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COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

January 2023

Helping our Community Weather the Storm



Throughout January, Community Bridges has been heavily involved in both emergency preparedness and response, as thousands of our fellow Santa Cruz County and North Monterey County residents dealt with the impacts of the recent winter storms and floods.

We walked door to door in Watsonville's older adult villages, and throughout the flooded areas of the San Lorenzo Valley to ensure that our community was educated about the evacuation orders and warnings, and resources available to them. We also helped fill and deliver more than 40,000 sandbags to the residents in Watsonville's older adult villages, and assisted 34 families with round trip evacuations to the emergency shelters, including nine people who are wheelchair bound and without other means of transportation.

As the storms subsided, we shifted our efforts toward helping inform our community of how to correctly file insurance claims, and applications for federal and local financial assistance. We've also partnered with other community-serving organizations and the City of Watsonville to help quickly and effectively connect storm-impacted residents with the resources and assistance they need.

All of this wouldn't be possible without your support and the help of our amazing Santa Cruz County community, and we will need your continued support to help our storm-impacted neighbors recover over the coming weeks and months.



Support Storm Recovery Now

President Makes Major Disaster Declaration



President Biden authorized a major disaster declaration for Santa Cruz County on Jan. 14. The declaration is meant to assist local governments, nonprofits, families, and individuals in recovering from the recent winter storms.

APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE BE COMPLETED BY MARCH 16, and can be completed at disasterassistance.gov.

Santa Cruz and Monterey counties have opened recovery centers where people can talk with staff from FEMA, the California Office of Emergency Services, and other agencies and organizations that specialize in emergency response and disaster recovery.

Santa Cruz County

Felton Branch Library
6121 Gushee St., Felton
Hours: 9am-7pm, daily

Ramsay Park
1301 Main St., Watsonville
Hours: 9am-7pm, daily

Monterey County

County of Monterey North Building
1441 Schilling Pl, Salinas
Hours: 9am-7pm, daily (opens January 28th)

Our Family Resource Collective locations across the county can help residents understand what federal and local assistance they qualify for. Please help us share these recovery resources with community members that need them.

For a list of federal and local resources, visit communitybridges.org/emergency.

FLOOD RECOVERY RESOURCES

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

President Biden authorized a major disaster declaration for Santa Cruz County on Jan. 14th. The declaration is meant to assist local governments, families, and individuals in recovering from the recent winter storms. This may include financial assistance for evacuation costs, cleanup and sanitation, repairs, expanded unemployment and other services for eligible households.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION LOANS

Will offer low-interest disaster loans to California businesses and residents following the recent severe winter storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides. To be considered for disaster assistance, survivors must contact FEMA first. For information, visit sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance

APPLY FOR FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Web: disasterassistance.gov/
App: Through the FEMA app
Phone: (800) 621-3362
Information on programs:
fema.gov/assistance

**APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE
MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 16th**

LOCAL ASSISTANCE - Santa Cruz County, Pajaro Valley, Las Lomas, Aromas, and Royal Oaks Residents

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

You may qualify for cash assistance to pay for a hotel, temporary rental housing, basic household items or related needs not covered by insurance or other sources. Santa Cruz County & Pajaro Valley community organizations are providing direct financial assistance to local residents and connecting them to other resources. Dial **211**, or contact any of the resource centers to the right.



RESOURCE CENTERS

Watsonville/Pajaro Valley
La Manzana Community Resources: **831-724-2997**
San Lorenzo Valley
Mountain Community Resources: **831-335-6600**
Live Oak & Mid-County
Live Oak Community Resources: **831-476-7284**
Santa Cruz
Nueva Vista Community Resources: **831-423-5747**
Davenport & North Coast
Davenport Resource Service Center: **831-425-8115**
Pajaro/Monterey County
Catholic Charities: **831-316-9122**

COMMUNITY BRIDGES' FREE TOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM

La Manzana Community Resources:
521 Main St, Ste. Y, Watsonville | **831-724-2997**
Live Oak Community Resources:
1740 17th Ave., Santa Cruz | **831-476-7284**
Mountain Community Resources:
6134 Highway 9, Felton | **831-335-6600**

Community Bridges is providing cleanup tools and resources at selected Family Resource Centers to help our community recover from the recent winter storms. Community members can rent cleanup items such as air movers, dehumidifiers, wet & dry vacs, carpet cleaners, push brooms, and pressure washers, at no cost. Other single-use cleanup items, such as contractor bags, gloves, sponges, and disinfectant are also available. These items are available at the following locations to the left (Call ahead to check availability).

CLEANUP ASSISTANCE / DISASTER ASSESSMENT

Completing a damage assessment form at one of Community Bridges Family Resource Center locations will connect you to local cleanup assistance through the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County. This will prioritize you based on need and allow referrals to various social service providers that may be able to address your identified needs.

Assessments can also be completed electronically at forms.gle/GCpzuDHqzRJqnMtT6

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County will provide groceries and stock pantries, at no cost. Call **831-722-7110** or visit thefoodbank.org

CITY OF WATSONVILLE RESIDENTS

The City of Watsonville offers zero-interest loans for both homeowners and renters living in city limits through the City's Community Development Block Grant Funds. For more information, visit bit.ly/3D4t3fj



Scan to complete form



LA MANZANA COMMUNITY RESOURCES
521 Main Street, Suite Y, Watsonville, CA 95076
831-724-2997

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY RESOURCES
6134 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018
831-335-6600



**COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD**



LIVE OAK COMMUNITY RESOURCES
1740 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831-476-7284



NUEVA VISTA COMMUNITY RESOURCES
711 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-423-5747

Free Cleanup Tool Library Program

Community Bridges is providing cleanup tools and resources at our Family Resource Collective (FRC) locations to help our community recover from the devastating floods and mudslides produced by the recent unprecedented winter storms.

Community members can rent cleanup items such as air movers, dehumidifiers, wet/dry vacs, carpet cleaners, push brooms, and pressure washers, at no cost. Other single-use cleanup items, such as contractor bags, gloves, sponges, and disinfectant are also available for the community through generous support of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County, American Red Cross and Home Depot Foundation grants.

These items are available at the following FRCs (We ask that you call ahead and check for availability):

- La Manzana Community Resources – 521 Main Street, Ste. Y, Watsonville | 831-724-2997
- Live Oak Community Resources – 1740 17th Ave., Santa Cruz | 831-476-7284
- Mountain Community Resources – 6134 Highway 9, Felton | 831-335-6600

To rent the equipment, simply complete a damage assessment form and liability release form at one of our FRC locations.

Community Bridges purchased the majority of the cleanup items available for rent and disbursement through the use of strategic agency reserves. In an effort to expand the program, we are asking the community to donate lightly used tools and new single-use items for the cleanup effort. Donations can be dropped off at any of our participating FRC locations.

Information for the Road to Recovery



NEED CLEANUP EQUIPMENT?

Community Bridges is here to help!

Our FRC programs are here to assist you with cleanup tools. Our goal is to help you and your families recover from the severe flooding in Santa Cruz County by providing the tools you may need.

Carpet Cleaner	Squeegee Blades
Dehumidifier	Flood Barrier
Pressure Washer	Sand Bags (empty)
Shop Vac	Contractor Bags
Shop vac Filters	Push Brooms
Air Mover (Fan)	Wheelbarrows
Mop Sticks	Rain Ponchos/Coats

Rent equipment for FREE today from our FRC's listed below

Need help cleaning up? Call **844-965-1386**

LA MANZANA COMMUNITY RESOURCES 521 Main Street, Suite Y, Watsonville, CA 95076 831-724-2997	LIVE OAK COMMUNITY RESOURCES 1740 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 831-476-7284	MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY RESOURCES 6134 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018 831-335-6600
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Community Bridges hosted flood recovery information sessions via Zoom and in person on January 12th and January 13th. Experts on insurance information and flood claims were present to answer questions, and we also connected attendees with resources available to them through our community partners. We also hosted a third session for Monterey County residents on January 26th.

These meetings were essential for our flood-impacted community members because it not only showed them the various resources available to them at the local, state, and federal level, but it also gave them the tools and knowledge they need to speak to insurance companies, which is crucial to recovery.

South Santa Cruz County (January 12)

Click [here](#) to view the meeting recording

Click [here](#) to view the slide presentation

North Santa Cruz County (January 13)

Click [here](#) to view the meeting recording

Click [here](#) to view the slide presentation

Monterey County webinar (January 26)

Click [here](#) to view the meeting recording.

Click [here](#) to view the slide presentations.

The webinars were also recorded in Spanish, Mixteco and Triqui. To listen to those recordings, visit communitybridges.org/events.



Ray's Corner

Race to Recovery and the Long Road Ahead



It's not every day that the president flies into Watsonville Municipal Airport. In fact, President Joe Biden's tour of Santa Cruz County earlier this month was the first time that a U.S. president has visited our region since the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake.

Much like that natural disaster, the recent winter storms—and the floods, fallen trees, mudslides, and power outages they produced—have left our community reeling. Whether you were directly impacted or have a beloved friend, family member, or business that is now trying to rebuild, these storms will have long-lasting impacts.

Community Bridges aims to be a resource that can help guide those who need help weaving through the intimidating process of applying for and accessing federal assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, better known as FEMA. We've accomplished this through assisting our clients at our Family Resource Collective locations, and we've partnered with other organizations and experts to support residents who either do not qualify for federal assistance or simply require additional assistance.

We are grateful to have received funding from both Community Foundation Santa Cruz County and Community Foundation for Monterey County to help us respond to the disaster. But the recovery effort is only starting, and will need additional funding, support and advocacy to help our community build back stronger. We ask that you donate to our organization to help us support the essential services we provide, as well sustain the critical disaster recovery assistance that our community so drastically needs. We couldn't do this without your unwavering support and commitment to those we serve.

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.

[Support our Programs](#)

[Sign-up to Volunteer](#)

519 Main Street, | Watsonville , California 95076
831-688-8840 | info@cbridges.org

