



## Empowering Our Community: Strategic Initiatives for Enhanced Emergency Preparedness

In times of adversity, the true strength of a community emerges. At Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective, our unwavering commitment to the well-being of Santa Cruz County and North Monterey County shines brightest when facing the challenges of natural disasters and emergencies.

As we wade through our region's current storm season, our dedicated staff is working tirelessly to ensure that our community is not just resilient but ready to face any disaster head-on. Recognizing that emergencies come in diverse forms, from floods and storms to earthquakes and fires, our focus on multi-lingual and multi-cultural emergency preparedness has never been more crucial.

Here's what the FRC has been doing to prepare our community:



*Community Bridges CEO Ray Cancino (standing, right) talks to Pajaro residents during a Emergency Preparedness event in the North Monterey County town in January.*

### Emergency Preparedness Events in Pajaro

Last week, in collaboration with the County of Monterey, the County of Monterey's Department of Emergency Management, the American Red Cross, and other community partners, we hosted our fourth Emergency Preparedness event in Pajaro. Attendees gained valuable insights into creating emergency

evacuation plans and received complimentary go-bags stocked with essential items such as radios, flashlights, and first aid kits, ensuring they are well-equipped to face potential challenges. They also received an update on the Pajaro River Levee reconstruction plan, which is on track to begin this summer.

Make sure you don't miss the next meeting. Sign up for our mailing list by emailing [info@cbridges.org](mailto:info@cbridges.org).



*These bilingual signs are posted throughout Pajaro urging residents to sign up to receive emergency alerts from the County of Monterey to their cell phones. There are also similar signs in Santa Cruz County asking Santa Cruz County residents to sign up for alerts from the County of Santa Cruz.*

### Emergency Alerts Sign-ups

Staying informed is a key aspect of preparedness. Our partnership with the County of Santa Cruz and County of Monterey has led to the creation of bilingual posters encouraging residents to sign up for emergency alerts on their cell phones. Look out for these posters in Pajaro and throughout Santa Cruz County, complete with QR codes leading to your respective county's emergency alert sign-up page.

- Monterey County residents can sign up for Alert Monterey County by clicking [HERE](#).
- Santa Cruz County residents can sign up for Cruz Aware by clicking [HERE](#).

## What to Include in Your Emergency Pack

Presented by



*Community Bridges created emergency preparedness videos in partnership with North Monterey County Fire and the County of Monterey.*

### Emergency Preparedness Videos

In collaboration with North Monterey County Fire and the County of Monterey, we've produced informative bilingual public service announcement videos. Covering topics from flood response strategies to go-bag essentials, these videos serve as a vital resource for our community.

- [VIDEO: Staying Safe During a Flood](#)
- [VIDEO: Staying Safe During a Flood - Spanish](#)
- [VIDEO: What to Pack in Your Go-Bag](#)
- [VIDEO: What to Pack in Your Go-Bag - Spanish](#)

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## Starting Local CERT Teams

Last year's flooding highlighted the need for a dedicated Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Pajaro and the Watsonville/South Santa Cruz County area. This program educates volunteers in disaster preparedness, offering training in essential skills like fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. We are actively recruiting Pajaro residents to join the inaugural CERT team, providing them with the skills to protect their families, neighbors, and friends.

**How You Can Get Involved:** For those interested in joining the Pajaro CERT team, the first 20 individuals who complete the program and training will receive a \$500 stipend. For more information, please call 831-724-2997 ext. 204 or email [info@cbridges.org](mailto:info@cbridges.org). Visit [communitybridges.org/emergency](https://communitybridges.org/emergency) for additional details.

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## Stay Informed, Stay Prepared

As we gear up for the storm season, we encourage you to stay informed and prepared. Visit the following links to stay ready:

- [Communitybridges.org/emergency](https://communitybridges.org/emergency)
- [NCFPD.org](https://www.ncfpd.org)
- [Listocalifornia.org](https://www.listocalifornia.org)
- [County of Monterey: Co.monterey.ca.us](https://www.countyofmonterey.ca.us)
- [Ready Monterey County: bit.ly/46laBVQ](https://bit.ly/46laBVQ)

Your ongoing support empowers us to strengthen our community, making it more resilient in the face of challenges. Together, we can build a safer and more prepared future for all.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Community Bridges family.

SUPPORT THE FRC

STAY PREPARED



## The Family Resource Collective is Hiring: Join our team!

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

Our Family Resource Collective Advocates, Program Managers, and counselors work collaboratively with community partners, residents, businesses, foundations, donors, supporters, volunteers, and the

## IN THE NEWS

Key headlines from Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective and challenges impacting local children, parents, and families.

- [Pajaro community asked be prepared for another flood in the coming years](#)
- [Pajaro River levee project on track for summer start](#)
- [What an expansion of the child tax credit could mean for parents](#)

### Learn more about our Family Resource Collective Sites

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

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](#)
- [Master's Level Therapist – Live Oak Community Resources](#)
- [Program Coordinator - Live Oak Community Resources](#)
- [Advocate - Mountain Community Resources](#)

These are full-time, 40-hour per week positions with competitive starting wages and a robust benefits package.

JOIN OUR TEAM

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## Aging with Grace in Santa Cruz County

The Santa Cruz Human Services Department, in partnership with the Seniors Council and local cities, is developing a Master Plan for Aging, which will be a blueprint for implementing strategies and partnerships that promote healthy aging for all. This effort is called Age Well Santa Cruz County.

Age Well Santa Cruz County is developing a Master Plan for Aging, a 10-year blueprint to ensure people of all ages and abilities in Santa Cruz County are afforded equitable opportunities to thrive as they age, how and where they choose. To learn more about Age Well Santa Cruz County visit: [AgeWellSantaCruzCounty.org](https://AgeWellSantaCruzCounty.org).

The Age Well Santa Cruz County survey is collecting community feedback focused on aging locally. If you are a resident of Santa Cruz County and 40 years or older we encourage you to take the survey now: [tinyurl.com/AgeWellSantaCruz](https://tinyurl.com/AgeWellSantaCruz)

TAKE THE SURVEY

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## Explore options that can help you save money and energy!

**Are you among the many Californians who are struggling financially, during these difficult times?**

As your community advocate, Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective is proud to share resources that can help you save energy and money.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) offers several assistance programs can help you save energy and money. Learn more by visiting [pge.com/billhelpadvocate](https://pge.com/billhelpadvocate).

Assistance and support options may include:

1. Energy discount programs that provide longer term assistance to reduce future energy bills.
2. One-time financial assistance with past due energy bills.
3. Additional programs to help you manage life's essentials like medical device support, phone and internet services and more!



SAVE MONEY & ENERGY

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## Preparing for Emergencies

It can be a matter of life or death. Be proactive in protecting yourself and others; take the time to create a 5-minute plan to evacuate from fires. With a clear escape route, you can leave at a moment's notice, keeping your loved ones safe from harm.

Remember, waiting for official evacuation orders might be too late – act quickly when it feels unsafe.

To ensure a smooth evacuation process:

- Establish a meeting place for your family.
- Prepare an emergency kit containing essentials like medication, important documents, clothes, food, and water.
- Stay updated with weather reports and Red Flag Warnings.
- If it's time to leave, have your emergency bags packed and gather your family, including pets.
- Don't delay; evacuate promptly.

For more information on creating a 5-minute plan and staying prepared for disasters, visit [firefightersonyourside.org](https://firefightersonyourside.org)

LEARN MORE



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!

BUY 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.

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY



### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
 \*{{Organization Address}}\*  
 \*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
 \*{{Organization Website}}\*

\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*