



Our annual fundraiser, the Farm to Fork Gala, returns on Saturday, June 28, at the Seascapes Golf Club in Aptos. Tickets are still available!

10 Years. One Night. Countless Lives Changed.

Ten years ago, a small group of community leaders, farmers, and food lovers came together with a simple idea: What if we could bring people to the table—literally—to raise support for those most in need?

From that seed, Farm to Fork was born.

What began as a rustic dinner in 2016 has grown into one of the region's most anticipated annual events, raising over \$550,000 to fuel Community Bridges' mission to serve more than 20,000 children, families, and older adults across Santa Cruz County each year.

On Saturday, June 28, 2025, we invite you to celebrate this remarkable journey at the 10th Annual Farm to Fork Gala & Auction at the beautiful Seascapes Golf Club in Aptos—and there's still time to get your tickets.

Reserve Your Spot Now: communitybridges.org/events



The Farm to Fork Gala is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

What to Expect: A Night of Connection and Purpose

This year's event features a gourmet, locally sourced dinner, paired with wines from top Santa Cruz County vineyards.

You'll also get the chance to bid on unforgettable live auction items, including:

- 5 nights in a beachfront condo in Puerto Vallarta
- A luxury escape to Edgewood Tahoe Resort
- Unique local adventures, art, and culinary experiences

Says Community Bridges CEO Raymon Cancino: "These past ten years have shown what's possible when a community comes together to invest in people. Because of your support, we've delivered millions of meals, expanded vital services, and stood by families through fires, floods, and hardship. But today, the need is greater than ever. Rising costs and funding cuts are putting basic services at risk. This next chapter demands action—and we need you with us to ensure no one in our community is left behind."

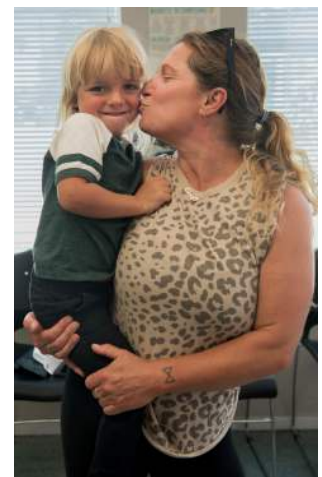
Why Your Ticket Matters More Than Ever

As we celebrate our progress, we also face growing threats: looming federal and state cuts to SNAP (CalFresh) and Medi-Cal put food, health care, and housing at risk for thousands in our region.

Thanks to Farm to Fork supporters like you, over the last 10 years we've been able to:

- Deliver **2 million meals** to isolated seniors
- Provide **hundreds of thousands of rides** through Lift Line
- Launch **mental health counseling, eviction defense, and disaster recovery services**
- Expand our reach with new buildings, new partnerships, and deeper impact

But today, demand is rising and resources are shrinking. Your ticket is more than a seat at the table—it's a lifeline for our neighbors in need.



Event Details:**Date:** Saturday, June 28, 2025**Time:** 5:00 – 9:00 PM**Location:** Seascape Golf Club, 610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos**Tickets & Info:** communitybridges.org/events**Contact:** donations@cbridges.org | (831) 688-8840 ext. 205

Buy Your Tickets Today!



La Manzanita's Summer Lunch Program Is Back—Free Meals for Kids All Summer Long!

Summer should be a time for fun, not hunger. That's why **La Manzanita Community Resources (LMCR)**—a proud member of Community Bridges' **Family Resource Collective**—is once again offering **free, nutritious lunches for kids 18 and under** at accessible locations throughout **Santa Cruz County**.

The **Summer Lunch Program** kicked off **June 9** and runs through early August at sites in **Watsonville, Freedom, and Santa Cruz**. No ID or eligibility documentation is required—just show up and eat!

Says La Manzanita Program Manager Liliana Zamora: “Many local children rely on school lunches during the academic year, and when school lets out, that access disappears. By placing our Summer Lunch sites in apartment complexes, parks, and community hubs, we're removing barriers and bringing meals directly to the places where families live and gather.”

Why It Matters

Over the past four years, Community Bridges has served more than **30,000 meals** through this program—fighting back against local food insecurity and ensuring kids have the nourishment they need to thrive during the summer months.

IN THE NEWS

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

- [A decade of impact: Farm to Fork celebrates 10 years of community connections](#)
- [California's planned cuts to immigrant health care could overwhelm Santa Cruz County ERs, providers warn](#)
- [Pajaro residents get certified in disaster response as the town's infrastructure upgrades continue](#)
- [Fox News Poll Spells Bad News for Donald Trump's 'Big, Beautiful Bill'](#)

COMMUNITY NOTES

Here's a heads up about opportunities to get involved in local initiatives throughout Santa Cruz County and North Monterey County.

- [Volunteer Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed in San Lorenzo Valley](#)
- [Help Improve Rural Road Safety — Take the RTC Survey by July 31!](#)
- [Know Your Rights — Join CAB's Free Immigration Preparedness Workshop!](#)
- [Shape the Future of Measure Q — Take the](#)

Across the U.S., more than **30 million children** depend on free or reduced-price meals, and summertime often leaves a gap that programs like this work to fill.

[Vision Plan Survey Today!](#)

Meal Sites & Serving Dates

Meals served Monday-Friday | 12 PM-1 PM

All meals are free for kids ages 0-18

June 9 – August 1

- Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz – 543 Center St., Santa Cruz
- Nueva Vista at Beach Flats Park – 131 Leibbrandt Ave., Santa Cruz

June 9 – August 8

- La Manzana Community Resources – 521 Main St., Watsonville
- Stone Creek Apartments – 300 Bree Lane, Watsonville
- Vista Verde Apartments – 45 Steward Ave., Freedom
- Corralitos Creek Apartments – 125 Pajaro Circle, Freedom

June 23 – July 31

- Sunny Meadows – 220 Ross Ave., Freedom
- Schapiro Knolls – 33 Minto Rd., Watsonville

June 23 – August 1

- Sparrow Terrace – 139 Miles Ave., Watsonville

How You Can Help

While state and local funding supports a majority of the program, **roughly 30% of costs are covered by community donations.** Your gift can help ensure no child goes hungry this summer.

- **Donate:** communitybridges.org/donate (Select “La Manzana Community Resource Center”)
 - **Volunteer:** communitybridges.org/volunteer
-



Celebrating the Heart of Our Work: Honoring Our Volunteers this April

Every day across Santa Cruz County, quiet acts of kindness ripple outward: a warm meal delivered to a senior's doorstep, a bag of fresh produce handed to a parent trying to stretch their grocery budget, a welcoming smile offered to someone walking into a community center for the first time.

These moments don't happen by accident—they happen because of volunteers.

In April, during **Volunteer Month**, we paused to celebrate the people behind those everyday miracles. The ones who show up rain or shine, not for recognition, but because they care deeply about their neighbors. Whether delivering meals in the mountains or distributing groceries in the San Lorenzo Valley, their dedication powers the mission of Community Bridges.

And this year, we made sure to say a heartfelt *thank you*.

Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County: Breakfast, Raffles & Big Thanks

We gathered for a special breakfast to honor the **incredible volunteers of Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County**. Over coffee, pancakes, and good conversation, we shared heartfelt gratitude, handed out certificates, held raffles, and reflected on the tremendous impact these volunteers have on the lives of our local seniors.

Mountain Community Resources: Pizza & Pantry Pride

Every Thursday, volunteers at **Mountain Community Resources (MCR)** roll up their sleeves to serve fresh, healthy food to families across the San Lorenzo Valley. In the past year alone, MCR has distributed over **9,000 bags of groceries** to more than **600 neighbors**—all thanks to our committed food pantry volunteers.

To celebrate their service, MCR hosted a pizza party—courtesy of **Justin Acton and Boulder Creek Pizza & Pub**—and gifted volunteers some much-deserved **Community Bridges swag**. It was a small token of a deep appreciation for the energy, warmth, and generosity they bring to the table every week.

Want to Make a Difference?

Volunteers like you keep our programs running and our community thriving. Whether you have a few hours a week or are just looking to give back now and then, we'd love to have you join our team.

Become a Community Bridges volunteer today:

communitybridges.org/volunteer

From food delivery and pantry help to front desk support and special events, there's a role for everyone.

Give your time. Change a life.

CB In the Community



Community Bridges Hosts First-Ever Blood Drive

We're proud to share that our first-ever Community Bridges Blood Drive in downtown Watsonville was a success! Thanks to our amazing staff, partners, and community members, we collected lifesaving donations that will help patients in need across our region. Special thanks to Vitalant for their expert care and coordination. Your compassion and generosity made this event possible—and we're excited to build on this momentum for future drives.



Helping Sound the Alarm on Proposed Federal Cuts

Community Bridges has partnered with the Pajaro Valley Collaborative to raise awareness about the devastating impact of the proposed One Big Beautiful Bill Act on our most vulnerable neighbors. If passed, it would deeply cut SNAP (CalFresh) and Medi-Cal—lifelines for thousands of local families. In Santa Cruz County, over 44,000 residents could lose food assistance, and more than 80,000—1 in 4—rely on Medi-Cal for health care.



Thank You to MOW Our Community Champions

During Community Champions Week, local leaders joined Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County to help deliver meals and highlight the importance of senior nutrition and connection. We were proud to partner with Supervisor Kim De Serpa, Supervisor Monica Martinez, Scotts Valley Councilmember Krista Jett, and Santa Cruz Councilmember Sonja Brunner, whose support brings visibility to the needs of older adults in our community.



Empowering Our Community: Digital Literacy Graduates Receive Laptops

We're thrilled to celebrate the recent graduates of our **Digital Literacy classes at La Manzana Community Resources**! These participants completed an in-depth course designed to build essential skills—from navigating websites and managing email to accessing online services like the DMV.

For many, these skills aren't just helpful—they're life-changing.

In an increasingly digital world, lacking access to technology and the internet can mean falling behind in education, job opportunities, health care, and even basic communication. The **digital divide** continues to disproportionately impact low-income families, older adults, and immigrant communities—limiting access to resources that many of us take for granted.

Thanks to the generous support of the **State of California, CASF**, and the **California Public Utilities Commission**, we're helping bridge that gap. Each graduate received a **certificate** and a **free laptop** to continue practicing their skills and accessing the tools they need to thrive in today's digital age.

This program is part of our ongoing mission to ensure that everyone—regardless of age, income, or background—has a fair opportunity to succeed.

Congratulations to our graduates! And to those ready to begin their journey, we're here to help you take that first step.

Interested in a future class? Email us at info@cbridges.org to learn more.

Join the Community Bridges team!

Are you looking for a rewarding career that transforms lives? Community Bridges is hiring passionate individuals to support families, older adults, and youth across our region.

We're currently seeking:

- [Enhanced Care Management – Program Manager](#) – Lead care coordination for those in need.
[Trilingual Program Assistant \(English/Spanish/Mixteco\)](#) - Help local elders get care in their language.

With positions in education, social work, advocacy, and more, there's a place for you at Community Bridges. We serve over 20,000 residents annually—join us in making a lasting impact!

Apply today! Visit us at 519 Main St., Watsonville, email recruitments@cbridges.org, or call 831-688-8840 ext. 200.



Start Your Career



Ray's Corner

A Wake-Up Call from Washington

Don't let the name fool you—the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* may sound appealing, but it carries dangerous consequences for the people and programs that hold our communities together.

And voters across the country are taking notice.

According to recent national polling, this bill is deeply unpopular. Nearly **2 in 3 Americans oppose it**, including a majority of **independent voters** and even many who typically support fiscal conservatism. Why? Because people see the truth: this legislation proposes deep cuts to **SNAP (CalFresh)** and **Medicaid (Medi-Cal)**—lifeline programs that millions rely on for food and healthcare.

If passed, it would eliminate coverage for millions, expand barriers to food aid, and shift already strained responsibilities onto local programs like ours.

At Community Bridges, we've already begun to experience the challenges that stagnant and declining funding can have on the people we serve. Our **Meals on Wheels** program, which delivers over 190,000 meals a year to 1,700 older adults in Santa Cruz County, had to create a **waitlist for the first time in 49 years** this spring due to rising costs and stagnant funding. At the same time, demand has continued to grow with 18 new applications each week.

Alongside Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County, we also operate the local **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** program, which supports over **6,400 people each month**, as well as the **Child and Adult Care Food Program**, which ensures children and older adults in daily care receive fresh, nutritious meals.

These programs are already stretched thin—and if SNAP is cut, demand will skyrocket.

But this isn't just about hunger. Cuts like these ripple through every part of our community. In Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley, fewer SNAP dollars mean less demand for local produce—hurting small farms and farmworkers. In our hospitality sector, reduced spending by struggling families means fewer restaurant visits and hotel stays—hurting workers who've kept those industries afloat. In healthcare, overburdened clinics and hospitals will see more uninsured patients arriving sicker, placing even more pressure on nurses and frontline staff.

This bill doesn't reflect who we are—or what our community values. No matter your political background, we can agree that **food, healthcare, and dignity** shouldn't be partisan. They should be fundamental.

Click the link below to quickly urge our leaders to reject this bill. Not just because it's unpopular—but because it's wrong for our families, our economy, and our future.

With gratitude,

Ray Cancino
CEO, Community Bridges

Tell Congress: Vote No!



You have the power to make a difference! Join us in building

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

a thriving community where
every person has the
opportunity to unleash their
full potential. Donate to
support our family of 10
programs across the county!

DONATE: SUPPORT
OUR WORK

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}}