



Community Bridges
Farm to Fork Gala
 DINNER • AUCTION • WINE TASTING

Sat, August 10
5-9 PM

314 Estrella Ave
La Selva Beach

Tickets at CommunityBridges.org/Events

Farm to Fork Gala Returns August 10

Celebrate with us at the 9th annual Farm to Fork Gala! This elegant event promises an evening filled with the charm of sunset sea breezes and a gourmet menu crafted from locally sourced, seasonal ingredients, all in the name of supporting Community Bridges and the people that we serve.

Highlights of the evening include:

- Live and Silent Auctions: Bid on popular excursions, unique gifts, wines, and beers.
- Live Music: Enjoy performances in the company of fellow community supporters.

The Farm to Fork Gala is more than just a night out. It's a celebration of Community Bridges' ten essential programs that provide crucial services and resources to Santa Cruz County and the Monterey Bay Area. Your participation helps raise funds that directly benefit 20,000 local children, families, and older adults.

This year, we're celebrating the growth and expansion of our programs, as well as the continued improvement of ongoing services. As the leading human services agency in the Monterey Bay Area, Community Bridges is dedicated to evolving our services to meet the emerging needs and challenges within our community.

Details

- Date: Saturday, August 10, 2024
- Time: 5pm - 9pm
- Location: La Selva Beach Clubhouse

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsors are the lifeblood of our events, and Farm to Fork is no exception. We provide a range of sponsorship opportunities, each with unique benefits, starting at just \$250. This allows local organizations, businesses, groups, and champions to demonstrate their support for Community Bridges' programs and the communities we serve:

Main Course Sponsor - \$5,000

- One full table for eight with preferred placement
- Full-page ad in the event program

Entree Level Sponsor - \$2,500

- Four seats with prominent location and signage
- Half-page ad in the event program

Dessert Level Sponsor - \$1,000

- Two seats with prominent location and signage
- Quarter-page ad in the event program

Appetizer Level Sponsor - \$500

- Name prominently displayed on event signage
- Name in the event program

Wine/Beer Sponsor - 2 cases or 2 mini kegs

- 2 cases of red or white wine, or 2 mini kegs of light or dark beer
- Name in the event program

In-Kind Media Sponsor - 2 ads or \$250 value

- Donate event advertising worth \$250 or more
- Name in the event program

Auction Item Sponsor - \$250 item value

- Donate an auction item worth \$250 or more
- Name in the event program



Explore the benefits in our [sponsorship packet](#) to see how you and your group, business, or organization can help raise funds for all ten Community Bridges programs.

How to Purchase Tickets and Support

For tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and donation details, please visit communitybridges.org/events. For questions or more information, contact us at donations@cbridges.org or call 831-688-8840 ext. 205. We look forward to seeing you there!

PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY



IN THE NEWS

Key headlines from Community Bridges' family of programs and challenges impacting local children, parents, and families.

- [Community Bridges unveils 'Wisdom of Our Elders' mural](#)
- [Second phase of the Pajaro Disaster Assistance now underway](#)
- [Central Coast nonprofits fear proposed state budget cuts](#)
- [Measure N: Watsonville Community Hospital's \\$116 million bond passes](#)
- [Community Bridges puts senior center purchase offer on table](#)

Our Annual Report is Here!

We are thrilled to announce the release of our 2024 Annual Report! This comprehensive document is a testament to our journey, achievements, and the remarkable milestones we have reached over the past year.

A Year of Remarkable Milestones

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our incredible team and supporters, we have achieved so much. Our annual report is filled with stories of progress, impactful projects, and the collective efforts that have driven our mission forward.

What's Inside the Report?

- **Highlights of Key Achievements:** Discover the significant milestones we've reached and the positive changes we've made in the community.
- **Service Levels and Impact:** Understand the extensive reach of our programs and the increasing needs we are striving to meet.
- **Supporter Stories:** Read about the real-life stories of those who support our programs and services for the good of the community.
- **Financial Overview:** Gain insights into our financial health and how we've managed our resources responsibly to maximize impact.
- **Future Plans:** Learn about our exciting plans for the coming year and how we intend to build on our successes.

Get Your Copy Today

Keep an eye on your mailbox for your copy of our 2024 Annual Report. If you prefer a digital version, you can find it online at

communitybridges.org/annual-reports

Join Us in Celebrating

As we reflect on our accomplishments, we are filled with gratitude for everyone who has supported us along the way. Together, we've made a difference, and with your continued support, we anticipate an even brighter future ahead.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. Here's to celebrating our achievements and working towards even greater goals in the year to come!

MORE INFORMATION

Unveiling "Wisdom of Our Elders" Mural

We are excited to share the success of our recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new mural at Elderday Adult Health Care's headquarters in downtown Watsonville, "Wisdom of Our Elders," created by Chicano muralists Augie WK and Jessica Carmen, known as **The Jams**.

This impressive 225-foot-by-32-foot mural is a vibrant celebration of the significance of older adults in our community. It features portraits of a cheerful man and a dignified woman, "*El Don y La Doña*," inspired by local grandparents and former Elderday participants. Surrounding these portraits are "memory bubbles" depicting cherished moments between elders and younger generations.

Jessica Carmen's personal connection to Elderday, where her uncle was a participant, drew The Jams to this project. Their bold, signature colors make the mural visible from afar, and they aim to create a meaningful, visually stunning piece that honors Elderday and our community.

We sought artists who could capture themes of aging, knowledge, and community. Through input sessions with local residents, Elderday members, staff, and older adults from the Watsonville Senior Center, The Jams developed the mural's theme, celebrating the beauty of aging and community life.

This mural marks another milestone for Community Bridges, following Elderday's relocation to a larger facility in downtown Watsonville. Supported by a \$2.5 million grant from the Central California Alliance for Health, this expansion has enhanced service delivery in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties.

We hope you can come visit our mural in downtown Watsonville (501 Main Street) and bask in its glory. For now, you can see the mural virtually on our website and learn more about our artists.



SEE OUR ELDERDAY MURAL



Meals on Wheels Needs Your Help

As a key partner of the Meals on Wheels California Board of Directors and the over 64 agencies they represent across the state, we urge you to contact your state representatives about the Governor’s current state budget proposal.

This is one of the most challenging budget crises our state has ever faced. While we understand the need for fiscal responsibility and reducing state spending, it is unconscionable to balance the budget on the backs of low-income seniors who are already struggling. The Governor’s proposal to cut \$111 million over the next three years from California’s Modernizing Older Californians Act (MOCA) is simply reprehensible and will push thousands of older adults towards hunger.

The impact of this cut will have lasting effects across the state. According to the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging, this reduction represents a 60% cut in meals and nutrition services. This will lead to increased waitlists for Meals on Wheels services, more cases of hunger, emergency visits, adult protective service calls, unnecessary early institutionalization, preventable malnutrition deaths, and a rise in senior homelessness—the fastest-growing homeless population.

Locally, this loss of funding could force Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County to implement a waitlist for the first time in the program’s history.

PROTECT THE MEAL

Celebrating 50 Years of the WIC: A Legacy of Nutrition and Support

This year marks a significant milestone in public health and nutrition as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, commonly known as WIC. Established by the United States Congress and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, WIC has been dedicated to safeguarding the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to the age of five.

A Program that Evolves with the Times

For half a century, WIC has continuously adapted to the evolving needs of families. The program's comprehensive services contribute to the overall well-being of mothers and children by providing essential nutrition assistance, health care referrals, breastfeeding support, healthy food options, and educational resources. These services ensure that families receive the necessary support for a healthy start in life.

Impacting Lives for Generations

The WIC Program has had a profound impact over the past five decades. Its efforts have been instrumental in reducing infant mortality, premature births, and low birth weights. Additionally, WIC has played a crucial role in decreasing childhood anemia and promoting healthy eating habits among the most vulnerable populations. The program's success is a testament to its effectiveness and importance in fostering healthier communities.

As we commemorate this significant anniversary, we recognize the enduring legacy of the WIC Program and its unwavering commitment to supporting the health and nutrition of women, infants, and children across the nation. Here's to celebrating 50 years of making a difference and to many more years of continued service and success!

And don't forget to **save the date** for the **17th Annual Breastfeeding Health Fair and Walk on August 9** at Watsonville City Plaza!

Come celebrate the importance of breastfeeding and maternal health with community activities, educational resources, and a supportive network of families and health professionals. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in an event that promotes healthy beginnings and lifelong wellness. Mark your calendars and bring your family and friends for a day of fun and health awareness!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT WIC](#)





Join Our Team at Community Bridges!

Are you ready to make a meaningful impact? With roles available in education, social work, culinary arts, community outreach and advocacy, transportation, and more, there's something for everyone at Community Bridges. Whether you're passionate about helping older adults enjoy their golden years, providing stability to families in need, or mentoring local youth, we have a position that aligns with your interests and values.

Each year, we engage with over 20,000 residents, providing vital services to ensure the well-being of our community. Now, we're looking for dedicated individuals to join our team and continue this important work.

If you're ready to make a difference, we encourage you to apply today! You can [submit your application online](#) or by contacting our Human Resources department via email at recruitments@cbridges.org. We're also available in person at 519 Main Street, Watsonville CA 95076, or over the phone at 831-688-8840 ext. 200.

Join us at Community Bridges and be a part of something truly meaningful. Your career awaits!

START YOUR CAREER

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.

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!



[LEARN MORE](#)

Ray's Corner

Exciting Growth and Key Challenges - Community Bridges' Annual Report Highlights

I am thrilled to share the release of our Annual Report, highlighting a year of remarkable growth and significant milestones for our agency. As we continue to expand and enhance our services, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support, your belief and dedication to our mission.

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 open our new family resource center in Pajaro and our new Elderday Adult Day Health Care headquarters in Watsonville. These moves position us to better serve the tri-county area of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties, reinvigorating our organization's origin of being a robust regional human services champion.

In addition to expanding in underserved areas, we have made 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, along with the thousands of eligible clients throughout the tri-county area. This expansion underscores our unwavering commitment to empowering our communities while consistently meeting growing demands and critical needs with renewed energy and focus.

In addition, we recently celebrated one of our most significant achievements to date: securing the largest single agency grant in our history. A generous \$3 million from CalFire will enable us to revamp and improve playgrounds at our Early Education Division sites, promoting green canopies, and advancing our environmental sustainability efforts. This grant represents a substantial step forward in our commitment to creating healthier, greener communities for everyone, but especially in underserved areas.

However, with growth comes challenges, and we are facing several critical issues that require our immediate attention and collective efforts:

Meals on Wheels Costs, Growth, and Location: The rising costs and increased demand for our Meals on Wheels program have stretched our resources. At the same time, county and state funding for future fiscal years is in flux, and we have yet to find a long-term solution for the program's headquarters. Donations and community support and advocacy have never been more important to Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County than now.

Elderday Reimbursement Rate and Shortfalls: The reimbursement rates for our Elderday services have not kept pace with the actual costs, leading to significant shortfalls. This gap impacts our ability to sustain the quality of care and support that our seniors deserve. Since opening our forever home in

downtown Watsonville, we have seen a remarkable jump in enrollment interest. This has been a great step in the right direction, but it does not make up for the funding gap from receiving cents on the dollar for providing services to the most vulnerable in our community.

Middle-Income Childcare Center in the Valley: Maintaining an affordable childcare center for middle-income families in the San Lorenzo Valley has been challenging. We are exploring various funding opportunities to ensure that these essential services remain accessible to all families, particularly families who do not qualify for our subsidized preschool programs but are struggling to pay for and find affordable childcare in their neighborhood.

These challenges are exacerbated by reductions in investments into our programs from the County of Santa Cruz through its CORE funding program, which have left us with \$95,000 less for Meals on Wheels, \$160,000 less for Elderday, and \$280,000 less for our Early Education Department.

Despite these hurdles, we remain steadfast in our mission and optimistic about the future. Our dedicated team is working tirelessly to identify new funding sources, advocate for better reimbursement rates, and find innovative solutions to meet the growing needs of our community.

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. Together, we can overcome these obstacles and ensure that Community Bridges continues to have the resources needed to remain a pillar of strength and the ability to provide the support for all we serve.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. We invite you to read our full Annual Report to learn more about our achievements, challenges, and the impact of your support.

With gratitude,

*Ray Cancino,
Community Bridges CEO*

HELP CONTINUE OUR MISSION



Show your support of Community Bridges and our family of programs 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. Community Bridge can't sustain its services without strong backing from local elected officials. Contact your representatives, ask questions, and advocate for our programs.

CONTACT YOUR
SUPERVISOR



Community Bridges' work would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers. From helping with food distributions to donating your time in our offices, we have a plethora of volunteer opportunities.

HELP YOUR
COMMUNITY



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}