



The Nueva Vista Community Resources food pantry team helped hundreds of local families this year.

A Year of Impact—Built Together Across the Central Coast

As we look back at 2025 on thing is clear: this year's accomplishments are the result of a shared commitment—by staff, donors, foundations, volunteers, partners, and community members—working together to ensure families across the Central Coast could access support with dignity and respect.

Through collaboration and trust, the Family Resource Collective (FRC) strengthened the region's safety net, responded to crises, and invested in long-term stability for thousands of people.

What follows is a snapshot of what **we achieved together**—because lasting impact is never the work of one program or one organization alone.



The Mountain Community Resources food pantry team of volunteers feeds their community every Thursday.

Providing Life-Saving Basic Services to Keep People from Falling Through the Safety Net

Across the Central Coast, our FRCs continued to serve as trusted access points for families navigating food insecurity, parenting stress, youth needs, and crisis situations.

Youth Services

Together, we invested in prevention, connection, and healthy development:

- **1,583 hours of parenting classes**, strengthening family relationships
- **1,770 hours of youth activities**, creating safe, supportive spaces to learn and grow
- **5,339 summer lunch meals served**, ensuring children had access to nutritious food

Family Services

When families faced urgent challenges, FRCs responded with compassion and action:

- **88,111 bags of food distributed**
- **13,433 individual crisis support visits**
- **863 mental health counseling visits**, supporting emotional well-being and resilience

Expanding Access to Health Coverage

Navigating health systems can be overwhelming—especially during moments of instability.

Our FRCs served as trusted guides, helping families across the Central Coast secure and maintain health coverage while also leading [local outreach to vulnerable populations about upcoming changes to the federal and state policy](#).

From January through November, our FRCs accomplished the following:

Medi-Cal Assistance

- **419 Medi-Cal enrollments**
- **58 Medi-Cal renewals**



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- **262 Medi-Cal service visits overall**, including residents from Santa Cruz, Monterey, and neighboring counties

Covered California Assistance

- **83 Covered California enrollments**
- **72 renewals**
- **General service visits supporting families across the Central Coast**

By ensuring continuity of coverage, these services protected access to care when it mattered most.



An overview of the Community Bridges Enhanced Care Management service.

Expanding Enhanced Care Management Across the Central Coast

This year, Community Bridges significantly expanded **Enhanced Care Management (ECM)**—a statewide Medi-Cal benefit for individuals with complex medical and social needs.

In addition to serving Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, **ECM services expanded into San Benito County**, now supporting residents in **Hollister and surrounding communities**. Each ECM participant is paired with a dedicated care manager who coordinates physical health, mental health, housing, and social supports.

Care managers meet clients wherever they are—at home, in shelters, at medical appointments, or in the community—removing barriers to care and building trust. ECM is delivered in close coordination with Community Bridges programs, including **Elderday Adult Day Health Care, WIC, and the Family Resource Collective**, ensuring comprehensive, whole-person care that improves health outcomes and stability.

To learn more about our ECM services, visit communitybridges.org/ecm.

Strengthening Housing Stability and Preventing Homelessness

Stable housing is foundational to health and family well-being. This year, our FRCs expanded both **housing prevention and stabilization efforts** across the Central Coast.

Eviction Defense Collaborative

Through the Eviction Defense Collaborative, Community Bridges and partners provided free legal education, mediation, and advocacy to tenants facing eviction—helping keep people housed and minimizing harm.

Since 2021, the collaborative has assisted **approximately 500 individuals**, addressing unlawful detainers, negotiating repairs, and clarifying tenant rights.

In 2024–25 alone, **134 cases were closed**, resulting in rights protected, illegal practices stopped, housing benefits secured, and safer living conditions enforced. These outcomes demonstrate that eviction defense is not only compassionate—it is effective, equitable, and cost-saving for communities.

Community Supports Housing Services

Our FRCs also expanded **Community Supports housing services for Medi-Cal members** who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing. Services included housing assessments, application support, housing searches, connections to local resources, and one-time financial assistance for security deposits.

By linking housing stability with health care, these services reinforced a simple truth: **stable housing leads to better health.**



HAS YOUR LANDLORD THREATENED TO **EVICT** YOU?

The Eviction Defense Collaborative, operating from Community Bridges' Family Resource Collective (FRC) sites throughout Santa Barbara County, offers a range of critical services to prevent legal evictions, teach the basics on vulnerable residents, and support landlords in what sometimes may feel like an adversarial process.

Essential services provided by the Collaborative:



To access assistance, visit one of the following FRC locations:



More funding is needed to continue the Collaborative's essential work

The Collaborative is funded by the City of Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara, and the State of California. The program is funded in part by the City of Santa Barbara, and the State of California.





The Childcare Safety Plan Coalition and the Pajaro Valley Collaborative hosted a press conference in December urging families to use the tool.

Standing With Immigrant Families During Critical Moments

Across the Central Coast, immigrant families continue to face uncertainty that can escalate quickly into crisis. This year, our FRCs deepened their role as trusted access points—providing timely information, legal connections, and life-stabilizing support to help families remain safe, housed, and together.

We partnered with community-based organizations, school districts, local governments, and legal advocates to deliver **immigration education, emergency preparedness, and direct assistance**. Thousands of residents received know-your-rights information, referrals to trusted immigration attorneys, and guidance on navigating rapidly shifting policies, ensuring families were not left to face complex systems alone.

A cornerstone of this work was participation in the **Childcare Safety Plan Coalition**, a regional collaboration focused on helping families prepare for emergencies, including detention or deportation of a caregiver. Through this effort, our FRCs helped families complete **Childcare Safety Plans**, providing legal clarity and peace of mind by ensuring children would be cared for by a trusted adult in an emergency. Families also received support creating **family financial plans**, reducing long-term instability during crises.

For families facing immediate harm, our FRCs delivered rapid, life-stabilizing assistance through targeted emergency support via **Puentes Para Familias**, including help with housing costs, utilities, child care, and bond-related expenses. These interventions prevented displacement, reduced trauma for children, and gave families time to access legal representation and long-term support.

Through this comprehensive approach—prevention, preparedness, and crisis response—our FRCs strengthened trust, safeguarded children, and upheld dignity for immigrant families across the Central Coast. This work reflects a core commitment: ensuring that no family faces fear or instability without support, and that every child has the safety and stability they deserve.

Responding Swiftly to Emergencies—Together

The past year underscored the FRC's ability to respond quickly and equitably to large-scale emergencies across the Central Coast.

Following destructive ocean swells that damaged the Santa Cruz Wharf and harbor just before Christmas 2024, hundreds of workers were suddenly without income. In partnership with Community Foundation Santa Cruz County, **\$133,000 in emergency aid was distributed in just one week** through the Nueva Vista Community Resources team, supporting **266 workers** with rent, food, and essential expenses.

Then, near the end of 2025, La Manzana Community Resources completed the [**Pajaro Unmet Needs Disaster Assistance Program**](#), working with the County of Monterey and Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey.

Through **\$20 million in state recovery funds**, we helped distribute **\$5.4 million** to the more than **700 affected Pajaro households**—supporting evacuees, replacing essential belongings, addressing housing and vehicle losses, and strengthening long-term community resilience.



The Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf opened in January 2025 after it had shutdown during winter storms.

With Gratitude—And Momentum

None of this work happens in isolation. Every family supported, crisis averted, and life stabilized reflects the collective effort of staff, volunteers, donors, foundations, partners, and community members who believe in showing up for one another.

Your time, trust, generosity, and collaboration made it possible to respond swiftly in moments of crisis and to build lasting pathways to stability across the Central Coast. Because of you, families were met with compassion instead of barriers, solutions instead of uncertainty, and dignity at every step.

Thank you for standing with us this year—and for continuing to help build a stronger, more connected community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



IN THE NEWS

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

- [Guest Commentary | Act now to help immigrant families](#)
- [Community Bridges launches fund to support families facing detention or separation](#)
- [Medi-Cal benefits paperwork deadline quickly approaching](#)

Build Confidence, Connection, and Calm with Triple P Parenting

Raising children is deeply rewarding, but guiding them through daily routines, behavior challenges, and family life can feel overwhelming without the right support. Parents deserve practical tools, shared learning, and a community that understands the realities of raising kids.

Join us for a **free 8-week Triple P – Positive Parenting Program Core Group**, designed for families with children ages 2–12. This interactive series brings parents together to build skills, confidence, and connection—while learning strategies that support both children’s development and caregiver well-being.

During this 8-week course, you’ll explore:

- Ways to strengthen relationships within your family
- Tools to encourage positive behaviors and teach new skills
- Practical strategies for managing disruptive or challenging behaviors
- Approaches that help you care for yourself while caring for your child

Presented by **Sandra Rodelo of Community Bridges – La Manzana Community Resources**, this evidence-based program offers real-world strategies you can apply right away, all within a supportive and respectful learning environment.

Class Details:

- **Dates:** Thursdays, January 8 – February 26, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 PM
- **Location:** Online via Zoom (presented in English)
- **Facilitator:** Sandra Rodelo, Community Bridges – La Manzana Community Resources
- **Cost:** Free
- **Bonus:** Participants who attend all sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion

Register today: bit.ly/Group-Jan-Feb

Registration closes after the second class.

Questions? Contact Sandra Rodelo at (831) 724-2997 ext. 211 or sandrar@cbridges.org.

See All Upcoming Triple P Classes!

- [As Medi-Cal changes loom, Santa Cruz County's immigrant families face a new health crisis — and a call for collective action](#)

Learn more about our Family Resource Collective Sites

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



Counseling
We offer free counseling

Eviction Defense Collaborative

Public Benefits Enrollment Assistance

Enhanced Care Management (ECM)

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, [CLICK HERE](#) or call (831) 476-7284 ext. 104.

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.

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.

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.

Join the FRC Team and Make a Difference

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 position:

- [Advocate III – Mountain Community Resources](#)

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 recruitment@cbbridges.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!

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.

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.

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