



Nueva Vista Community Resources hosts a free food distribution each 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2:30pm to 5pm.

Government Shutdown: FRCs Will Continue to Serve the Community

As the **federal government shutdown** continues into November, uncertainty looms for thousands of local families who depend on food assistance programs to make ends meet. On **November 1**, more than **35,000 Santa Cruz County residents** receiving support through **CalFresh**—California’s version of the federal **SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)**—are expected to see their monthly benefits delayed.

CalFresh provides over **\$6.5 million each month** to our community, giving families a vital means to purchase groceries through **electronic benefit transfer (EBT)** cards used at grocery stores and local farmers markets. The **U.S. Department of Agriculture**, which administers SNAP, recently announced that “the well has run dry,” meaning that no new benefits will be issued until the federal impasse is resolved.

How the FRCs are Navigating This Challenge

At Community Bridges, we want our neighbors to know they are not alone. Through our partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, the **Family Resource Collective (FRC)** continues to provide **free food distributions and nutritional awareness** at our local centers:

- **Santa Cruz:** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 2:30–5:00 p.m. at [Nueva Vista Community Resources](#)
- **Felton:** Every Thursday, 10:30–11:30 a.m. at [Mountain Community Resources](#)

If you receive CalFresh or SNAP, please continue to use your benefits as normal. We will also continue accepting and processing new applications at all FRC offices, ensuring families have access to the assistance they need.

The FRC team acknowledges that this situation is deeply concerning for many families who rely on CalFresh and other forms of assistance. Every day, our staff works to ensure that no one faces food insecurity or financial hardship alone.

While the federal shutdown may disrupt benefits temporarily, our commitment to helping families access food, support, and resources will not waver.

Our doors are open, our staff is ready, and our commitment to serving families remains stronger than ever.



Mountain Community Resources hosts a weekly free food distribution on Thursdays from 10:30am to 11:30am.



Teaching Children to Share

Raising a young child comes with so many joys—and plenty of challenges. One of the most common struggles parents face is teaching kids how to **share** and cooperate with others.

Join us for a **free in-person Triple P – Positive Parenting Program** workshop, where families with children ages **birth to five** can learn effective, compassionate strategies for encouraging sharing and positive behavior.

IN THE NEWS

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

- [SNAP benefits must continue despite shutdown, judge tells Trump administration](#)
- [Community Bridges launches emergency fund for families facing immigration detention and separation](#)
- [Hijos del Sol mural taking shape in Pajaro; Community Bridges spearheads project](#)
- [Final phase of flood relief assistance for Pajaro residents to begin in October](#)
- [Community Bridges joins amicus brief challenging](#)

During this session, you'll explore:

- How to teach your child to share with siblings and friends
- Simple, playful ways to build cooperation at home
- What to do if your child doesn't want to share—or gets upset when others don't

Led by **Alex Olivas** of **Community Bridges – Live Oak Community Resources**, this interactive workshop will provide real-world examples, tools, and tips you can use immediately.

Spots are limited—**register today** to reserve your place and connect with other families in our community.

Class Details:

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2025

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Location: Live Oak Community Resources – 1740 17th Ave, Santa Cruz

Facilitator: Alex Olivas, Live Oak Community Resources

Free child care and light snacks will be provided!

Register now: bit.ly/Sharing-Nov5

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

[Trump orders](#)

Learn more about our Family Resource Collective Sites

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

See All Upcoming Triple P Classes!



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.



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.

Navigating Medi-Cal Changes

Our Family Resource Collective advocates work every day to help families navigate complex systems like CalFresh, Medi-Cal, unemployment, and Covered California—ensuring no one is left behind when policies shift.

Beginning January 1, 2026, changes to the Medi-Cal program will affect **eligibility for people who are undocumented**. Because these updates can be confusing and may cause unnecessary fear, Community Bridges, in partnership with the Santa Cruz County Immigration Coalition, is leading a countywide public education campaign to keep our immigrant communities informed and empowered.

We've produced bilingual outreach materials, conducted informational presentations to local groups, and launched social media awareness campaigns to ensure residents understand their rights, options, and available resources before the new law takes effect.

Partners and service providers are encouraged to use our public outreach materials in their own community work: [Download the Medi-Cal Outreach Flyer](#)

Together, we're making sure every family—regardless of immigration status—has access to clear information and compassionate support.



40th Annual Mountain Affair Supports San Lorenzo Valley Families

On **October 24**, the **40th Annual Mountain Affair** brought together nearly 100 guests at the **Highlands Park Senior & Community Center** in Ben Lomond for an evening of fine dining, live music, and celebration of community spirit. The event raised funds in support of **Mountain Community Resources (MCR)**, the San Lorenzo Valley's local family resource center and a proud part of the Community Bridges network.



Guests enjoyed a **multi-course Italian feast** by Barbara & Company Catering, local wines, and live performances by **Gary Blackburn**, all while bidding on handcrafted items and experiences donated by local artisans. Every dollar raised will stay in the San Lorenzo Valley, supporting **food distributions, crisis counseling, disaster recovery, and family advocacy** for more than **3,000 local residents** each year.

This year's celebration also paid heartfelt tribute to **Mary Hammer**, MCR's beloved founder who passed away earlier this year, by presenting the **Mary Hammer Green Heart Award** to **Tonje Switzer** for her extraordinary leadership



and compassion during and after the **2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire**.

The event also featured a **Fund-a-Need Pledge Drive**, led by **Community Bridges CFO Doug Underhill**, to sustain MCR's life-changing services.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, partners, and volunteers, MCR continues to be a beacon of support in the San Lorenzo Valley—helping families find hope close to home.

Join the FRC Team and Make a Difference Every Day

If you're passionate about building strong, healthy communities, we invite you to join the **Family Resource Collective team!** Working with Community Bridges means becoming part of a network that supports families through connection, compassion, and opportunity.

Our FRC sites across Santa Cruz County provide advocacy, counseling, food assistance, and parenting support to thousands of residents each year—and we're growing!

We're currently hiring for the following positions:

- [Program Coordinator – Nueva Vista Community Resources](#)
- [Advocate III – Mountain Community Resources](#)
- [Program Manager –Enhanced Care Management](#)

We're looking for individuals who want to make a tangible impact in their community through direct service and leadership.

Apply online at communitybridges.org/careers or email recruitments@cbridges.org to learn more.

Be part of something bigger—**join us in strengthening families and communities across Santa Cruz County and the greater Central Coast.**

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}}