



COMMUNITY BRIDGES  
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

# 2024 Annual Report





COMMUNITY BRIDGES  
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

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[communitybridges.org](http://communitybridges.org)   

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Thanks to you we can provide services to over 20,000 children, families and seniors. This year, make an impact by supporting our programs at [communitybridges.org/donate](http://communitybridges.org/donate).



# CEO Letter

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## Dear Community Bridges Supporters,

The past year has been one of remarkable growth and steadfast commitment to advancing Community Bridges' legacy as a leading regional human services provider. We are thrilled to announce the opening of a new family resource center in Pajaro, and the relocation of our Elderday Adult Day Health Care program to our headquarters to Watsonville, strategically positioning us to better serve the tri-county area of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties and reinvigorating our organizational aspirations.

In addition to expanding in underserved areas, we have made thoughtful investments in innovations such as enhanced care management medical advocacy and support to meet the diverse needs of the 20,000 children, parents, and seniors we serve and the thousands of eligible clients throughout the tri-county area. This expansion underscores our unwavering commitment to empowering our communities while consistently meeting the growing demands and critical needs with renewed energy and focus.

This expansion has been made possible by the steadfast support of individuals, funders, and partners throughout the Central Coast. The Santa Cruz County community has played an essential role in enabling us to deliver vital services since our inception in 1977. We are grateful for the growing investments from new regional partners, enabling us to reach participants in Monterey and San Benito counties while enhancing programs that allow us to better serve Santa Cruz County residents. As we approach our 50th year of service, I am deeply appreciative of the ongoing support from our community.

As we reflect on our journey and look toward the future, we must acknowledge the unprecedented challenges facing the communities we serve. Now more than ever, the need for our services has intensified, with increasing numbers of individuals and families relying on Community Bridges for essential support and basic needs. As we have seen in the news, on our ballots, on the street, and in our own homes, the public sector is struggling to meet critical needs. Moreover, government funding remains stagnant or, in some cases, diminishes, placing additional strain on our ability to maintain the social safety net. In this crucial moment, your collective support is indispensable, and your partnership and advocacy are important to ensuring that we can meet our community's needs.

Your contributions directly impact the lives of thousands, providing access to vital resources, programs, and support systems that empower individuals and families to thrive. Together, we can confront the challenges ahead with resilience and compassion, reaffirming our commitment to building a stronger, more equitable community for all. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to build bridges and foster hope in the hearts of those who need it most.



Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Cancino'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ray Cancino, CEO  
Community Bridges

# Board & Executive Team

## Leadership Team



**Raymon "Ray" Cancino**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Douglas Underhill**  
Chief Finance Officer



**Tyler Smith**  
Human Resources Director



**Tony Nuñez**  
Marketing & Communications Manager



**Erika Rodriguez**  
Senior Program Manager,  
Child & Adult Care Food Program



**Lisa Hindman Holbert**  
Program Director, Early Education Division



**Dana Wagner**  
Program Director, WIC



**Mayra Melendrez**  
Program Director,  
Family Resource Collective



**Lois Sones**  
Program Director,  
Elderday



**Jesus Bojorquez**  
Program Director,  
Lift Line

Not Pictured

**Michelle Miller**  
Director of Business Operations

Vacant to Follow

Program Director,  
Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County

## Board



**Jack Jacobson**  
Board Chair



**Silvia Morales**  
Vice Chair



**Ryan Friedrich**  
Treasurer



**Sara Siegel**  
Secretary



**Brenda Griffin**



**Stephanie Ruhl**



**Mary McMillan**

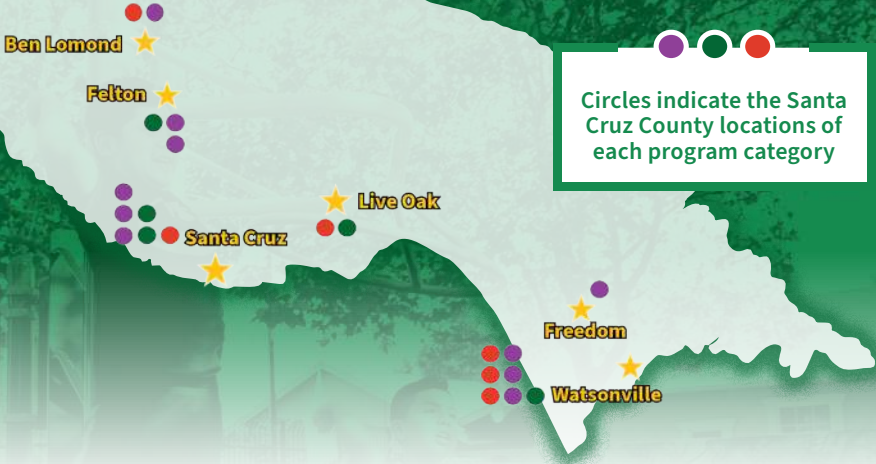


**Nick Calubaquib**

Not Pictured

**Aloke Mukherjee**

# Map & Programs



## FAMILY RESOURCE COLLECTIVE

Our compassionate staff build a warm, friendly, safe place for the Pajaro Valley, Live Oak, San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley, Lower Ocean and Beach Flats communities and residents to access resources that offer stability and hope for the future.

**La Manzana Community Resources, Watsonville**  
521 Main Street, Suite Y | 831.724.2997

**Live Oak Community Resources, Santa Cruz**  
1740 17th Avenue | 831.476.7284

**Mountain Community Resources, Felton**  
6134 Highway 9 | 831.335.6600

**Nueva Vista Community Resources, Santa Cruz**  
133 Leibrandt Avenue  
711 East Cliff Drive | 831.423.5747

**Pajaro Long-Term Recovery Center, Pajaro**  
14 Porter Drive | 831.724.2997

## SENIOR & TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

**Elderday Adult Day Health Care**  
501 Main Street, Watsonville | 831.458.3481  
We empower elders to live with greater independence and dignity. Here, adults in our community profit from health care services, respite and companionship.

**Lift Line**  
545 Ohlone Pkwy, Watsonville | 831.688.9663  
Providing door-to-door rides to seniors & people with disabilities; allowing these Central Coast residents to maintain their independence.

**Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County**  
1777 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz | 831.464.3180  
Enhancing lives through healthy meals and friendly human contact. Nurturing elders at one of five dining sites, or providing meals delivered to the home.

**Highlands Park Senior Center Dining Site**  
8500 Highway 9, Ben Lomond | 831.336.5366  
**London Nelson Community Center Dining Site**  
301 Center Street, Santa Cruz | 831.427.0901  
**Watsonville Senior Center Dining Site**  
114 E. Fifth Street, Watsonville | 831.724.2024

## CHILDREN & NUTRITION PROGRAMS

**Child & Adult Care Food Program**  
521 Main Street, Suite R, Watsonville | 831.688.8840  
A nutrition assistance program that reimburses food for licensed caregivers, providing healthy meals to support both children and adults in our community.

**Early Education Division**  
The first five years of a child's life are critical to their health and success. Our six centers provide nurturing and affordable early education.

**Watsonville**  
Fairgrounds Center: 2667 E. Lake Avenue | 831.400.1150  
Vista Verde Center: 1936 Freedom Boulevard | 831.400.1130

**Santa Cruz**  
Sycamore Street Center: 121 Sycamore Street, Ste. 100 | 831.400.1120

**Nuevo Dia Center: 135 Leibrandt Avenue | 831.400.1140**

**San Lorenzo Valley**  
Redwood Mountain Center: 7103A Highway 9, Felton | 831.400.1160

**Highlands Park Center, Ben Lomond**  
8500 Highway 9, Ben Lomond | 831.400.1170

**Women, Infants and Children (WIC)**  
WIC is a safe place for families to receive a sense of hope, comfort and security, allowing women, infants and children to thrive.

**Watsonville**  
18 W. Lake Avenue, Suite A | 831.722.7121  
**Santa Cruz**  
1105 Water Street | 831.426.3911  
**Felton**  
6134 Highway 9 | 831.426.3911



# Accomplishments

## Pajaro Flood Response

The Community Bridges family of programs swiftly mobilized to support diverse communities across Santa Cruz County and North Monterey County grappling with the aftermath of winter and spring storms.

Whether it was Lift Line ensuring the safe transport of seniors in anticipation of evacuation orders, our Family Resource Collective team serving as emergency response navigators and disaster case managers, or staff and volunteers from our programs conducting door-to-door outreach to convey crucial information and provide resources, our steadfast team stood by the community during challenging times.

In total, we have facilitated the distribution of \$2 million to residents affected by the storms, spanning from the San Lorenzo Valley to the Pajaro Valley. We have engaged with over 3,000 individuals in the aftermath of these weather events, distributing essential items such as food, water, clothing, and cleanup tools. Moreover, we have assisted in navigating complex processes of FEMA and insurance claims.

Additionally, we played a pivotal role as one of two lead disaster case managers for the County of Monterey in the aftermath of the Pajaro River Levee breach. We aided more than 200 Pajaro residents who were unable to return to their homes immediately after the flood, facilitating their transition to new long-term housing or supporting their return to their houses. To continue this work, we established the Pajaro Long-Term Recovery Center in the heart of the North Monterey County town, and were selected as a nonprofit partner in the County of Monterey's Unmet Needs program that will run through 2025.

## Elderday Grand Opening

After an exhaustive two-year process of meticulous planning and construction, Elderday Adult Day Health Care proudly unveiled its new, state-of-the-art facility at 501 Main Street in downtown Watsonville.

Since its establishment in 1981, Elderday serves as a vital lifeline for older adults and their families in Santa Cruz County. Essential services such as nursing care, physical and occupational therapies, access to mental health resources, engaging therapeutic activities, nutritious meals, and regular social interaction, optimize the health and quality of life for its community of 150 participants.

This pivotal moment signifies a significant expansion for Elderday, previously situated on Pioneer Street in Santa Cruz for nearly two decades. The new location represents a substantial increase in space, providing an additional 3,600 square feet compared to Elderday's former facility. Importantly, Elderday's staff completed its move in one weekend and did not interrupt service to our participants.

## Lift Line's Year of Expansion

This year marked a significant expansion for Lift Line. In September, the program introduced "Access for All", a groundbreaking initiative funded by a California Public Utilities Commission service fee and administered through the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. This program eliminates income restrictions for Santa Cruz County residents with disabilities and provides for trips to these community members to anywhere in the county at an affordable flat rate fee of \$5.

Furthermore, Lift Line took a bold step toward sustainability by incorporating additional electric vehicles into its fleet. Currently, an impressive 22% of the fleet, consisting of five shuttle vehicles, is fully electric. Among them is a state-of-the-art 2022 Ford Transit van equipped with six ambulatory seats and sufficient space for two wheelchairs. This eco-friendly initiative not only benefits the environment but also ensures that participants with disabilities have access to transportation services that are both sustainable and low-cost.





## 191,891

Senior Meals Served



## 89,681

Bags of Food Distributed



## 19,133 Served



## 6,411 hours

of Crisis Assistance

## 2,365 hours

of Youth Activities

## 1,839 hours

of Parenting Classes

## 665 hours

of Counseling



# Accomplishments



LIFT LINE



50,913

Door-to-Door Rides



23,823

Days of Elder & Child Care

10 Programs

20 Sites

**31%** increase in  
Monterey County  
residents served

**31%** increase in  
San Lorenzo Valley  
residents served

**20%** increase in  
demand for rides

**17%** increase in  
families served

**11%** increase in  
youth activities





# Funding Partnerships

Recognizing grants & contracts July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

## \$1 million & above

Federal Funds  
California State Funds  
Central California Alliance for Health  
Seniors Council of Santa Cruz County

## \$500,000 – \$1 million

Community Foundation Santa Cruz County  
County of Santa Cruz  
Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation

## \$100,000 – \$499,999

1440 Foundation	First 5 Santa Cruz County
Action Pajaro Valley	Monterey Peninsula Foundation
American Red Cross	Sunlight Giving Foundation
California Assn of Food Banks	United Way of Santa Cruz County
City of Santa Cruz	

## \$50,000 – \$99,999

Central Coast Community Energy  
City of Capitola  
Community Foundation for Monterey County  
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

## \$10,000 – \$49,999

California Air Resources Board  
California Family Resource Assn  
California Healthcare Foundation  
County of Monterey  
Covered California  
Palo Alto Medical Foundation

## Up to \$10,000

California State Parks  
City of Scotts Valley  
City of Watsonville  
Dudley-Vehmeyer  
Brown Foundation

# Supporter Spotlights



## Bob Russell and Elsa Garmire

Bob Russell is a mechanical and electrical engineer. In retirement, he helped establish COVER, a home renovation nonprofit in Vermont, serving as board chair for nine years. That organization brings together homeowners and volunteers to complete home repair projects for low-income homeowners at no charge by facilitating the reuse of household goods and building materials.

Elsa Garmire is a physicist and the first woman Dean of the Thayer School of

Engineering at Dartmouth College. As a PhD candidate at MIT, she was the first student chosen to assist Professor Charles Townes, inventor of the laser. Elsa is a member of nine professional societies and has won numerous national science and engineering awards.

Between the two of them, Bob and Elsa have been awarded numerous patents in aerospace, optics and biomedical designs. They are two of many experts in their fields who support Community Bridges' unique structure, impact and reach across the Central Coast, recognizing that no other organization in our region provides as many services to as many people.

"Elsa and I are aware that misfortune can happen to anyone at any time. The universe doesn't care one way or the other, but caring people do. Those of us who have the ability should step up and provide assistance to people in their time of need. Community Bridges is a great organization to administer and manifest that caring attitude on a large scale."

## Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Volunteers are essential to the success of Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County. Every day, on every delivery route and at every dining site are countless instances of volunteers warming hearts and bringing smiles to the faces of our older adult participants.

Volunteers are our eyes and ears, making sure participants are receiving the services they need on a daily or weekly basis. They are the reason our participants can make ends meet instead of choosing between food and other necessities. These friendly visits and wellness checks help battle isolation and loneliness by bringing the community to them.

Volunteers are the reason we can continue serving everyone that needs our services without a waitlist, wondering where their next meal will come from. With the rapidly growing older adult population in Santa Cruz County our team of nearly 100 community volunteers is the reason we can provide our services to all seniors who need them.

If you or someone you know is inspired to join our family of volunteers, we invite you to visit [CommunityBridges.org/Volunteer/](https://CommunityBridges.org/Volunteer/) and learn more about how you can make a difference. Together, we can continue to ensure that every older adult receives the care, companionship, and support they deserve. Thank you for being the heart of our community.



# Financials

## Statement of Activities for Year Ended June 30, 2023

Support and Revenue	
Government Grants	\$15,470,323
Service Fees	\$1,955,446
Individual and Business Contributions	\$1,847,830
Foundation and other Institutional Grants	\$1,667,826
Interest and other	\$240,337
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,181,762</b>
Expenses	
Child & Adult Care Food Program <sup>1</sup>	\$3,864,805
Women, Infants & Children (WIC) <sup>2</sup>	\$2,066,614
Early Education Division	\$2,430,811
Meals on Wheels	\$1,760,978
Lift Line	\$1,956,386
Elderday	\$1,475,561
La Manzana Community Resources	\$1,755,562
Mountain Community Resources	\$725,382
Nueva Vista Community Resources	\$366,176
Live Oak Community Resources	\$384,159
Management General & Other	\$2,482,173
Fund Development	\$565,876
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,834,483</b>
Excess/(Decrease) of Support over Expenses	\$1,347,279
Increase in Grant Funded Assets	\$3,149,946
Depreciation	(\$398,755)
<b>Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$4,098,470</b>
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$9,595,445</b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$13,693,915</b>

## Statement of Financial Position at June 30, 2023

Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,717,559
Investments	\$2,622,014
Grant Receivables	\$3,395,586
Other Receivables	\$1,298,504
Inventories	\$39,947
Prepaid Expenses	\$293,003
Deposits	\$99,364
Property and Equipment, net	\$12,140,646
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$22,606,623</b>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$1,381,207
Salaries and Benefits Payable	\$1,113,330
Refundable Advances	\$641,972
Notes Payable	\$4,889,586
Reserve Fund	\$886,613
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$8,912,708</b>
Donor Unrestricted Net Assets	\$13,214,266
Donor Restricted Net Assets	\$479,649
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$13,693,915</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$22,606,623</b>

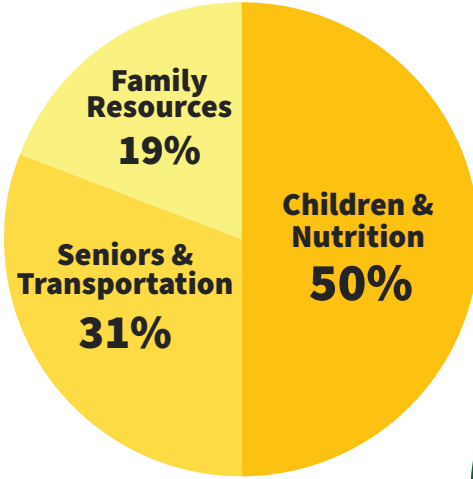
<sup>1</sup> Includes \$3,498,069 distributed directly to day care home meal sites.

<sup>2</sup> These audited statements do not include the value of the WIC food vouchers. In 2023, WIC distributed 76,795 voucher packages with the total value of \$3,225,390.

These numbers reflect our 2022/23 financial statements as audited by Kaku & Mersino, LLP. For a complete financial report, please contact us at (831) 688-8840 or visit [communitybridges.org/financials](http://communitybridges.org/financials).

# Your Impact

## Operating Expenses



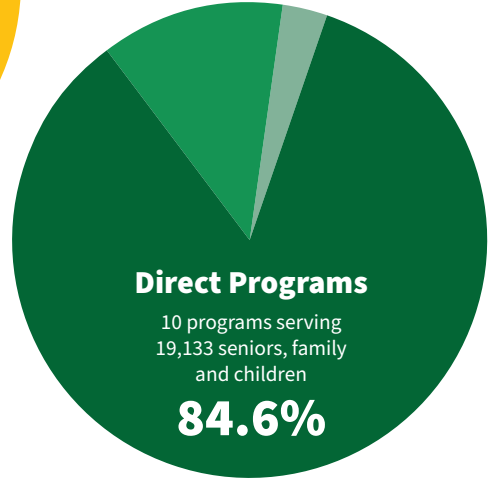
### Core Mission Support

Shared Human Resources, Facilities, Finance, Contracts

**12.5%**

Shared Fundraising & Partnerships

**2.9%**

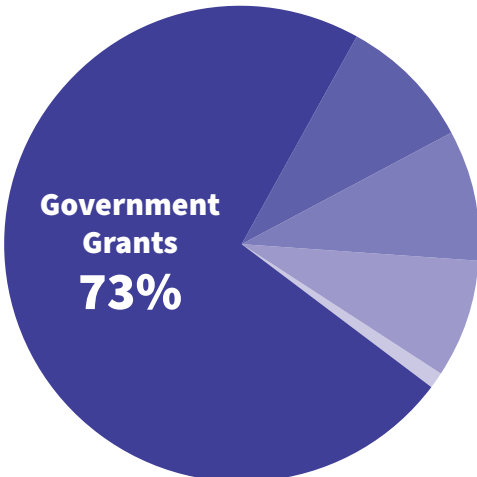


### Direct Programs

10 programs serving 19,133 seniors, family and children

**84.6%**

## Operating Revenue



### Service Fees

**9%**

### Individual & Business Contributions

**9%**

### Foundation & other Institutional Grants

**8%**

### Interest & other

**1%**