



*Mary Hammer with Community Bridges Chief Financial Officer Doug Underhill at the annual Mountain Affair fundraiser. Hammer, the founder of Mountain Community Resources who served as the center's first executive director, recently passed away.*

## **Founder, Leader, and Beloved Advocate for the San Lorenzo Valley**

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Mary Hammer, a cherished founder of Mountain Community Resources and an enduring advocate for the San Lorenzo Valley. Mary passed away on November 6, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of service, environmental stewardship, and community leadership that will inspire generations to come.

Mary's passion for the Valley began in the 1960s, when she and her husband Joe settled in the area. A dedicated educator and community leader, Mary's impact was felt through her work in local schools, environmental advocacy with the Save the River Foundation, and disaster response efforts following the devastating storms of the 1980s. Her visionary leadership laid the groundwork for modern emergency preparedness initiatives, including the formation of Community Emergency Response Teams.

As the first Executive Director of what is now Mountain Community Resources, Mary guided the organization through transformative years, securing resources for disaster relief and essential services. Today, Mountain Community Resources provides essential services such as food, clothing, counseling, legal assistance, and parenting classes to residents in need. In recent years, we also added showers and laundry facilities, which proved invaluable to firefighters and survivors during the 2020 CZU Fire, along with the hundreds of marginally housed community members which seek basic needs of showers and laundry daily.

In her honor, Mountain Community Resources annually presents the Mary Hammer Green Heart Award to recognize exceptional volunteer service. Today, we carry forward her mission, providing vital resources and support to residents of the San Lorenzo Valley.



*Lisa Hammer, Monica Martinez, Judi Sherman, Mary Hammer, and Gail Levine at this year's Mountain Affair in Ben Lomond.*

Mary's influence extended far beyond her roles. She served as a founding leader of the Valley Women's Club, an Honorary Trustee of the Community Foundation Santa Cruz County, and a champion for sustainable development. Her contributions helped establish the endowed Fund for the Future of the San Lorenzo Valley, ensuring continued support for local nonprofits.

"Mary was a force of nature, and I have never met anyone with such devoted and unanimous support for the things she cared about," said Community Bridges CEO Raymon Cancino. "Throughout the years, I was so grateful to earn her trust, respect, and support for the work we do at Mountain Community Resources. Mary lived her commitment through everyday action, and instilled a lasting testament to ensuring reciprocity and mutual aid was part of what we do. This will be a lasting legacy that will continue to ripple for generations to come and will hopefully ensure we continue to keep the San Lorenzo Valley safe, prepared, and ready to respond to our communities' needs."

Mary is survived by her children, Eric and Lisa, and her grandchildren, Ruby, Charlie, and Nicole. She now joins her beloved husband, Joe, leaving behind an indelible legacy of resilience and unity.



*Mary Hammer with her dog Cutie.*

In tribute to Mary's remarkable contributions, the Hammer family has asked people to donate to Mountain Community Resources. While we mourn her loss, we celebrate her extraordinary life and the lasting impact she has made on the Valley she so deeply loved.

DONATE IN MARY'S HONOR



## 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 various seminars that provide parents with the guidance they need to support children of all ages and backgrounds.

These FREE seminars are presented by Family Resource Collective staff members throughout Santa Cruz County.

Upcoming Seminars:

### **TEACHING CHILDREN SOCIAL SKILLS**

**Date:** December 3 | 6 - 7:30 pm

**Location:** Mountain Community Resources, 6134 Hwy 9, Felton  
Join this FREE parenting workshop to learn strategies for sharing, fostering group play, building communication through play, and addressing problematic behaviors.

[Register Here](#)

### **ENCOURAGING POSITIVE INTERACTIONS AND ADDRESSING AGGRESSION**

**Date:** December 9 | 6 - 7:30 pm

## 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?](#)
- [After Congress Ended Extra Cash Aid for Families, Communities Tackle Child Poverty Alone](#)
- [Santa Cruz County supervisors approve latest CORE funding cycle amid community uproar](#)
- [How Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective is partnering to break the cycle of evictions](#)

## Learn more about our Family Resource Collective Sites

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

**Location:** La Manzana Community Resources, 18 W. Lake Ave, Suite E, Watsonville

Join this FREE virtual parenting workshop to discover the causes and signs of stress, its impact on parenting, and healthy ways to manage it daily.

[Register Here](#)

### **STRESS-BUSTERS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS**

**Date:** December 10 | 6 - 7:30 pm

**Location:** Virtually over Zoom

Join this FREE virtual parenting workshop to discover the causes and signs of stress, its impact on parenting, and healthy ways to manage it daily.

[Register Here](#)

### **BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY**

**Date:** December 19 | 6 - 7:30 pm

**Location:** Nueva Vista Community Resources, 711 E Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz

Join this FREE parenting workshop to explore balancing work and family, managing work-related stress, and setting healthy boundaries.

[Register Here](#)

*Light snacks and free child care provided for in-person seminars.*

These seminars are free and open to all families in Santa Cruz County.

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on all our upcoming Triple P parenting classes or click [HERE](#) to see upcoming classes.

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## **Stay Prepared: Refresh Your Emergency Knowledge This Winter**

Winter rain season is upon us, and now is the time to ensure you and your family are prepared for the unexpected. Refresh your emergency pack and review essential safety steps to take during a flood.

Community Bridges Family Resource Collective, in partnership with the County of Monterey, North Monterey County Fire Protection District, and Listos California, has created a series of Public Service Announcement videos to help you stay ready.

These short, informative videos are tailored specifically for Pajaro Valley residents:

### **How to Prepare a Go-Bag**

- English: [Watch the video](#)
- Spanish: [Mira el video](#)

### **Steps to Take During a Flood**



- English: [Watch the video](#)
- Spanish: [Mira el video](#)

Help us spread the word—share these videos with friends, family, and neighbors to keep our community informed and safe. For more resources and information, visit:

- [communitybridges.org/emergency](https://communitybridges.org/emergency)
- [NCFPD.org](https://NCFPD.org)
- [Listocalifornia.org](https://Listocalifornia.org)
- [co.monterey.ca.us](https://co.monterey.ca.us)

Let's work together to ensure everyone is ready to weather the storm!

#### ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY RESOURCES

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### Let's Make Giving Tuesday Unforgettable!

Giving Tuesday returns on December 3, and we need your help to reach Community Bridges' goal of raising \$25,000 to support vital programs across the Central Coast. From food security to senior care, your gift will make a lasting difference in the lives of 20,000 local families, children, and older adults.

Head over to our Giving Tuesday page to see how this campaign supports the work of the Family Resource Collective. No matter the size, every donation brings us closer to a healthier, stronger community.

Here's how your contribution will make an impact:

**\$5,000** | "Fill the Bag" Initiative – Fund groceries for 200 families

**\$10,000** | "Meal Delivery Heroes" – Provide 1,000 hot meals for seniors

**\$15,000** | "Camp Like It's 2006" – Expand afterschool programs and summer camps

**\$20,000** | "Unlock Future Potential" – Support childcare and early education

**\$25,000** | "Care with Compassion" – Provide adult day care for those in need

Your gift helps keep our mission alive and thriving—because giving never goes out of style. Donate today and help us hit our goal at.

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

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## Join the FRC 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.

Here are a few of our current opportunities:

- [Lead Care Manager – La Manzana Community Resources](#)
- [Bilingual Licensed Therapist – Family Resource Collective](#)
- [Advocate – Mountain Community Resources](#)

If you're ready to make a difference, we encourage you to apply today! You can submit your application online [HERE](#) or by contacting our Human Resources department via email at [recruitments@cbridges.org](mailto: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 Family Resource Collective. Your career awaits!

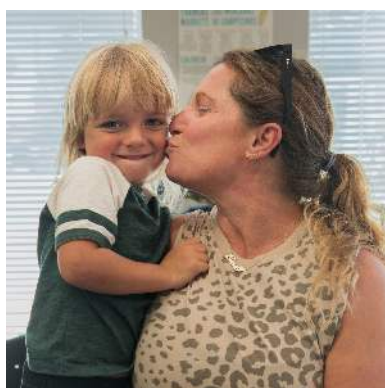


APPLY TODAY

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Show your support of Community Bridges and the



The generosity of our community is what drives 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

FRC's life-changing work and ensures we can continue to serve more than 12,000 of our friends, family, and neighbors in need each year. Every donation makes a difference.

DONATE: SUPPORT  
OUR WORK

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}}\*