



La Manzanita Community Resources Disaster Case Management Program Coordinator Patricia has helped guide our ongoing response to the 2023 Pajaro flood.

## Expanding Assistance to Support Families Affected by the 2023 Levee Breach

The Pajaro community has shown incredible resilience in the face of the March 2023 Pajaro Levee breach. From the very beginning, Community Bridges has been deeply committed to supporting families through this challenging time.

Working alongside our state representatives, partners, local leaders, and the greater community, we helped secure **\$20 million in state funding** to assist Pajaro residents in their recovery. Through the **Pajaro Unmet Needs Disaster Program**, which accounts for \$5.4 million of that state assistance, we're providing financial relief, case management, and advocacy to ensure every family has the resources they need to rebuild. Through our Phase 1 recovery services, we have served 2,472 Pajaro residents, or 85.8% of all household members in the area.

We are excited to announce the **expansion of Phase 1 assistance** to provide additional funds to households that received evacuation assistance earlier this year. This is just the latest step in our ongoing work to support Pajaro families.

### What You Need to Know About the Expansion of Phase 1 Automatic Additional Assistance for Phase 1 Recipients

- Over the next 60 days, **688 households** that previously received Phase 1 evacuation assistance will automatically receive an additional award.
- Awards will range from **\$200 to \$1,000**, based on household size.
- **No action is required** by recipients at this time—Community Bridges will reach out to eligible families with further details.

### Opportunities for New Applicants

- If your household missed the initial Phase 1 application period, you now have the opportunity to request a review and apply for assistance.
- To learn more, contact **La Manzanita Community Resources** at **831-724-2997**.

### Why We're Expanding Phase 1 Assistance

Before the program began, it was difficult to fully understand the scope of damage to homes in Pajaro and what types of assistance would be most urgently needed. The levee breach created widespread devastation, and the recovery needs have been both complex and varied.

Initially, we knew that roughly **\$14 million in individual assistance** had already been distributed to Pajaro residents through local philanthropy, state assistance programs like the Storm Assistance for Immigrant Program, and federal aid such as FEMA. Given this, we prioritized ensuring that remaining funds were used strategically to support households struggling with the most significant and costly recovery needs, especially those with damage to their homes, vehicles, and personal property.

As we moved into Phase 2 and assessed the remaining unmet needs, we realized that we had enough flexibility within the budget to allocate additional funds for Phase 1 recipients. This reassessment was possible thanks to the leadership and flexibility provided by the **County of Monterey's leaders**, who have been instrumental in allowing us to pivot quickly to address these evolving needs.

Expanding Phase 1 assistance ensures that funds are distributed equitably and that all families, regardless of their circumstances, have access to the resources they need to complete their recovery. While this process took time, it reflects our commitment to ensuring that every dollar is used thoughtfully and effectively to help Pajaro residents rebuild.

Now, with this second round of Phase 1 assistance, we are able to get funds directly into the hands of families in a timely and impactful way, addressing critical needs that persist despite earlier relief efforts.

### Progress Continues in Phase 2

Since the launch of the Pajaro Unmet Needs Disaster Program in April, Community Bridges and Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey have distributed over **\$1 million** in financial assistance directly to Pajaro families.

This includes **\$464,000 distributed during Phase 1**, which supported families with evacuation-related expenses, and an additional **\$633,000 in Phase 2**, aimed at covering a wide range of recovery needs, including **home repairs, vehicle replacement, housing assistance, and personal property damages**.

Our dedicated case managers have assisted more than **700 households**, connecting them to essential services and resources to navigate the complexities of recovery. Through ongoing collaboration with community partners and local leaders, we've ensured that **every eligible family has been offered support**, whether through Phase 1, Phase 2, or other assistance programs.

While the distribution of funds so far marks an important milestone, we know the recovery journey is far from over. As we continue implementing Phase 2 and reassessing the evolving needs of the community, we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting Pajaro families every step of the way.

To the Pajaro community: thank you for your incredible resilience. And to our partners and supporters: thank you for helping us provide hope and resources to those in need as they rebuild their lives.

Together, we will ensure Pajaro's long-term recovery.



## IN THE NEWS

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

- [What Are the Economic Costs of Child Poverty?](#)
- [How supporting Community Bridges can transform lives this giving season](#)
- [Founder of Mountain Community Resources dies at 87](#)
- [How Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective is partnering to break the cycle of evictions](#)

## Celebrate Positive Parenting Awareness Month: Join Us for Free Family Resource Fairs in January!

Every year, January is recognized as Positive Parenting Awareness Month in Santa Cruz County, and our Triple P Program, in partnership with First 5 Santa Cruz County, organizes a family fair for the community.

We are excited to invite you to join us for two special *Triple P Family Fairs* this January! These fun and informative events are a great way for families to connect with local resources, gain valuable parenting tips, and have some fun while celebrating Positive Parenting Awareness Month!

**January 18, 2025**  
**Live Oak Community Resources**  
**11:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
 1740 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz  
**Come, Play, and Learn!**

- Connect with local agencies and discover their services
- Learn about counseling services available for families
- Meet the Triple P Parent Educators
- Enjoy snacks, games, and prizes!

**January 25, 2025**  
**La Manzanita Community Resources**  
**11:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
 521 Main St, Watsonville

### Come, Play, and Learn!

- Explore local agencies and their services
- Learn about counseling options available to families
- Meet the Triple P Parent Educators
- Enjoy snacks, games, and prizes for all ages!

These family fairs are an opportunity for parents and caregivers to connect with resources and support that strengthen families. Don't miss out—mark your calendars and join us for a fun and informative day!

**Presented By**  
Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective, in partnership with First 5 Santa Cruz County, Central California Alliance for Health, Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History, and the California Civil Rights Department.

**Looking for Triple-P parenting classes?** 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.

### Learn more about our Family Resource Collective Sites

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

## The Rain is Back: Be Prepared, Not Scared

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, in partnership with the County of Monterey, North Monterey County Fire Protection District, and Listos California, has created a series of Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos to help you stay ready.

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

### Steps to Take During a Flood

English: [Watch the video](#)

Spanish: [Mira el video](#)

### How to Prepare a Go-Bag

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

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

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

[co.monterey.ca.us](http://co.monterey.ca.us)

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





## Now Hiring Community Heroes!

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 – Mountain Community Resources](#)
- [Lead Care Manager – Live Oak Community Resources](#)
- [Lead Care Manager – Nueva Vista Community Resources](#)
- [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



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



The generosity of our community is what drives the 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



The FRC'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)}}\*