



*La Manzana Community Resources' Summer Lunch program started on June 9 and runs through early August at nine locations throughout Santa Cruz County.*

## Fighting Hunger, One Lunch at a Time

When school lets out, hunger doesn't take a vacation. For thousands of children across Santa Cruz County, the end of the academic year also means the loss of reliable access to a daily meal. But thanks to La Manzana Community Resources, part of Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective, help is never far away.

La Manzana's **Summer Lunch Program** is back—bringing free, nutritious meals to youth 18 years and younger in Watsonville and Santa Cruz. With easily accessible distribution sites in local parks, community centers, and even apartment complexes, the program ensures that children don't have to travel far to receive a meal. No paperwork, no questions—just lunch, Monday through Friday.

"Community Bridges Summer Lunch sites are easily accessible to local youth," said La Manzana Program Manager. "This allows youth to access lunch close to their residence instead of getting transportation to local school sites, removing another barrier for families to remain nourished through the summer."

Over the past three years, the program has served **more than 20,000 lunches**, helping to fill the summer gap left when school cafeterias close. With more than **30 million children nationwide depending on free meal programs**, the impact is clear: when we invest in feeding our kids, we're investing in their growth, their health, and their future.

## Find a Summer Lunch Site Near You:

June 9 – August 1

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

All sites serve **Monday–Friday, 12 PM–1 PM**



*La Manzana Community Resources' Summer Lunch program is free for all youth 18 years and younger.*

## You Can Help Make This Possible

While public funding covers the majority of the program's cost, **30% is made possible by donors like you.**

- [Donate to support the Summer Lunch Program](#)
- [Volunteer to serve lunches or support our work](#)

Together, we can make sure every child in our community has a full stomach and a brighter summer.

HELP FEED OUR FUTURE



## Helping Kids (and Parents!) Get Better Sleep

## IN THE NEWS

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

- [Guest Commentary | Federal budget bill not what people want – or our community needs](#)
- [Who would win and who would lose in Republicans' 'big, beautiful bill'](#)
- [Pajaro Valley Collaborative's 'call to action'](#)

At Community Bridges, we understand how important restful nights are—for kids and parents alike. That's why our Family Resource Collective is proud to partner with Triple P, First 5 Santa Cruz County, and the County of Santa Cruz to offer free parenting workshops that provide families with the tools to thrive.

Join us for our next in-person workshop focused on developing **healthy bedtime routines** for children up to age 5. Whether your little one struggles to fall asleep or stay asleep, this free, interactive session will provide strategies to create peaceful evenings for the whole family.

This workshop will cover:

- Common reasons young children struggle with sleep
- How to build calm, consistent bedtime routines
- Practical tips to help children form healthy sleep habits

**Class Details:**

- **Date:** Thursday, July 17, 2025
- **Time:** 6:00 – 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Live Oak Community Resources – 1740 17th Ave, Santa Cruz
- **Facilitator:** Alex Olivas, Live Oak Community Resources

*Child care and light snacks will be provided.*

**Register now:** [bit.ly/Bedtime-Jul17](https://bit.ly/Bedtime-Jul17)

Questions? Contact Alex Olivas at (831) 476-7284 ext. 110 or [alexo@cbridges.org](mailto:alexo@cbridges.org)

Let's help our children—and ourselves—rest easy.

See All Upcoming Triple P Classes!

- [Pajaro residents get certified in disaster response as the town's infrastructure upgrades continue](#)

**Learn more about our Family Resource Collective Sites**

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





## **Funding Loss Forces Closure of Vital Hygiene Services at MCR**

For the past five years—starting with hosting first responders in the wake of the 2020 CZU Fire— Mountain Community Resources (MCR) has offered drop-in, onsite shower and laundry facilities free of charge Mondays through Thursdays to fill this major need in the San Lorenzo Valley.

While visitors access essential hygiene support, they have also been able to receive counseling, case management, application assistance, and much more. Over the past five years, more than 800 residents have accessed 8,285 showers across 20,400 total visits, or 41% of our foot traffic.

This is why with deep regret we are writing to inform our community that due to diminishing and expiring funding, beginning July 1, 2025, Mountain Community Resources is no longer able to offer showers, laundry, mail, locker, and small meal services at our Felton site. We have been providing participants with information about alternative resources available in the community.

Please know this decision was made after exhausting all options. These services have been sustained the past two years through a one-time \$100,000 grant from the 1440 Foundation, which allowed us to continue serving our neighbors across the San Lorenzo Valley. From the beginning, we knew the funding was temporary, and since then, we have worked tirelessly to find a permanent solution.

We actively sought support from local programs and funders, and explored grants, partnerships, and fee-for-service models. Despite these efforts, we have not been able to secure the resources needed to keep these services open the upcoming fiscal year without significant risks to all our services.

Please be assured that MCR continues to provide essential services to our community. Our counseling and case management services remain available. Food distributions continue, and parenting education and support groups remain in place. Mental health support remains a priority, with counseling and support groups uninterrupted. Employment support helps clients build economic self-sufficiency, and public benefit enrollment assistance provide material supports.

Thank you for your patience, trust, and for being part of our community. To discuss ways to come together to meet this need, including your interest in partnering or volunteering, please reach out via email to [info@cbridges.org](mailto:info@cbridges.org).





### Counseling

We offer free counseling and advocacy through partnerships with pre-licensed professional clinical counselors. Services are available for youth, families, and individuals seeking support with stress management, healthy coping strategies, and other personal challenges.

To schedule an appointment, call (831) 476-7284 ext. 104.



### Eviction Defense Collaborative

The Family Resource Collective's Eviction Defense Collaborative is a vital partnership that provides essential services to help prevent evictions and support both tenants and landlords. Assistance is available through our FRC sites across Santa Cruz County.

For help or more information, call (831) 288-2148.



### Public Benefits Enrollment Assistance

Need help navigating government services? Our trained advocates assist with enrollment, renewals, and reporting for programs like CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered California, and unemployment benefits. Services are available at all FRC locations.

Learn more at [communitybridges.org/FRC](https://communitybridges.org/FRC).



### Enhanced Care Management (ECM)

We provide specialized support for Medi-Cal members of all ages with complex medical and social needs. Our bilingual, bicultural care managers help clients navigate care, improve well-being, and live healthier lives. ECM services are fully covered through Medi-Cal's CalAIM program.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about ECM.

## Now Hiring: Help Build Stronger, Healthier Communities

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 our current employment opportunities:

- [Program Manager – Enhanced Care Management](#)
- [Program Aide - Nueva Vista Community Resources](#)
- [Program Aide - 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}}\*