interim financing to the Pajaro Valley Health Care District in support of their effort to purchase Watsonville Community Hospital.

The county anticipates up to $20 million in funding will ultimately be provided by the state through its 2022-23 budget, but because it is not expected to be received before the court-mandated Aug. 31 purchase deadline, the proposal is for the county to provide the money as as stop-gap. The county will then get reimbursed when the state money is received.

On Wednesday, the board will consider the proposed budgets for Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, Capital Projects, Community Development and Infrastructure and the Office of Response Recovery and Resilience. Thursday's meetings will review spending in the county's legal sphere, including financing for the Public Defender's Office, District Attorney-Public Administrator, the Probation Department and Sheriff-Coroner.

The board on June 28 is expected to vote on final approval for $5.8 million in proposed awards detailed in the Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) investments program. The program was originally approved by the board in 2015 in an effort to move toward a more equitable funding model, according to the county's staff report. The program's second three year proposal was presented to the board earlier this month, but was met with significant public pushback, including from Community Bridges and the Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County.

"We need to see the full scope of which programs and services will lose funding, how many people it will impact, where it will impact," said Community Bridges CEO Ray Cancino when addressing the board during a period of public comment at the June 7 meeting. "None of this was provided to you in the report you saw."

If you go

What: Santa Cruz County budget hearings

When: June 21 to June 28

How: In person or Zoom

Meeting agendas: www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/government/boardofsupervisors.aspx

Santa Cruz County Supervisors continue budget hearings before July recess

Agenda topics include final review of CORE program funding, proposed adoption of the annual budget and a fire season overview from the county's fire chief

By **PK HATTIS** | pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com |
PUBLISHED: June 27, 2022 at 4:01 p.m. | UPDATED: June 27, 2022 at 4:43 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ – Fire preparedness, budget changes and housing projects are all up for consideration by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors.

The board will hold its final two meetings on Tuesday before an upcoming month-long recess in July.

The regular board meeting is scheduled for a 9 a.m. start with both in person and Zoom options available. It will be followed by the final budget hearing at 1:30 p.m.. The budget hearings have been ongoing since last Tuesday.

Regular meeting

Santa Cruz County Fire Chief Nate Armstrong will kick off the board's Tuesday morning meeting with an overview of the upcoming fire season for both the state and county specifically. The report comes just two days after Cal Fire announced on social media it had reached 100% containment of the 1.5 acre Rock Fire that had been burning in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Watsonville Fire Department Engineer Matt Stoddard told the Sentinel during a training earlier this month that fire seasons continue to become increasingly dire, year after year. "We prepare for the worst and hope for the best, but there's not really a best these days," he said.

Later, the board will consider final approval for this round of awards from the Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) Investments. This program will distribute more than $5.8 million in funding provided by the Santa Cruz County Human Services Department and the City of Santa Cruz. The original presentation to the board on June 7 included 53 total award proposals, but was met by significant community opposition that took issue with some of the funding cuts and its impact on local service programs including those run by Community Bridges and Senior Network Services.

After further consideration, the Human Services Department is recommending the board approve two additional recommended actions, according to the meeting agenda. The first is a reallocation of funding across the proposal's medium and large tiers in an effort to provide awards to additional programs. The second is to provide limited transitional funding for organizations that will not receive continued funding during this cycle.

The board will also review the Regional Transportation Commission's 2016 Measure D five year plan for the 2022-23 fiscal year and a resolution recommended by Supervisor Ryan Coonerty that supports the Downtown Library Affordable Housing project and opposes the Our Downtown, Our Future initiative.

Budget hearing

After a week of hearings, the board will consider final adoption of the proposed 2022-23 county budget. The $1.03 billion budget proposal includes funding for a fully staffed public defender's office, support for the Pajaro Valley Health Care District and Watsonville Community Hospital and continued development of the South County Service Center.

According to the staff report, more than $4 million in additional General Fund contributions are being requested as a result of the June budget hearings.

If you go

What: Board regular and budget-specific meetings.

When: 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Where: 701 Ocean St. Room 525 or Zoom: http://santacruzcountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Calendar.aspx

At Elderday, Community Bridges provides high-quality and fun, stimulating services for adults with complex medical conditions. (Gina Orlando)

There's never a good time to do less for people in need. Nor to push forward process over people by making recommendations that would do severe community harm in the name of protecting bureaucratic "process."

But that is the message the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors CORE funding recommendations left Family Resource Center clients, Elderday participants, and families struggling to find low-cost early education and child care services.

Santa Cruz County provides funding for critical social services that support the most vulnerable members of our community. That is one of the roles local county governments play throughout California. Locally this funding is delivered through the "CORE" (Collective of Results and Evidence-Based Assessments) process, which grants funding to community-based organizations directly serving seniors, families, individuals, and children in Santa Cruz County.

Using a recently developed process to create more opportunities for organizations to receive first-time funding, the County re-allocated 46% of all money to a number of new organizations by defunding ongoing operations by established service providers across the County.

By the County's logic, they didn't reduce funding but increased their overall investment. But for those who rely on Mountain Community Resources in Felton for a hot shower a few times each week, losing access to that facility results in a reduction of services for that community. This is true for the over $2.2 million dollars of services that have been lost as a result of this recommendation. Across the board programs and services will be impacted such as the Family Service Agency of the Central Coast and their mental health clients, to Mental Health Client Action Network (MHCAN).

> California's Department of Aging projects the number of seniors living in Santa Cruz County will double between 2010 and 2060.

The single largest sector impacted by these changes is older adults in programs like our Elderday Senior Network. Among other, our ombudsman services for those living in long-term care facilities was defunded, leaving us inadequately prepared as California's Department of Aging projects the number of seniors living in Santa Cruz County will double between 2010 and 2060. Additionally, demand for services increased across all programs during the pandemic. This means pulling services back from people who have newly come to need them.

Reducing available funding for programs that directly serve these communities will erode the infrastructure that exists to support seniors and keep them healthy and safe. Reducing the number of subsidized child care slots available county-wide at a time when parents are struggling to find child care so they can return to work also seems to harm the community CORE is supposed to help.

This can't be what the County intended.

Community Bridges funding allocation was reduced by $816,000. In total, services for seniors and other vulnerable communities were realigned by $2.2 million with this allocation.

> Community Bridges funding allocation was reduced by $816,000. Please join the appeal today.

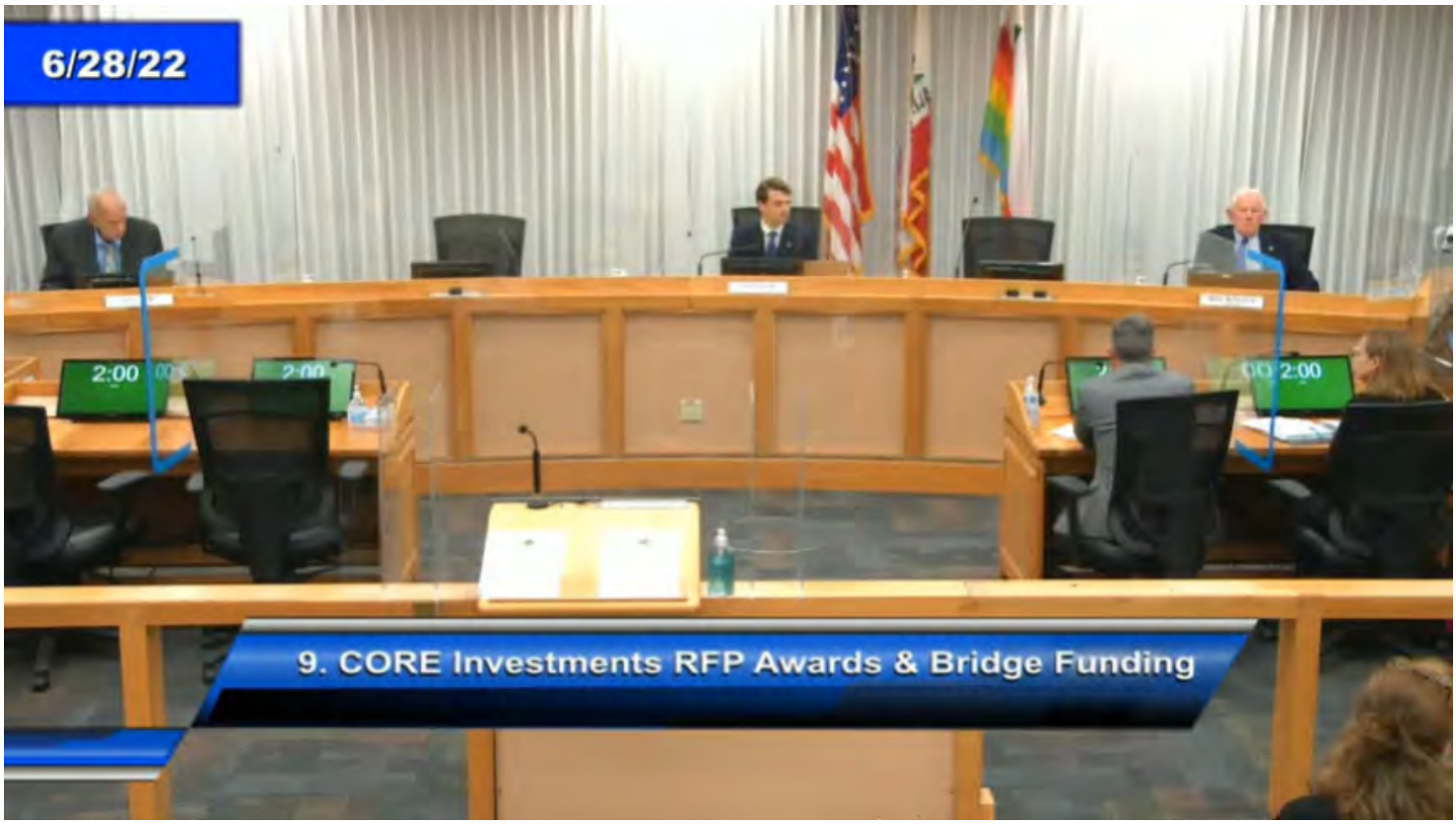
Our team at Community Bridges is actively appealing this decision and we are asking our community and anyone who benefited from our services to add their voices to the conversation and request that the Board of Supervisors preserve these essential services.

Please send a letter supporting our appeal and asking the county to preserve Community Bridges funding or create a set-aside to ensure continued access to vital community programs continues.

Join our appeal by calling (831) 454-2200 and leaving a message for your supervisor or by emailing BoardOfSupervisors@santacruzcounty.us.

COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

COMMUNITY BRIDGES



Public comment during the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday. (Via County of Santa Cruz)

BY MAX CHUN

Source: Lookout Santa Cruz

Quick Take

The three-year grant cycle aims to address changing — and growing — social services needs throughout Santa Cruz County. There's never enough money for all applicants, and this year the county board of supervisors applied some new priorities.

JUN 30, 2022 | 5:25 AM

The start of the 2022-23 fiscal year is just a day away, and Santa Cruz County now has a $1.03 billion budget to work with over the next 12 months, approved unanimously Tuesday by the board of supervisors.

That's a lot of cash, to be sure, and as there is in any budget process, there are winners and losers. This year, one of the biggest sources of contention is the program known as CORE, or Collective of Results and Evidence-based Investments. It is a funding model and movement designed to "achieve equitable health and well-being

in Santa Cruz County" by funding social services performed by nonprofit organizations.

The program amounts to only one-half of 1% of the county's overall budget. However, for dozens of community nonprofits, a fraction of the $5.9 million total means a lot.

Some 127 organizations applied for CORE funding, their requests totaling more than $15 million. The organizations submitted grant requests, and an independent panel of experts and residents then grades those applications and makes its recommendations to the board of supervisors.

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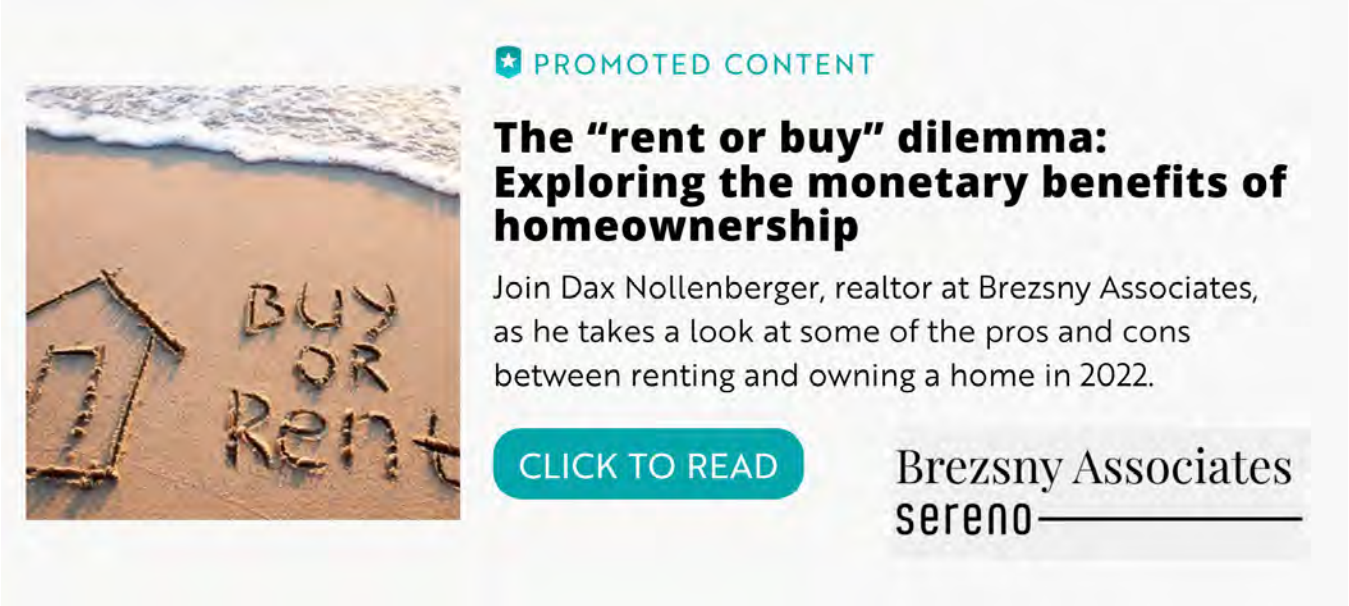

Beginning in the 1980s, progressive majorities on the board of supervisors began taking money from the budget to fund community programs through allocations to nonprofits. For many years after, funding amounts stayed largely stagnant. Then in 2017, the program took on the name CORE and added a competitive process for funding. The funding had been designed to last three years, but was extended for two more years into this year due to COVID.

3rd District Supervisor Ryan Coonerty told Lookout that the outcomes of this year's process marked a divergence from the previous cycle.

"The process we went through was similar to the one from 2017, but the outcomes of who got the highest scores were significantly different," he said. "We were investing in a couple of new initiatives, particularly Cradle-to-Career [a user-friendly database focused on early learning through higher education, social services and financial aid], that we've really been piloting in Live Oak and that we're now taking to the rest of the county. So these allocations were certainly different."

Of the 127 applicants for this cycle's funding, 57 programs were recommended for CORE funding by the appointed panel. CORE divides the applicants into three tiers — large, medium and small — based on how much money groups request. The table below shows the top five programs from each tier that received the most funding.

See the entire list here.

Many groups received cuts, resulting in a strain on vital programs.

Community Bridges, which delivers essential services across a variety of programs including Meals On Wheels and Family Resource Centers, will see its annual CORE funding cut by more than 50%, from about $1 million annually to $405,000. Mental Health Client Action Network (MHCAN), a peer-run organization dedicated to providing mutual support, saw its CORE funding of $45,000 cut entirely.

The supervisors recognized the difficulties some organizations will face given the changing allocations. Consequently, they agreed to add $500,000 in bridge funding to organizations experiencing funding cuts. MHCAN is one of 23 organizations eligible for the bridge funding.

Sarah Leonard, executive director of MHCAN, said the cut will severely affect staffing. Though MHCAN does receive funding received through a contract with the county's mental health department, Leonard said the additional annual CORE funding goes a long way.

"The employees I had are good people and they worked so hard," she said. It's a shame that we weren't valued more."

Leonard added that's always a struggle for MHCAN.

"We apparently did not score high enough on the grant, but when some organizations have professional grant writers, and we have understaffed, differently mentally abled personnel, we're at an immediate disadvantage," she said. "Our existence is always precarious."

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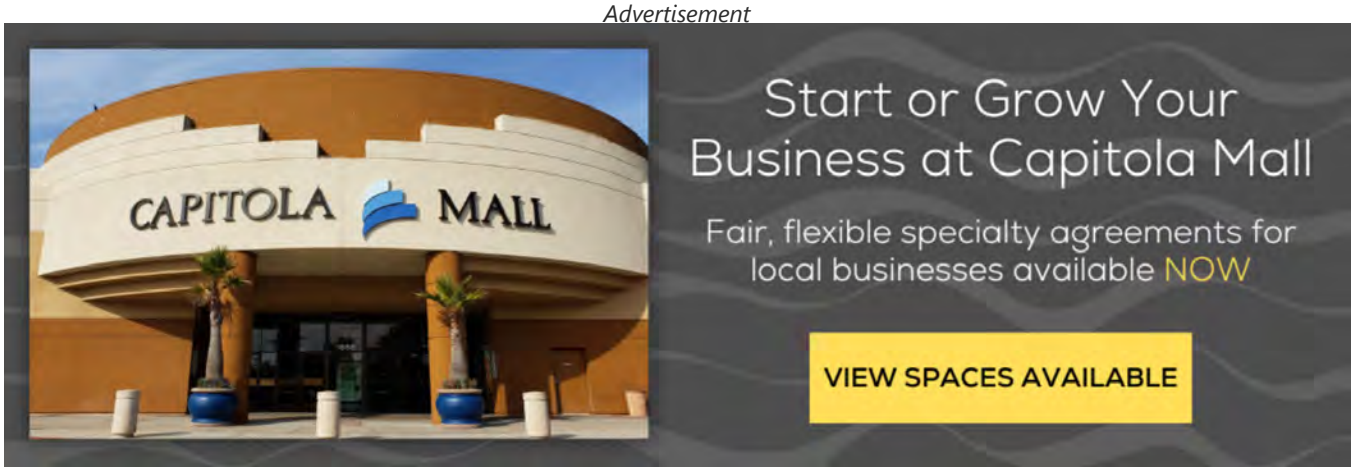

Ray Cancino, CEO of Community Bridges, says cuts to his organization will mean a noticeable decline in service bandwidth, and detailed the impact on the Meals On Wheels program.

"There's $31,000 less for senior meals, and that means 3,000 fewer senior meals are going to occur in Santa Cruz County," he said. "I think the fact that we are a large organization sometimes does a disservice to us, because we're not seen as providing all of the services that we do."

Eight other Community Bridges programs did not receive funding recommendations.

Cancino says a deeper understanding of each applicant is required to provide the most accurate allocations.

"If the context of the organization's impact is excluded, we're going to continue to have this outcome where the best paper gets the funding," he said. "I know there is some consideration of impact, but the process isn't fully considering who is providing the most cost-effective service, bringing in the most federal dollars, or providing services to a specialized population."

Coonerty points to the hard decisions that have to be made.

"I think overall, their programs just didn't score as high," he said. "I think they do incredibly important work, as does every program that applied, but they did not score as high and so they didn't get funded like they had in the past."

An aerial view shows Watsonville Slough at the bottom where it flanks Ramsay Park and downtown Watsonville in the upper left. — Tarmo Hannula file

Local News | News

Dozens of renters still await help on eve of moratorium deadline

By: **TODD GUILD** June 30, 2022 0 308

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY—As the statewide eviction moratorium expires on June 30, many renters with past due bills as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic are still waiting for financial help which, unless they take action, might never come.

Across Santa Cruz County, some 2,666 people have submitted applications to the state's Housing is Key program for rental assistance. At least 2,174 have received assistance as of Wednesday, with the average amount being $10,901.

In Watsonville, 688 people applied for assistance before the March 31 deadline, and 592 have received an average of $7,917 in assistance.

The remaining applicants could be facing the same problem as many Californians: They are unaware the state has denied their applications, and that they will be permanently denied unless they address the issues.

According to Community Bridges CEO Ray Cancino, Housing is Key officials frequently deny applications for issues such as missing information. But they alert only the applicant, and only via email. They do not alert the organizations helping them with their applications, he says.

The problem, Cancino says, is that many people are not computer savvy, many others do not frequently check their email and others are not native English speakers.

Once a claim is denied the first time, the applicant has 30 days to respond, Cancino says. After that, it can be permanently denied.

"The reality is that the state overwhelmingly depends on digital access, and our community overwhelmingly has a lot of digital literacy issues," he said. "The regulatory process and the requirements are kind of holding people back."

The delays from the state have left both renters and landlords in limbo. Locally, officials have kicked in to help those left behind. In March, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved the use of $500,000 to kickstart that countywide rental assistance plan, and the Watsonville City Council chipped in $20,000 from the city's affordable housing fund.

Cancino says that applicants should check their Housing is Key and email accounts every day, including their junk and spam folders.

Anyone who needs help can call the Community Bridges line at 316-1822.

Photo | Watsonville event marks World Breastfeeding Week

A breast pump and mothers milk storage bottles sit on a table in a Watsovnille Community Hospital parking lot Thursday as Salud Para La Gente lactation consultant Alexandra Lopez talks to a woman at a drive-thru event celebrating World Breastfeeding Week. A total of 250 women, some currently nursing newborns and infants, and others who are expecting babies soon, were given bags filled with breastfeeding and lactation information, children toys and books, coloring books and hand sanitizer. The hospital partners in the event included Community Bridges' WIC program and Salud. Women were also provided information and contact information about local breastfeeding support and resources available in our community. (Shmuel Thaler – Santa Cruz Sentinel)

By **SHMUEL THALER** | sthaler@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

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Community Bridges makes $20,000 donation to help save Watsonville Community Hospital

Updated: 10:36 PM PDT Aug 15, 2022

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Julian Gaskins

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — The Community Bridges Board of Directors has approved a $20,000 donation in support of the Pajaro Valley Healthcare District Project's effort to purchase the Watsonville Community Hospital.

"We are fortunate to have focused on improved organizational efficiencies and good investments to build our reserves over the last few years," said Raymon Cancino, Community Bridges' CEO. "Those reserves made it possible for us to support this effort and to ensure we invested in our core mission of health and wellness for our local communities. We felt it was really important to express and invest in our values, and remain focused on improving equitable access to health care. This community hospital is regionally needed for ongoing health and emergency care and we cannot afford to lose it."

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The Watsonville Community Hospital filed for bankruptcy protection on Dec. 6, 2021.

Following that decision, state Senators John Laird and Anna Caballeros, as well as assemblymembers Robert Rivas and Mark Stone took legislative action that resulted in the creation of a health care district for the Pajaro Valley.

In February, the bankruptcy judge entered an order approving the sale of the hospital to PVHDP, which has until the end of August to finalize the acquisition of the hospital and its assets.