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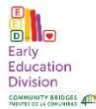


COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

SUMMER 2023

Look at what we've accomplished together!

2023 Annual Report



A Bright Moment of Reflection

In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, we delivered more than 235,000 meals, provided more than 42,000 door-to-door rides, and distributed more than 90,000 bags of food to just under 22,000 participants across Santa Cruz County and North Monterey County.

At the same time, our dedicated staff across our family of ten programs conducted 24,700 hours of elder and child care, 7,354 hours of crisis assistance, 2,130 hours of youth activities, and 1,000 hours of counseling.

Our 2023 Annual Report is headed to your mailboxes and is available online [HERE](#).

Our crucial and life-changing work is possible because of your support!

We are thankful for your continued investment in our community, and hopeful that our partnership will continue to make a difference for thousands of older adults, children, and families each year.

Let's keep a good thing going! Give to Community Bridges today.

SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS



The Long Road to Recovery

For the past six months, Community Bridges Family Resource Collective (FRC) has helped more than a thousand families throughout the Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County start their path toward recovery from the winter and spring storms.

Our FRC team has provided more than **\$1.1 MILLION** in direct financial assistance to **1,021** Pajaro residents impacted by the Spring storms and floods, alone. When including the financial aid distributed to Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County residents impacted by the storms and floods that forced evacuations on New Year's Day, the total amount of assistance our FRC team has distributed jumps to a whopping **\$1.7 MILLION.**



Pajaro Flood Recovery Site Opens

This is all thanks to more than 2,000 individuals, businesses, groups, and foundations who have donated to our Pajaro Valley Flood Relief fund since it was established following the March 11 floods in Pajaro.

But more help is needed to ensure an equitable recovery!

Your continued support will help maintain our essential work as we move into the long-term recovery phase in which we will help families rebuild their homes, find new, habitable long-term housing, or restart their business.

SUPPORT STORM RECOVERY

The Pájaro Long-Term Flood Recovery Center has opened and is well underway in helping storm-impacted families!

We opened the Pájaro resource center to ensure that we continue to provide direct client disaster services for families recovering from the devastating Pájaro Valley floods.

Learn more by clicking [HERE](#).

New Elderday Location Nears Completion

Elderday Adult Day Health Care's new Watsonville location is shaping up! We hope to open the new state-of-the-art facility at 501 Main Street in downtown Watsonville in a few short weeks, but there's no need to wait to enroll. Come join our family today!



ELDERDAY WATSONVILLE



Welcome New Meals on Wheels Director, Darren Daley!

Community Bridges is excited to announce that it has hired Darren Daley to take over as program director for Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County when Lisa Berkowitz caps off her stellar four-decade career with Meals on Wheels in August as she heads into retirement.

LEARN MORE

Enrollment for Early Education Division opens!

Enrollment is open for our Early Education Division preschools! With low teacher-to-student ratios, affordable rates, and knowledgeable and experienced staff, our six sites across Santa Cruz County are a great fit for most families.



ENROLL NOW

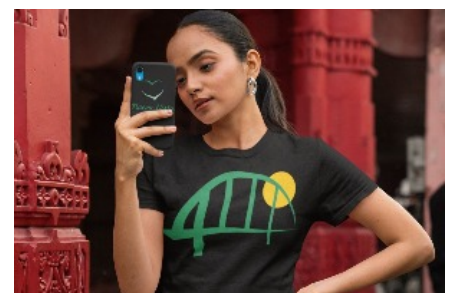
NEWS & NOTES



Selected as one of only 36 programs nationwide, and one of two in California, Community Bridges' WIC program emerged victorious in the highly competitive WIC



Santa Cruz County's older adult population has grown faster than in any other county in California since 2010. This 'Silver Tsunami' has increased the need for



Show your support of Community Bridges by shopping for swag at our TeePublic storefront! A portion of the proceeds of every sale go toward Community Bridges

CIAO Project funded by the
USDA Food and Nutrition
Service.

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older adult services from
nonprofit social service
providers.

[READ MORE](#)

and our family of ten
programs.

[SHOP CB SWAG](#)



Ray's Corner

In late June, Gov. Gavin Newsom approved a \$310 billion state budget. There were some wins for our community scattered throughout the budget, including a \$20 million allocation to help flood-impacted Pajaro residents, but there was also an omission that will ultimately hurt families across the state.

The Child Abuse Prevention Center, the California Family Resource Association, the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, and Community Bridges had requested a \$75 million budget appropriation over three years aimed at stabilizing the operations of vital family resource centers throughout the state.

Locally, this appropriation would have been a game-changer for our Family Resource Collective (FRC), which serves a critical role in the social service safety net in Watsonville, Live Oak, Santa Cruz, and Felton. Instead, paired with the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors' decision to slash our annual CORE funding by \$816,000 through 2025, this exclusion from the state budget will likely have rippling impacts on our community.

At their core, family resource centers across the state provide family-centered and family-strengthening services. They're embedded in communities, are culturally sensitive, and prioritize impact-driven and evidence-informed approaches to reach their goals of preventing child abuse and neglect. Services at the family resource centers—including our four local FRC locations—include parenting classes, drop-in crisis assistance, afterschool programming, housing navigation, public benefit enrollment (CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Unemployment, Social Security), and mental health services.

Put plainly, family resource centers protect and enhance the lives of some of the most marginalized populations and vulnerable

children in California. They're connectors, protectors, and trusted messengers—a one-stop-shop that helps families and individuals reach their full potential, no matter their documentation status or income level. And they produce results: Studies have shown that communities with family resource centers see fewer cases of child abuse and neglect, and that their prevention-focused services save local governments money in the long run.

State and local governments have relied heavily upon family resource centers to implement government programs and respond to emergencies. The past three years have served as a prime example of the importance of family resource centers to the health and well-being of a community. Whether it was responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the CZU Fires, rising inflation, the ongoing housing crisis, or the 2023 storms and floods, our FRC has maintained its day-to-day services while also leading disaster response efforts to ensure all have an opportunity to thrive.

But maintaining these services without the needed funding is not realistic. Family resource centers are worth your investment. Donate today to support our FRC's services, tell your elected representatives of the importance of investing in this key local program and ask them to prioritize them in their funding allocations.

CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR

Support our Programs

Sign-up to Volunteer

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

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