



Erin Carlson-Jones recently joined the Community Bridges Family Resource Collective team.

Advancing Access to Community-Based Mental Health Care

Community Bridges is proud to welcome **Erin Carlson-Jones**, LCSW, as our new **Clinical Director**, strengthening and expanding behavioral health and counseling services through the **Family Resource Collective (FRC)**. With more than 20 years of experience in addiction treatment, mental health, crisis intervention, and community-based care, Erin brings both deep clinical expertise and a strong commitment to equity, compassion, and culturally responsive services.

The FRC serves more than 10,000 children and families each year across Santa Cruz County, North Monterey County, and San Benito County, providing essential supports including food access, parenting education, advocacy, and mental health services. Under Erin's leadership, Community Bridges is scaling counseling and behavioral health services to ensure that cost, insurance status, language, or cultural background never prevent families from receiving the care they need.

"My vision is to continue and expand the strong foundation this service has already built," Carlson-Jones shared. "When behavioral health services are accessible, culturally responsive, and grounded in trust,

families are more likely to reach out before they're in crisis. I'm committed to advancing a model where every child, parent, and caregiver can receive the care they deserve—right in their own community.”

FRC counseling services operate across four Family Resource Centers—in Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Live Oak, and Felton—offering mental health support for children, teens, adults, and families who often face barriers to traditional care. Rooted in direct community input, the program prioritizes culturally responsive clinicians and ensures that no one is turned away due to inability to pay.

“Erin understands both the pressures families are facing and how to build systems that respond with compassion, cultural humility, and clinical excellence,” said Mayra Melendrez, Program Director of the FRC. “Her leadership comes at a critical moment as more families are navigating stress, instability, and limited access to mental health services.”

The FRC currently has availability for mental health counseling services for children, youth, adults, and families. If you or someone you know could benefit from counseling in a trusted, community-based setting, we encourage you to share this resource.

To learn more or request services, visit communitybridges.org/frc.

Together, we can ensure every family has access to compassionate care and support when they need it most.



Turn Clean-Up Time into a Learning Moment

For many families, clean-up time can quickly turn into a daily struggle. Toys pile up, routines fall apart, and frustration builds—for both parents and children. With the right tools, however, clean-up can become an opportunity to teach responsibility, cooperation, and confidence.

Join us for **Teaching Children to Clean Up**, a **free Triple P – Positive Parenting workshop** designed for families with young children. This practical session focuses on simple, effective strategies to help children learn how to clean up—without power struggles or stress.

In this workshop, parents and caregivers will learn:

- Why children resist cleaning up—and how to respond effectively

IN THE NEWS

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

- [Santa Cruz County supervisors form subcommittee to aid immigrant residents amid national ICE crackdown](#)
- [As Medi-Cal changes loom, Santa Cruz County's immigrant families face a new health crisis — and a call for collective action](#)
- [New Report Details ICE's Expanding and Increasingly Unaccountable Detention System](#)

Learn more about our Family Resource Collective Sites

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

- Age-appropriate ways to teach clean-up skills
- How to use encouragement and consistency to build positive habits
- Strategies that support calmer routines and stronger family cooperation

- [Mountain Community Resources](#)

This workshop is part of the **Triple P – Positive Parenting Program** and is offered in partnership with **First 5 Santa Cruz County**. It will be presented in English by **Lidia Montesino of Nueva Vista Community Resources**, creating a welcoming, respectful space for shared learning.

Workshop Details

Workshop: Teaching Children to Clean Up

Date: Wednesday, February 18

Location: Nueva Vista Community Resources; 711 E Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz

Language: English

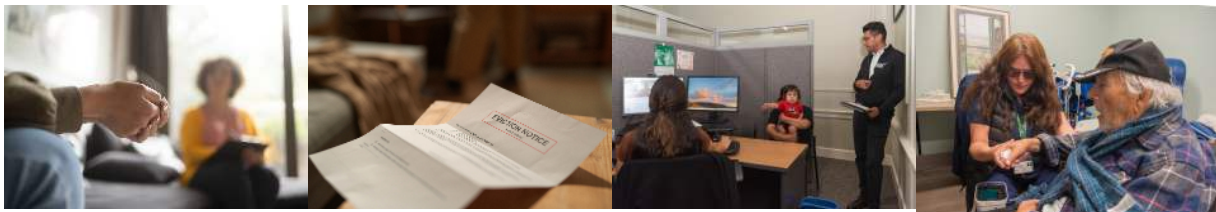
Cost: Free

Free child care provided. Light snacks will be available.

Registration is required to reserve your spot.

Learn more and register: first5scc.org/event-details/clean-up-feb18

See All Upcoming Triple P Classes!



Counseling

We offer free or low-cost 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 apply, [CLICK HERE](#).

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.



The Puentes Para Familias mutual aid fund helps families directly impacted by immigration enforcement.

Puentes Para Familias: Early Impact—and the Urgent Need to Do More

In just its first three months, *Puentes Para Familias* has demonstrated the power of a rapid, compassionate response when families face the sudden trauma of immigration detention. Launched with \$10,000 in local seed funding, the program was intentionally designed to move quickly because when a primary wage earner or caregiver is detained, families lose stability overnight.

So far, **six families across Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties** have received immediate emergency assistance of up to \$2,500. These funds helped families stay housed, cover food and utilities, secure childcare, and address urgent bond or court-related needs.

Rooted in Community Bridges' values of commitment, compassion, integrity, respect, support, and community, **100% of donated dollars were distributed directly to families**, with awards capped to ensure support reached multiple households. A streamlined, trust-based process allowed help to move with speed and dignity, prioritizing the most urgent cases.

The initial seed funding has now been fully distributed—affirming both the effectiveness of the program and the depth of ongoing need.

Without additional resources, *Puentes Para Familias* cannot currently respond.

To help ensure this lifeline remains available for families in crisis, visit give.communitybridges.org/puentes

With additional support, we can continue to act when families cannot afford to wait.

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](#)
- [Advocate III - Live Oak Community Resources](#)
- [Administrative Assistant - La Manzanita 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 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!



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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