



COMMUNITY BRIDGES
PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD



The Community Bridges WIC Program serves 5,500 local women, infants and children each month.

Steven Matzie to Lead Elderday's Next Chapter of Compassionate Care

Community Bridges is proud to welcome Steven Matzie as the new Program Director of Elderday Adult Day Health Care, a trusted community-based program that helps older adults and people with disabilities

remain healthy, connected, and supported while continuing to live at home.

Steven joins Elderday at a pivotal moment for aging and disability services across Santa Cruz County. By 2030, one in four county residents is projected to be over age 65, and local families are increasingly seeking compassionate, community-based care that supports independence, dignity, and respite for caregivers.

Steven brings more than 12 years of experience serving older adults, caregivers, and people with disabilities in Santa Cruz County. Most recently, he worked as a Social Work Care Manager with Health Projects Center's Multipurpose Senior Services Program, providing person-centered care planning, assessments, referrals, and ongoing support to help older adults remain independent and connected to local resources. His background also includes long-term care advocacy, caregiver support, inclusive senior programming, community outreach, and partnerships with agencies across the region.

"Elderday is rooted in the belief that every person deserves dignity, connection, and compassionate care at every stage of life," said Raymon Cancino, CEO of Community Bridges. "Steven brings the right combination of professional experience, community knowledge, advocacy, and heart to lead this essential program."

Steven succeeds longtime Program Director Lois Sones, whose leadership helped guide Elderday through a major facility transition and strengthened its role as a lifeline for older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers. Community Bridges extends deep gratitude for her decades of service and commitment.

Elderday provides adult day health care, nursing support, therapeutic activities, social connection, nutritious meals, transportation, care coordination, and caregiver respite for older adults and people with disabilities. The program makes it possible for many participants to remain safely at home while receiving skilled support, meaningful daily engagement, and the dignity of connection in a welcoming community setting. With the ability to serve more participants as demand for aging and disability services grows,

Elderday is positioned to play an even greater role in helping local families navigate care, reduce isolation, support caregivers, and keep loved ones connected to the community.

To learn more, schedule a tour, or make a referral, visit communitybridges.org/elderday or call 831-458-3481.



Our team of RNs, LVNs, Physical and Occupational Therapists, Registered Dieticians, and Social Workers monitor medical conditions, coordinate care with primary care physicians, and create personalized exercise programs.



At Elderday, we provide high-quality day services for adults with complex medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson's, traumatic brain injuries, stroke, MS, developmental disabilities, dementia, and more.

[Read the full press release](#)



Lisa Hindman Holbert has led the Early Education Division for the past 17 years.

Thank You, Lisa Hindman Holbert, for 17 Years of Leadership

For 17 years, Lisa Hindman Holbert has helped ensure that young children across Santa Cruz County have access to safe, nurturing, and high-quality early education.

As Director of Community Bridges' Early Education Division, Lisa has led with compassion, integrity, and a deep commitment to children, families, educators, and the broader community. Her leadership has strengthened classrooms, supported teachers, expanded opportunities for families, and helped create learning environments where children can grow, explore, and thrive.

Lisa will be leaving Community Bridges in July to join the Cabrillo College education team, where she will continue supporting education and opportunity in our community. We are deeply grateful for her dedicated service and the lasting impact she has made on our programs, staff, and families.

As we celebrate Lisa's legacy, we are also looking ahead to the future of our Early Education Division.

The position of Early Education Division Director is now open, and Community Bridges is seeking a thoughtful, experienced, and mission-driven leader to guide this important work.

This is a meaningful opportunity for someone who is passionate about affordable child care, early learning, family support, and expanding opportunities for children across Santa Cruz County. Our next leader

IN THE NEWS

Key headlines from Community Bridges' family of programs.

- [Last-minute county budget fixes save majority of Santa Cruz arts funding](#)
- [What you should know about the \\$351.7-billion state budget Newsom just signed](#)
- [Santa Cruz's population decline has widened. Low-wage jobs and high housing costs are reasons why.](#)
- [Civil grand jury: Santa Cruz County could prevent traffic-related injuries, save lives by adopting safety action plan](#)

OUR PROGRAMS

Each year, our family of 10 programs, across 20 different sites, meets the needs of over 20,000 local children, families and older adults.

Children & Nutrition

- [Child & Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#)
- [Early Education Division \(EED\)](#)
- [Women, Infants & Children \(WIC\)](#)

[Family Resource Collective \(FRC\)](#)

- [La Manzanita Community Resources \(Watsonville-Pajaro\)](#)
- [Live Oak Community Resources \(Live Oak\)](#)

will help continue the strong foundation Lisa has built while advancing our commitment to high-quality, accessible early education for local families.

Please join us in thanking Lisa for her 17 years of service and leadership.

Interested in leading this important work? Apply today!

[Click Here to Apply](#)

- [Mountain Community Resources \(Felton\)](#)
- [Nueva Vista Community Resources \(Santa Cruz\)](#)

Seniors & Transportation

- [Elderday Adult Day Health Care](#)
- [Lift Line](#)
- [Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County](#)



The 11th annual Farm to Fork Gala returned to the Seascapes Golf Club on June 27.

Thank You for Celebrating Community Bridges at Farm to Fork

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 11th Annual Farm to Fork Gala. We had a wonderful time celebrating all that is Community Bridges — our programs, partners, supporters, and the shared commitment that makes this work possible across the Central Coast.

This year's Farm to Fork was a beautiful reminder of what happens when community comes together with purpose. Guests gathered for an evening of local food, wine, music, auctions, and celebration in support of neighbors across our region.

We are thrilled to share that, thanks to the generosity of our guests, sponsors, donors, and auction participants, we reached our fundraising goal for this year's event.

Farm to Fork is especially meaningful because it raises support for all Community Bridges programs. Every ticket, sponsorship, donation, and auction bid helps sustain services for children, families, older adults, and people with disabilities across our region.

Your support helps provide meals, rides, early education, family support, health care, caregiver respite, nutrition resources, and connection for neighbors who depend on this work.

Honoring This Year's Bridge Builders

We were also honored to present this year's Bridge Builder Awards to Karen Delaney and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

These awards recognize individuals and organizations whose leadership, vision, and dedication help strengthen the fabric of our community and advance the mission of Community Bridges.

Karen Delaney has been a steadfast advocate for families and children, bringing compassion, insight, and tireless commitment to her work. Her leadership has helped expand access to critical services and ensure that more families have the support they need to thrive.

The **David and Lucile Packard Foundation** has been a transformative partner in our region, investing in programs and initiatives that promote equity, opportunity, and long-term community well-being. Their support has helped strengthen systems that serve children, families, and vulnerable populations across the Central Coast.

Together, their partnership, advocacy, and commitment have helped strengthen families, expand opportunity, protect housing stability, and build a more compassionate community.

With Deep Gratitude

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, guests, auction donors, culinary partners, volunteers, staff, board members, and community supporters who helped make the evening such a success.

Your generosity helps protect and strengthen the local safety net that thousands of our neighbors rely on each year.

There is still time to make a gift in support of Community Bridges. If you were unable to attend, would like to increase your impact, or want to help us build on the momentum of this year's successful event, we invite you to make a donation today.

Make a gift today and help strengthen Community Bridges for the year ahead.

As we look ahead, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for what comes next.

We look forward to gathering again next year for Community Bridges' 50th anniversary celebration, where we will honor five decades of service, partnership, and community impact — and look ahead to the future we are building together.



Miguel Salinas of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation was on-hand to accept the Bridge Builder Award.



Outgoing Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County Executive Director Karen Delaney was named a Bridge Builder.

CB In the Community



Free Immigration Consultations Available for Local Families

Community Bridges is proud to collaborate with Lizett Rodriguez Pena to offer free immigration consultations for families living in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley. This service helps community members ask questions, better understand their options and connect with trusted guidance in a supportive setting. You are not alone, and our community is stronger when we support one another. **To schedule a free consultation, call 831-724-2997, ext. 213.**



Support for Your Mental Health and Well-Being

Asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. We all need support from time to time, and reaching out can be the first step toward healing. If you are feeling stressed, anxious, overwhelmed, or unsure where to turn, Community Bridges counselors can provide compassionate support to individuals and families navigating difficult moments. To set up an appointment, call 831-476-7284 Ext. 103 or visit communitybridges.org/frc to learn more about our mental health services.



Positive Parenting Support Through Triple P

Community Bridges offers Triple P classes in partnership with First 5 Santa Cruz County, giving parents and caregivers practical tools to strengthen family relationships, encourage positive behavior, and manage everyday parenting challenges. Triple P supports families with children from birth through the teen years, including children with special needs. Classes are offered in English and Spanish, with additional support available by phone or Zoom. Learn more at first5scc.org/triple-p-classes.



The first five years of a child's life are critical to their health and success. Our six centers provide nurturing and affordable early education. Early Education Division is part of the Community Bridges family of programs.

New State Preschool Income Guidelines Help More Families Qualify

California has released updated income guidelines for the California State Preschool Program for fiscal year 2026–27, giving families clearer information about who may qualify for free or reduced-cost preschool and child care support.

Beginning July 1, 2026, California State Preschool Program contractors will use the revised State Median Income ceilings to determine initial and ongoing income eligibility for part-day and full-day preschool. The guidelines also include income levels up to 15 percent above the eligibility threshold, which may be used in determining eligibility and enrollment priorities.

Community Bridges' Early Education Division uses the 15% threshold for local enrollment. For quick reference, the maximum monthly income levels are:

- **Family size 1–2:** \$9,632
- **Family size 3:** \$10,897
- **Family size 4:** \$13,038
- **Family size 5:** \$15,124
- **Family size 6:** \$17,210

Additional information for families larger than six members is available on the California Department of Education website.

For many families, preschool and child care make it possible for parents and caregivers to work, attend school, seek employment and provide stability at home. Community Bridges encourages families to review the new income ceilings and reach out for help understanding whether they may qualify.

Enroll Your Child in EED Today!

Build a Career That Changes Lives

Community Bridges is hiring passionate, community-driven individuals who want to make a meaningful difference for children, families, older adults, and people with disabilities across the Central Coast.

Our programs deliver essential services, expand equitable access to resources, and advocate for health and dignity at every stage of life. Whether your strengths are in early education, finance, administration, communications, or direct community support, there is a place for you at Community Bridges.

We're currently seeking:

Program Director — Early Education Division

Community Bridges is seeking a thoughtful, experienced, and mission-driven leader to guide our Early Education Division.

This role helps oversee early education centers, support staff and site leadership, ensure program quality and compliance, and strengthen services for preschool children and families. The Program Director plays a key role in advancing affordable, high-quality early learning across Santa Cruz County.



This is a meaningful opportunity for someone who is passionate about early childhood education, family support, and helping young children build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Staff Accountant — Finance Department

Join the Community Bridges finance team and help support the systems that make our mission possible.

The Staff Accountant provides technical accounting support and helps ensure accurate financial operations across Community Bridges' network of programs. This position is ideal for someone who is detail-oriented, organized, and committed to fiscal integrity in service of community impact.

Behind every meal, ride, classroom, family resource visit, and health service is a strong administrative and financial foundation. This role helps keep that foundation strong.

Administrative Assistant — Marketing and Communications

Community Bridges is seeking an Administrative Assistant to support the Marketing and Communications Department.

This role helps coordinate the behind-the-scenes work that keeps community outreach, storytelling, campaigns, and public information moving forward. It is a strong fit for someone who is organized, responsive, detail-oriented, and interested in supporting mission-driven communications.

By helping our team share information clearly and consistently, this position supports the stories, services, and impact that connect Community Bridges with the people and communities we serve.

APPLY TODAY!



Ray's Corner

Elderday Is a Test of Our Regional Healthcare System

Every day at Elderday, we see what is possible when care works.

We see older adults getting the care they need to stay safely at home. We see veterans finding friendship after years of isolation. We see family caregivers able to keep working because someone they love is safe, supported, and connected.

But we also see a warning.

Elderday is an essential healthcare program. It is also under serious financial pressure. Elderday is not closing today, but the pressure is real, growing, and unsustainable unless more eligible participants are connected to care.

The painful contradiction is that the need is growing, but too many families are not connected to Elderday in time. Some do not know it exists. Others are not referred soon enough. Many are already overwhelmed by the time they begin looking for help.

Elderday is a test case for whether our region can coordinate care fast enough to protect essential services in a more difficult Medi-Cal environment. If we do not improve referral, approval, and connection systems, Elderday will not be the only provider at risk. It will be one of the first clear examples of what happens when the need exists, the service exists, but the pathway between them fails.

Elderday is a Community-Based Adult Services program, a licensed adult day health care model that helps medically vulnerable adults avoid unnecessary hospitalization, caregiver collapse, isolation, and premature institutional placement. It provides coordinated care through nurses, therapists, social workers, transportation, meals, facilities, compliance, and trained staff.

This is why Community Bridges took on Elderday and has fought to keep it open. Our mission is to deliver essential services, provide equitable access to resources, and advocate for health and dignity at every stage of life. Elderday advances that mission by helping older adults, veterans, people with disabilities, and family caregivers remain healthy, connected, and at home.

But mission does not pay for that level of care. Enrollment and reimbursement do.

To remain viable, Elderday needs a consistent pipeline of about 200 participants across Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties. That level sustains fixed costs for nurses, therapists, transportation, meals, facilities, and specialized staff. Each empty seat represents both an unmet community need and lost reimbursement that supports care for the more than 140 current participants who depend on Elderday.

This challenge is becoming more urgent in light of H.R. 1 and its impacts on Medi-Cal. New eligibility rules, reporting requirements, more frequent renewals, and administrative complexity could increase paperwork, disrupt coverage, and make it harder for vulnerable people to stay connected to Medi-Cal-funded care.

And Elderday's situation is not isolated. It is a microcosm of what will either work or fail across our region's healthcare system in this new environment.

If hospitals, health plans, physicians, discharge planners, social workers, the Veterans Administration, and community-based providers do not improve how we identify, refer, approve, and connect people to care, other Medi-Cal-serving providers will face the same pressure Elderday is facing now.

Because if Elderday closes, the need will not disappear.

Families will become caregivers overnight. Hospitals and emergency rooms will absorb needs that could have been addressed earlier. More seniors and adults with disabilities will be pushed toward institutional care at far greater human and financial cost. Caregivers will leave the workforce. Our region will lose a critical part of its healthcare infrastructure.

This is not only a healthcare issue. It is a community issue, a workforce issue, a family caregiving issue, and a test of whether we are willing to protect essential services before they disappear.

The solution is within reach, but it requires a coordinated regional response.

Hospitals and clinics must identify eligible patients earlier. Health plans must expedite approvals and reduce administrative barriers. Physicians, discharge planners, and social workers must make warm referrals before crisis hits. The VA and veteran-serving organizations must connect veterans to Elderday when daily care, structure, and community could improve their quality of life. Families must know Elderday exists before they face the difficult choice of placing a loved one in a skilled nursing facility outside their community.

Elderday is ready to serve. The infrastructure is here. The need is clear.

Now the systems around Elderday must align so older adults, veterans, people with disabilities, and family caregivers can continue to thrive at home, in community, with dignity.

If Elderday closes, we all lose.

The time to act is now.

With gratitude,

Ray Cancino
CEO, Community Bridges



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!



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



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.

BUY COMMUNITY

BRIDGES MERCH

DONATE: SUPPORT

OUR WORK

HELP YOUR

COMMUNITY



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