



Pajaro Rebuilds: A Year of Resilience and Renewal

Nearly one year ago, the Pajaro community faced a devastating crisis with the failure of the Pajaro River Levee. In the wake of this disaster, hundreds of families were displaced, many losing everything they had. Thanks to your generous support, Community Bridges Family Resource Collective has been at the forefront of providing crucial aid and resources to the residents of Pajaro during this challenging time.

Over the past year, your donations have enabled us to distribute **\$1.7 million in economic aid alone**, benefiting 2,940 residents, including 466 children. From providing emergency supplies and disaster case management to mental health services and long-term housing and employment navigation, your contributions have helped families rebuild their lives and communities.

Your support also helped us establish our new Pajaro office, a vital hub for crisis supports and resources, and enhanced our multi-lingual emergency preparedness efforts, ensuring community safety and education. Together, these initiatives have lowered the barriers for Pajaro residents to access the assistance they need.

*None of this would have been possible without the outpouring of support we received from more than **1,800 donors**, totaling **more than \$750,000**.*

But our work doesn't stop there. We're excited to announce that we have been selected as a nonprofit partner in the **County of Monterey's Pajaro Unmet Needs Disaster Assistance Program** – a unique and unprecedented opportunity made possible through the hard work of local government, invaluable community partners, and the State of California.

This program, backed by \$20 million in recovery funds secured by our state legislators, will provide essential assistance to individuals, households, and small businesses affected by the levee breach.

As a trusted nonprofit partner, we will oversee the distribution of \$5.4 million in individual and household recovery assistance alongside our partners Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey. We were selected as a nonprofit partner in charge of this distribution because of our experience as disaster case managers and proven record of assisting survivors from multiple local natural disasters, including the CZU wildfires, floods, and atmospheric rivers, as well as the California COVID-19 rental assistance program.

Starting in early March, the County will conduct extensive community outreach efforts to inform residents about the application process. In late March, an Application Center will open at Pajaro Park, offering individuals the opportunity to complete applications in person.

In addition, to help explain the program and facilitate applications, community meetings will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

- March 6, 2024, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Our Lady of Assumption Church
- March 7, 2024, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Our Lady of Assumption Church
- March 13, 2024, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Our Lady of Assumption Church
- March 14, 2024, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Our Lady of Assumption Church

For more information about the program, please visit readymontereycounty.org/recover or communitybridges.org/emergency.

Being selected for the program is an exciting and challenging opportunity to continue our ongoing work of improving the lives of Pajaro residents. Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of Pajaro residents as they rebuild and thrive.

SUPPORT THE FRC

PAJARO RESPONSE



IN THE NEWS

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

- [How Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective is partnering to break the cycle of evictions](#)
- [Board of Supervisors unanimously approves financial aid program for Pajaro](#)

The Family Resource Collective is Hiring: Join our team!

Community Bridges envisions a thriving community where everyone can unleash their full potential.

Our Family Resource Collective team 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:

Mountain Community Resources – Felton & San Lorenzo Valley

- [Program Manager](#)
- [Advocate](#)

Nueva Vista Community Resources – Santa Cruz

- [Program Coordinator](#)

Live Oak Community Resources – Live Oak and Mid-County

- [Senior Program Manager](#)
- [Master's Level Therapist](#)
- [Operations Manager](#)
- [Program Coordinator](#)

La Manzanita Community Resources – Watsonville & North Monterey County

- [Enhanced Care Management Program Supervisor](#)
- [Master's Level Therapist](#)
- [Summer Lunch Program Coordinator](#)

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

Learn more about our Family Resource Collective Sites

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

JOIN OUR TEAM

Tacos & Taxes Event: Your Tax Relief Solution!

Tax season can be daunting, but why stress when you can enjoy FREE tacos instead? We're excited to share some fantastic news: our partnership with Golden State Opportunity, Speaker Robert Rivas, and Project SCOUT brings you the ultimate tax relief experience - Tacos & Taxes!

Event Details:

- Date: Friday, March 8
- Time: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Location: Watsonville Public Library

At this event, you can take care of your taxes with expert assistance while treating yourself to mouthwatering tacos - all courtesy of our collaboration. It's a win-win situation!

How to Participate:

To secure your spot for tax assistance and tacos galore, simply call now to schedule your appointment at 831-724-2606. This event is open to individuals and families with annual incomes under \$67,000, as well as those filing basic tax returns.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to alleviate your tax worries and savor some delicious tacos. Mark your calendar and join us for Tacos & Taxes!



The flyer features a blue and orange color scheme. At the top, it says "Tacos & Taxes" in large white letters. Below that, it lists the date "March 8, 2024 at 1PM to 5PM" and the phone number "Make an appointment: (831) 724-2606". It also mentions the event is co-hosted by Golden State Opportunity, State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, Project SCOUT, and Community Bridges. The location is "Watsonville Public Library, 275 Main Street, Suite #100, Watsonville, CA 95076". Eligibility requirements include: individuals with income under \$67,000, appointments required (no walk-ins), and basic returns only. The phone number "Make an appointment: (831) 724-2606" is repeated at the bottom. Logos for Golden State Opportunity, Robert Rivas, and the Senior Council are also present.



Save the Date: Free Parenting Classes in March!

Mark your calendars! In partnership with First 5 Santa Cruz County and Triple P - Positive Parenting, we're excited to announce a series of **FREE** parenting classes scheduled for March, covering important topics to support you in your parenting journey. Take a look at what's in store:

Helping Children with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Thrive at Home and School

When: Friday, March 22, 2024, from 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Where: Felton Public Library, Community Room; 6121 Gushee St, Felton

What to Expect: Learn about ADHD and how it impacts your child's health and behavior at home and school. Get valuable tips for collaborating with teachers and supporting your child's learning needs. Plus, discover strategies to help your child develop self-control and social-emotional skills.

Registration: bit.ly/ADHD-Mar22

How to Handle Fighting and Aggression

English Session: Monday, March 25, 2024, from 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Spanish Session: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, from 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Where: Live Oak Community Resources; 1740 17th Ave, Santa Cruz

What to Expect: Gain insights into the common reasons behind children's fighting and aggression. Learn effective ways to teach cooperation and problem-solving skills. Discover what to do if your child displays aggressive behavior toward others.

Registration: bit.ly/Aggression-Mar25 (Limited enrollment, reserve early!)

Encouraging Cooperation & Respect

For Families with Children & Teens in Pájaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD)

Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Where: PVUSD Wellness Center; 530 Palm Ave, Watsonville

What to Expect: Learn effective strategies for fostering positive communication and handling disrespectful behavior with your child or teenager. Gain insights into maintaining calm, consistency, and fairness in your parenting approach.

Registration: bit.ly/TripleP-PVUSD-2023-24

For questions or assistance with registration for any of these classes, feel free to contact Sandra Rodelo at (831) 724-2997 Ext. 211 or via email at sandrar@cbridges.org.

Energy Assistance Programs to Help You Save Money!

We have important news to share about Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) resources that can help you save energy and money. PG&E offers financial assistance programs and solutions to help you manage your utility expenses. You may qualify for several programs at once and you can begin applying or enrolling now.



Learn more or apply for any of these programs by visiting pge.com.

Programs that can help with past due bills:

Relief for Energy Assistance through Community Help (REACH):

Get an energy credit up to help with past due bills.

Programs that can help reduce future energy bills:

Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) Program: Households of 3 or more, can save 18% on their monthly electric bill.

Energy Saving Assistance (ESA) Program: You may qualify for no-cost energy efficient home upgrades. Improving the energy-efficiency of your home can help reduce energy bills.

Budget Billing: Limit stress and keep your energy bills manageable: Enroll in Budget Billing to keep your monthly payments predictable throughout the year.

Medical Baseline Program: Customer with qualifying medical conditions, can get an ongoing monthly energy discount or extra notifications in advance of a Public Safety Power Shutoff

LEARN MORE



Are you 40 years or older? Age Well Santa Cruz County wants to hear from you



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.

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

TAKE THE SURVEY



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}}