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**MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!**  
Joining Together for Big Ideas

**WE'VE BEEN SELECTED FOR**

**MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!**

**DONATE NOW!** NOV. 9 - DEC. 31

[MONTEREYCOUNTYGIVES.COM/BRIDGES](https://montereycountygives.com/bridges)

**An Opportunity to Make a Difference in Pajaro**

We are excited to share some big news with you! Community Bridges has been chosen to participate in Monterey County Gives for the very first time, and we are reaching out to our incredible supporters to join us in championing a transformative project set to leave a lasting impact in Pajaro and North Monterey County.

## **Introducing Our BIG IDEA: A Family Resource Center in Pajaro**

Our mission is to elevate the lives of Pajaro's residents by establishing a sustainable resource center, led by the Family Resource Collective (FRC), that not only addresses immediate needs related to flood recovery but also provides essential services and resources to enhance outcomes for children, parents, and families. This center will serve as a comprehensive hub, offering a spectrum of services, including healthcare access, translation services, parenting classes, job applications and training, housing navigation, counseling, and more.

**In the last eight months, our dedicated FRC staff has tirelessly assisted over 2,900 Pajaro residents in recovering from the March 11 floods. We've distributed over \$1.7 million in direct economic assistance and provided more than 590 hours of one-on-one case management over 1,700 sessions with residents.**

From mental health counseling to community and political advocacy and support with housing, healthcare, employment, federal assistance applications, and beyond, we've been unwavering champions for Pajaro children, parents, and families who have faced significant losses.

Recognizing that the recovery journey for many Pajaro families is just commencing, we established the Pajaro Long-Term Recovery Center at 14 Porter Drive in July, ensuring that access to services will not pose a hurdle for recovering families. Our BIG IDEA of providing sustainable, reliable, and impact-informed services is contingent on raising enough funds to extend our current one-year lease for additional years.

## **Building a Resilient Pajaro Together**

We envision a stronger and more resilient Pajaro by providing essential services and resources. Already, we have initiated programs such as nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and social services through our Community Bridges WIC program at the Pajaro center.

Similar to our FRC sites in Watsonville, Live Oak, Santa Cruz, and the San Lorenzo Valley, the Pajaro center is linking families to employment programs and public benefits like CalFresh and Medi-Cal, as well as the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, enhancing family spending power and benefiting the local economy. Being physically embedded in Pajaro also provides opportunities for the FRC to continue advocating for investments in the town's infrastructure, resources, and economy to create lasting change.

Our BIG IDEA will not only boost local consumer spending and create jobs but will also connect residents to local businesses, making Pajaro more resilient to future storms and disasters.

## How You Can Make a Difference 🤝

Participating in this fantastic initiative is easy! Visit [montereycountygives.com/bridges](https://montereycountygives.com/bridges) to make a donation and show your support. Every contribution brings us one step closer to realizing our vision for a brighter future in Pajaro.

After you donate to our campaign, spread the word! Let your friends, family, and community groups know that they can help us continue to make an impact in Pajaro by supporting us. Let's create a ripple effect of support, ensuring that everyone is aware of this opportunity to contribute to the well-being and resilience of our community.

Together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of Pajaro residents and build a community that is stronger, more connected, and better prepared for the future.

SUPPORT PAJARO RESOURCE CENTER

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## Community Spotlight: Making a Difference for Pajaro Families Facing Eviction

### In the news

Key headlines from Community Bridges Family Resource Collective and challenges local



*Some two dozen families living in Pajaro were served eviction notices by their landlord after an inspection from the County of Monterey found that the landlord had been renting substandard and illegal housing to local farmworking families.*

## **FRC, Community Rallies to Support Local Farmworkers**

In our previous newsletter, we shed light on the invaluable work of the Family Resource Collective's (FRC) Eviction Defense Collaborative. One month later, this partnership's role as a lifeline for local families facing unexpected evictions is on full display.

Late October brought distressing news as around two dozen families in Pajaro faced a 60-day eviction notice due to substandard living conditions in a rental property in the heart of the Monterey County town. The County of Monterey's inspection revealed years of

children, parents, and families are facing:

- [Community Bridges assists Pajaro families facing eviction](#)
- [Writers to host benefit for Pajaro flood survivors](#)
- [Hunger worsened among U.S. households in 2022, report finds](#)
- [A third of Santa Cruz County households struggle to afford the cost of living, new study says](#)

### **Learn More About our Family Resource Collective sites**

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

exploitation by the landlord, affecting hardworking farmworkers and their children. Desperate for assistance, these families turned to La Manzana Community Resources in Watsonville.

In response, we activated the Eviction Defense Collaborative, engaging our partners at Senior Legal Services, Conflict Resolution of Santa Cruz County, and Tenant Sanctuary. Together, we've worked to provide legal guidance, relocation funds, mental health counseling, and additional resources to these families in need.

We're thrilled to report that, through the Eviction Defense Collaborative, we've empowered these families to understand their legal rights and make informed decisions collectively. Additionally, we have helped the community rally, [raising over \\$64,000 via GoFundMe](#), with a \$50,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Monterey County serving as a significant boost.

While this is a significant achievement, more help is crucial. These families still face a possible move-out date of December 17th and are in need of additional direct economic assistance during the holiday season.

### **How You Can Help:**

- **Donate:** Contribute whatever you can; every dollar makes a difference.
- **Share:** Spread the word by sharing the GoFundMe campaign with your friends, family, and social networks.

Let's stand together and support these families, ensuring they have a warm and secure place to call home during the holidays. In these challenging times, let's make a world of difference for those who dedicate their lives to feeding our community. Join us in showing

solidarity and compassion – be a part of a community that cares for its own.

HELP FARMWORKERS FACING EVICTION

## Tickets Still Available for Pajaro Rising!

We are thrilled to announce that our organization has been selected as the beneficiary of the upcoming Pajaro Rising event, scheduled for November 30th. This remarkable event is made possible through the collaborative efforts of Bookshop Santa Cruz, UC Santa Cruz, and the Center for Agroecology at UC Santa Cruz, with additional support from the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

### Event Details:

- Date: November 30
- Location: Cowell Ranch Hay Barn, 94 Ranch View Road, Santa Cruz

Pajaro Rising promises to be an unforgettable evening, bringing together a fantastic lineup of authors, readers, and supporters for an incredible cause. This event is dedicated to raising funds for the ongoing recovery of individuals affected by the Pajaro floods.

### What to Expect:

- Engaging readings and insightful discussions with celebrated authors.



- Book signings, providing you with the opportunity to connect with the authors and have your books personally signed.
- Special live screen printing, offering a unique artistic experience.
- An exclusive live auction, featuring private readings at a supporter's home.

### **Meet the All-Star Cast:**

We are excited to introduce our never-before-assembled all-star cast of authors:

- **Jaime Cortez:** A celebrated writer from the Pajaro area, known for his work "Gordo."
- **Alexis Madrigal:** The voice of the Bay Area, a prominent figure at KQED.
- **Claudia Ramirez Flores:** A rising poet from the Pajaro region.
- **Ingrid Rojas Contreras:** A talented novelist and memoirist.
- **Rebecca Solnit:** An accomplished essayist and passionate climate activist.

### **Don't Miss Out:**

Every ticket purchase includes signed books, giving you a lasting memory of this exceptional event.

Mark your calendar for November 30th and be part of Pajaro Rising. Your presence and support will make a significant difference in the ongoing recovery of those affected by the Pajaro floods. Join us for an evening of literary excellence, community, and philanthropy. We can't wait to see you there!

PURCHASE TICKETS

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## Join the FRC Team!

Community Bridges envisions a thriving community where every person has the opportunity to unleash their full potential.

Our Family Resource Collective staff works collaboratively with community partners, residents, businesses, foundations, donors, supporters, volunteers, and the Community Bridges family of programs to provide our participants with access to resources that offer stability and hope for the future.

Current open positions:

- [Senior Program Manager - Live Oak Community Resources](#)
- [HEAP Coordinator - Mountain Community Resources](#)
- [Master's Level Therapist - La Manzana Community Resources](#)

These positions offer competitive starting wages and a robust benefits package. To see all openings, click the button below.

APPLY NOW

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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

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