



Over the past year, Ana Albor and her fellow Advocates have been guiding Pajaro residents through their recovery journey at La Manzana Community Resources' satellite site, located in the heart of Pajaro.

Progress Update: Unmet Needs Phase 2 Making Strong Strides

For the past 18 months, La Manzana Community Resources has been on the front lines, supporting Pajaro's hardworking residents as they navigate the long road to recovery following the devastating March 2023 floods. As one of the lead local agencies providing immediate and long-term assistance, we have had the honor of working closely with families through the County of Monterey's **Pajaro Unmet Needs Disaster Assistance Program**, ensuring they receive essential economic support and resource navigation.

This unprecedented program, made possible by local government, community partners, and the State of California, is backed by **\$20 million** in recovery funds secured by state legislators. Along with our partners at Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey, La Manzana is responsible for distributing **\$5.4 million** in recovery aid to individuals and households affected by the levee breach. Meanwhile, the **County of Monterey Workforce Development Board** is focused on assisting small businesses through reimbursements for inventory loss, equipment damage, sales declines, and a beautification program aimed at revitalizing flood-affected areas.

Success in Phase 1

Phase 1 of the Unmet Needs Program, which provided up to **\$600** in economic assistance to Pajaro residents for food spoilage resulting from the evacuation, wrapped up in April 2024. The County received **757 applications**, and **688 households** were approved for aid, resulting in the distribution of over **\$450,000** in grocery gift cards. Applicants who qualified were seamlessly moved into Phase 2.

Progress in Phase 2

Phase 2, now underway, provides a broader range of support for families facing ongoing challenges, such as home repairs, vehicle replacement, housing assistance, and personal property damages.

From **April 27 to September 16**, La Manzana and Catholic Charities disaster case managers have distributed nearly **\$330,000** to assist **67 families**. In all, there are **301 total cases**, in various stages that case managers are diligently working through.

Supporting Local Businesses

We are also proud to announce that the **Workforce Development Board** has provided **\$542,000** to 11 local businesses to help cover their losses. Furthermore, eight beautification projects, funded with **\$58,000**, are underway to restore the community's vibrancy and prevent permanent closures. In total, **89 applications** were submitted by local businesses, with additional and final payments pending as projects near completion.

Community Bridges and La Manzana are committed to standing by Pajaro's residents and businesses as they rebuild. Together, with the unwavering support of our partners and donors, we continue to make strides toward a brighter future for Pajaro.

For more information about the program, individuals are encouraged to visit readymontereycounty.org/recover or communitybridges.org/emergency.

SUPPORT LA MANZANA'S WORK



IN THE NEWS

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

- [What Could 2023 Child Poverty Rates Have Looked Like Had an Expanded Child Tax Credit Still Been in Place?](#)
- [CORE nonprofit funding process discussed at Santa Cruz City Council meeting](#)
- [Dramatic shift in homeless from Santa Cruz to Watsonville has](#)

Join Our Triple P Parenting Classes!

We're excited to announce our upcoming Triple P parenting classes designed to support and empower you. Whether you're a parent of a toddler, young child, or teenager, we have something for everyone this month.

In this month's newsletter, we're highlighting our virtual Stress Management workshop. Are you feeling overwhelmed by the challenges of parenting? Join our free virtual workshop designed to help parents and caregivers of children of all ages recognize and manage stress.

Stress Management Workshop for Parents & Caregivers Wednesday, October 30 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

In this interactive session, Mayra Martinez from La Manzanita Community Resources will guide you through:

- Understanding the common causes and effects of stress on parenting.
- Identifying signs of stress early.
- Practical, healthy strategies for reducing and managing stress in daily life.

Presented in English via Zoom.

Register today: [Click here](#)

Follow us on social media to read about all our other classes happening this month. We look forward to seeing you!

[officials scrambling to provide services](#)

- [How Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective is partnering to break the cycle of evictions](#)

Learn more about our Family Resource Collective Sites

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

Your Eyes Matter: Join Us for a Free Eye Care Event on October 27th!

We are excited to announce that in collaboration with the Office of the Speaker of the California Assembly Robert Rivas the **VSP Vision™ Eyes of Hope® Mobile Eye Care Clinic** will be visiting Community Bridges on **Sunday, October 27th**, from **9 AM to 5 PM!**

What's Offered:

Through the VSP Eyes of Hope program, you may be eligible to receive a comprehensive eye exam from a VSP network doctor. If prescribed, you will also receive **high-quality glasses at no cost** to you!

Location:

Community Bridges, 521 Main St., Watsonville

Eligibility Requirements:

- To qualify for this service, please ensure you meet the following criteria:
- You have not received eye care through a VSP program in the last 12 months.
- You do not have vision coverage through a private insurer or government program.



The graphic features a woman in a white lab coat looking through an eye exam machine. Below the image is a blue banner with the text 'MOBILE EYE CARE CLINIC' and 'ELIGIBILITY:'. The eligibility criteria are listed with checkmarks: 'Haven't received eye care through a VSP program during the last 12 months', 'No vision coverage by a private insurer and/or government program', and 'Meets the 2023 Family Income guidelines (see below)'. A table shows income guidelines for 1 to 5 people. At the bottom, it says 'RECEIVE FREE EXAM & EYEWEAR' and provides the date 'Sunday, Oct. 27th' and time '9am - 5pm'. The location is 'Community Bridges, 521 Main St., Watsonville'. Contact information includes the phone number '831.724.2997' and the website 'mobileclinic.vspseyeshope.com'.

MOBILE EYE CARE CLINIC

ELIGIBILITY:

- ✓ Haven't received eye care through a VSP program during the last 12 months
- ✓ No vision coverage by a private insurer and/or government program
- ✓ Meets the 2023 Family Income guidelines (see below)

SIZE OF FAMILY UNIT	ANNUAL INCOME
1 Person	\$39,160
2 People	\$39,440
3 People	\$49,720
4 People	\$59,000
5 People	\$70,280

RECEIVE FREE EXAM & EYEWEAR

Sunday, Oct. 27th 9am - 5pm

Community Bridges
521 Main St., Watsonville

831.724.2997

mobileclinic.vspseyeshope.com

- Your household income meets the 2023 family income guidelines (see below):
 - 1 Person: \$29,160
 - 2 People: \$39,440
 - 3 People: \$49,720
 - 4 People: \$60,000
 - 5 People: \$70,280
 - For each additional person, add \$10,280

How to Schedule:

To make an appointment, call us 831-724-2997 or click [HERE](#).

MORE INFORMATION



Support the 39th Annual Mountain Affair: Sponsorship Opportunities to Make a Lasting Impact in the San Lorenzo Valley

Join us for the 39th Annual Mountain Affair at Highlands Park Senior & Community Center in Ben Lomond on Friday, October 25, from 5-9 pm, benefiting Mountain Community Resources.

This elegant celebration showcases the best of the San Lorenzo Valley with fine cuisine, local wines, live music, and a silent auction featuring local businesses and craftspersons. Proceeds directly support vital services, including emergency preparedness, disaster recovery, and crisis support for our community.

Become a sponsor and make a meaningful impact while gaining valuable exposure for your business!

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Mountain Event Sponsor – \$500

- Two complimentary tickets to the event
- Name/logo prominently displayed on event promotions
- Recognition on Community Bridges and Mountain Community Resources social media accounts

Redwood Event Sponsor – \$250

- One complimentary ticket to the event
- Name/logo prominently displayed on event promotions
- Recognition on Community Bridges social media accounts

In-Kind Media Sponsorships

- For a \$250 ad space in your publication, receive:
- One complimentary ticket
- Name/logo prominently displayed on event promotions
- Recognition on Community Bridges social media accounts

For more information, sponsorship inquiries, or auction donations, please contact us at donations@cbridges.org or call 831-688-8840 ext. 205.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Spanish Computer Literacy Classes at La Manzana Begin!

La Manzana Community Resources is offering **FREE Computer Literacy Classes in Spanish** for anyone looking to improve their digital skills. Whether you're new to computers or looking to build on what you know, this series will help you navigate the online world confidently.

This is a fantastic opportunity to gain valuable digital skills. Whether you need it for work, school, or staying connected with loved ones, this class will provide hands-on training and resources. Don't miss out!

Limited spots are available, so call today to check availability and register:
(831) 476-7284 x102



Show your support of Community Bridges and the



Our FRC team partners closely with the community and the



The FRC's work would not be possible without our

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

entire Community Bridges network to ensure our participants gain access to resources that provide stability and foster hope for the future.

COME JOIN OUR
DEDICATED TEAM

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}}