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COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

August 2022



CZU Fire Two-Year Anniversary: A Look Back

Today marks the two-year anniversary of the CZU Lightning Complex Fires. The valley has been tested in so many ways but the communities' courage and resilience has never wavered. During the CZU Fires, Mountain Community Resources (MCR) quickly mobilized staff to provide information, purchase vital supplies, and collaborate with community partners to meet the urgent needs of fire victims. Within one month of the disaster, we launched a mobile laundry van to offer displaced persons access to a washer and dryer and offered more than \$850,000 in direct financial assistance for rent and food to more than 900 families.

Today, MCR continues to support fire victims by providing help with disaster relief applications and is assisting individuals through the rebuilding process. All of this wouldn't be possible without your support and the help of our amazing valley community.



We Want to Hear From You

We're grateful to our sponsors, donors, and supporters for making the 7th Annual Farm to Fork Gala another successful evening in community with one another. More than 130 attendees joined Congressman Jimmy Panetta and Senator John Laird in honoring Community Bridges Board Chair Jack Jacobson with the inaugural Bridge Builder award for four decades of "bridge-building" on behalf of so many Santa Cruz County organizations.

We were touched by the generosity our supporters demonstrated - many of whom we hadn't seen in more than two years. This year's event raised \$62,000 - a great way to kick off our 45th anniversary serving Santa Cruz County. To top it off, Sutter Health surprised us this year letting us know they were committed to sponsoring next year's event!

If you haven't had the opportunity to take the Farm to Fork survey, there's still time. Your feedback helps us improve future events.

Unable to make our Farm to Fork Gala but would still like to join our 45th anniversary celebration? Consider donating \$45 for 45 years of service today: communitybridges.org/donate.

Take the Survey!



CENTRAL COAST
ZEV STRATEGY

TELL US MORE OF YOUR
STORY ON THIS MAP



Where do
you want to
charge your
electric vehicle?

How often do
you expect to
charge there?

How many
chargers do
you think will
be needed?



VISIT: www.centralcoastzevstrategy.com

Request an EV Charger Near You

Interested in the future of Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) charging opportunities along the Central Coast?

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), Association of Monterey Bay Governments (AMBAG), and San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), along with Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties want to hear from you.

These agencies have partnered to develop the Central Coast Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy (CCZEVS) to identify existing and future EV charging needs.

Check out their interactive mapping tool, www.bit.ly/CCZEV and leave a comment or request an EV charger near you.

Information shared on the map will help create the strategy designed to accelerate the adoption of zero emission vehicles in the region.

Learn more, centralcoastzevstrategy.com

Ray's Corner

Community Bridges Joins Community Leaders to Save Watsonville Community Hospital

I'm very excited to share that Community Bridges Board of Directors has approved a \$20,000 donation in support of the Pajaro Valley Healthcare



District Project's (PVHDP) effort to purchase the Watsonville Community Hospital and transition it back to a community-ownership model.

Had PVHDP not stepped in, many of our clients would have been left without access to hospital services when the previous owners announced an abrupt bankruptcy decision in 2021. The loss of those services for seniors and young families in our community would have a devastating impact on the overall health and wellness of those living in the Santa Cruz and Monterey County region.

We are fortunate to have focused on improved organizational efficiencies and good investments to build our reserves over the last few years. 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 healthcare. This community hospital is regionally needed for ongoing health and emergency care and we cannot afford to lose it.

[Read the Full Announcement Here](#)

[Sign-up to Become a Volunteer.](#)

[Support our Family of 10 Programs Today!](#)

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