

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)



**COMMUNITY BRIDGES**  
**PUNTES DE LA COMUNIDAD**

# STORM RECOVERY

A community update of where we are and where we're going



## 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. For some, the sense of normalcy has returned. For others, the journey has just begun.

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

### In the news

Community Bridges Family Resource Collective has received headlines for its response to the winter and spring storms:

- [Pajaro Long-Term Recovery Center opens](#)
- [FRCs start second wave of financial assistance](#)
- [Nonprofits need more funding](#)

New Year's Day, the total amount of assistance our FRC team has distributed jumps to a whopping **\$1.7 MILLION**.

We've also invested more than \$500,000 in indirect aid to our community through case management services, FEMA application assistance, essential item and clean-up tool distribution, and advocacy and outreach.

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.

DONATE TODAY

Learn More About our Family Resource Collective sites

- [La Manzana Community Resources](#)
- [Live Oak Community Resources](#)
- [Nueva Vista Community Resources](#)
- [Mountain Community Resources](#)

---

## What Drives La Manzana's Program Manager Liliana Zamora?



Liliana was only two months old when her family moved from Mexico to the United States and planted roots in Santa Cruz County. Her parents worked in the fields and gave her the opportunity to get an education. While earning her associate degree in human services at Cabrillo College in 2008, she joined the Community Bridges family on an internship working at the front desk of one of our family resource centers. That was the start of her ongoing 15-year career in human services.

Liliana was promoted to La Manzana Community Resources Program Manager in 2021 and shares that Community Bridges' mission of delivering essential services, providing equitable access to resources, and advocating for health and dignity across every stage of life is what has driven her work.

"I went to school here, my parents worked in the fields. I understand the need and I want to support my community," Liliana says. "My parents continue to receive services. This type of work resonated with me, and my background, my family, kept me here."

Since January, her team at La Manzana Community Resources has been busy responding to the storms and floods. They've received more than 3,200 applications for financial assistance and have helped hundreds of storm-impacted families access aid.

**Q: How would you describe the last six months?**

A: Wow. There's a lot of emotions. I would just say hectic chaos. We've been in that "fight mode" for the community since the January storm happened. I was out of town when Watsonville flooded, and we had to come back because my father-in-law had to be evacuated. And then the March flood happened. We didn't even have time to process the first storm and the flooding. We were all in "response mode," and I don't think we've stopped.

It's been emotionally hard on us helping families, but also rewarding. Being able to provide, through many grants and donations, financial assistance to families, helping them get back on their feet, doing case management with them, and trying to get them back home. We're just helping them get started because they lost everything. And there's a lot of children and seniors involved. The work is important, and the work hasn't stopped. It's been a really busy six months. For everybody.

**What do you think has been the most challenging part to this point?**

I think the lack of resources for families when it comes to housing. Housing navigation is very hard. We did receive a lot of donations and families are able to get that, but the housing aspect of this whole process is what's been harder. Families are still at the hotels. There's a lot of families that haven't been able to go back home because they don't have a place to go. Their homes got destroyed. Their homes are not safe. And it's like where do we send them? The housing in the area is expensive and it's limited. Our families can't relocate because work is here.

**What do the next six months look like for you and your team, and then what does the next year look like for you and your team?**

The next six months will be long-term recovery work. We'll make sure that we're able to support them with FEMA appeals and housing application processes, whether they want another rental or to even buy a home. Getting their kids back into school and stable is important too. So just getting them back into their normal life.

Recovery is difficult. The last six months have been traumatic for families and for children, and I think it's going to take a long time to go back to normal. So, we'll make sure we're providing counseling and therapy along with services.

**If people read this, and they want to know, how can I continue to help? What would you recommend they do?**

I would recommend they go on our website and read about how all these organizations are helping the community. I think more funding and donations would be great for the families. And then just coming and visiting Pajaro. People should see for themselves what the flooding did to the community. Going out there and connecting with the victims of the floods and donating their time and resources.

**Can people volunteer directly with La Manzana?**

Of course, we're always looking for volunteers. We welcome volunteers throughout the whole year.



HELP LA MANZANA TODAY



## Community Health Champions!

Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective was honored at the Phil Rather Awards for its response to the winter and spring floods! Hosted by the Community Health Trust of Pajaro Valley, the Phil Rather Awards recognize groups and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to health and quality of life in Pajaro Valley. Congratulations, team!



## Join us at Farm to Fork on July 30!

Community Bridges' annual Farm to Fork event returns on July 30!

This year we've teamed up with the Wines of the Santa Cruz Mountains to help raise financial relief funds for farmers and farmworkers affected by this year's storms and floods in the Pajaro Valley.

The event will be held in Pajaro on Sunday, July 30 from 4pm-8pm. Tickets are \$175 per person or \$1,400 for a table of eight.

Make sure to buy your tickets soon, as this event sells out!

BUY TICKETS



## Summer Lunch is Served!

Community Bridges' Summer Lunch program, sponsored by La Manzana Community Resources, kicked off in June!

Kids 18 and younger can pick up a FREE lunch at various sites in Santa Cruz and Watsonville through early August.

The program served more than **21,000 meals** over the last two years, helping combat local childhood hunger and its deleterious impacts on the area's youngest residents.

Roughly 30% of the cost of this program is covered through donations, and more support is needed to sustain the program.



## Summer Fun is Back!

Nueva Vista Community Resources' beloved Summer Fun program is back, and our kids are loving the opportunity to play, interact, and learn about nature!

This summer program offers interactive and enriching recreation opportunities to Santa Cruz's low-income youth (ages 8-16) in collaboration with the O'Neill Sea Odyssey, Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, the Coastal Watershed Council, and more.

Participants learn about the environment, their impact on the world around them, and exciting



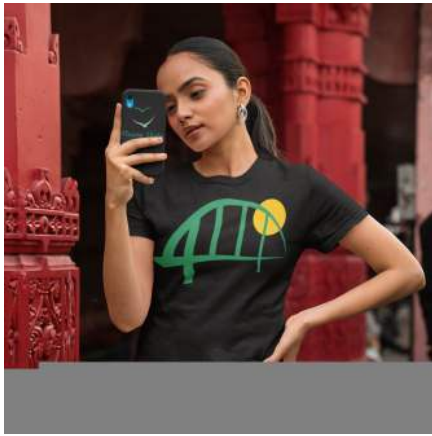
Those interested in supporting the program may do so by donating to La Manzana Community Resources below.

DONATE HERE

and interesting career opportunities in their community.

Want to support this program and other Nueva Vista Community Resources efforts? Donate to Nueva Vista Community Resources below.

DONATE HERE



Show your support of Community Bridges and the Family Resource Collective by shopping at our TeePublic storefront! A portion of the proceeds of every sale go toward Community Bridges and the FRC!

SHOP COMMUNITY BRIDGES MERCH



Local advocacy makes a difference. The Family Resource Collective can not sustain its services without strong backing from local elected officials. Contact your representatives, ask questions, and advocate for our programs.

CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR



The Family Resource Collective's work would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers. From helping with food distributions to conducting community outreach, our FRC centers have a plethora of volunteer opportunities.

LEND A HAND TODAY

Follow Us



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)