

Rooted in Community

2026 | **Annual Report**



LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

This community refuses to let people face hardship alone.

That belief has shaped Community Bridges for five decades. Today, it is reflected in every meal delivered to an older adult, every family connected to emergency support, every child welcomed into a safe learning environment, and every person treated with dignity when they need it most.



Over the past year, your generosity strengthened all 11 interconnected programs, helping thousands of people across Santa Cruz County access the essential services they needed to stay healthy, connected, and hopeful. Whether providing transportation to a medical appointment, early education for a young child, nutrition for an older adult, or support for a family in crisis, your partnership helped ensure our neighbors were not left to face challenges alone.

This work has never been more important.

The needs in our community are real and growing. Hunger, rising housing costs, and economic uncertainty are devastating every age group, while changes to federal policy are creating harrowing challenges for many of our neighbors. That is exactly when a strong community matters most.

This year was proof of what is possible when a community acts with purpose. We expanded essential services, responded quickly to families in crisis, celebrated 50 years of Meals on Wheels, and continued building partnerships that make our whole region stronger.

The accomplishments on these pages belong to all of us. They reflect the care of our staff, the commitment of our volunteers and partners, and the generosity of people like you.

You are the bridge that connects people to hope, support, and opportunity.

Thank you for helping ensure that no one in our community has to face hardship alone. Together, anything is possible.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ray Cancino'.

Ray Cancino
Chief Executive Officer
Community Bridges



Our mission is to deliver essential services, provide equitable access to resources, and advocate for health and dignity across every stage of life.

Leadership Team



**RAYMON "RAY"
CANCINO**
Chief Executive Officer



**DOUGLAS
UNDERHILL**
Chief Finance Officer



TYLER SMITH
*Human Resources
Director*



MICHELE MILLER
*Director of
Business Operations*



TONY NUÑEZ
*Marketing &
Communications
Director*



ERIKA RODRIGUEZ
*Senior Program
Manager
Child and Adult Care
Food Program*



DANA WAGNER
*Senior Program Director
Meals on Wheels for
Santa Cruz County
Women, Infants &
Children (WIC)*



MAYRA MELENDREZ
*Program Director
Family Resource
Collective*



STEVEN MATZIE
*Program Director
Elderday Adult Day
Healthcare*



JESUS BOJORQUEZ
*Program Director
Lift Line*



ELIZABETH CARRILLO
*Program Manager
Enhanced Care Management*

Board of Directors



SILVIA MORALES
Chair



STEPHANIE RUHL
Vice Chair



RYAN FRIEDRICH
Treasurer



SARA SIEGEL
Secretary



JACK JACOBSON



MARY MCMILLAN



ALOKE MUKHERJEE



HOLLY ALEXANDER
(Beginning 2026-27)



ANDREW GOLDENKRANZ
(Beginning 2026-27)

Our Family of Programs

Family Resource Collective:

Providing families stability, crisis support, and building a stronger future.

- La Manzana Community Resources, Watsonville
- Live Oak Community Resources, Santa Cruz
- Mountain Community Resources, Felton
- Nueva Vista Community Resources, Santa Cruz
- Pajaro Long-Term Recovery Center, North Monterey County

Senior and Transportation Programs:

Helping older adults and people with disabilities remain nourished, connected, and independent.

- Elderday Adult Day Health Care
- Lift Line
- Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County

Children and Nutrition Programs:

Supporting healthy development through early education, nutrition, and family-centered care.

- Child & Adult Care Food Program
- Early Education Division
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Enhanced Care Management:

Connecting Medi-Cal members with complex health and social needs to the care and resources they need to live healthier, more stable lives.

Come Give Us A Visit

Family Resource Collective

La Manzana Community Resources
Watsonville

521 Main Street, Suite Y | 831.724.2997

Live Oak Community Resources
Santa Cruz

1740 17th Avenue | 831.476.7284

Mountain Community Resources
Felton

6134 Highway 9 | 831.335.6600

Nueva Vista Community Resources
Santa Cruz

133 Leibbrandt Avenue

711 East Cliff Drive | 831.423.5747

Pajaro Long-Term Recovery Center
Pajaro

14 Porter Drive | 831.724.2997



SENIOR & TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Elderday Adult Day Health Care
Watsonville

501 Main Street | 831.458.3481

We empower elders to live with greater independence and dignity. Here, adults in our community profit from health care services, respite and companionship.

Lift Line
Watsonville

545 Ohlone Pkwy | 831.688.9663

Providing door-to-door rides to seniors & people with disabilities; allowing these Central Coast residents to maintain their independence.

Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County
Santa Cruz

1777 Capitola Road | 831.464.3180

Enhancing lives through healthy meals and friendly human contact. Nurturing elders at dining sites, or providing meals delivered to the home.

Highlands Park Senior Center Dining Site
Ben Lomond

8500 Highway 9 | 831.336.5366

London Nelson Community Center Dining Site
Santa Cruz

301 Center Street | 831.427.0901

Watsonville Senior Center Dining Site
Watsonville

114 E. Fifth Street | 831.724.2024

Early Education Division

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.

Watsonville

Fairgrounds Center

2667 E. Lake Avenue | 831.400.1150

Vista Verde Center

1936 Freedom Boulevard | 831.400.1130

Santa Cruz

Sycamore Street Center

121 Sycamore Street, Ste. 100 | 831.400.1120

Nuevo Dia Center

135 Leibrandt Avenue | 831.400.1140

San Lorenzo Valley

Redwood Mountain Center

7103A Highway 9, Felton | 831.400.1160

Highlands Park Center

8500 Highway 9, Ben Lomond | 831.400.1170



**CHILDREN &
NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

Child & Adult Care

Food Program

Watsonville

521 Main Street, Suite R | 831.688.8840

A nutrition assistance program that reimburses food for licensed caregivers, providing healthy meals to support both children and adults in our community.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC is a safe place for families to receive a sense of hope, comfort and security, allowing women, infants and children to thrive.

Watsonville

18 W. Lake Avenue, Suite A | 831.722.7121

Santa Cruz

1105 Water Street | 831.426.3911

Felton

6134 Highway 9 | 831.426.3911



Bringing Whole-Person Care to Those Facing the Greatest Barriers

Community Bridges expanded **Enhanced Care Management**, a no-cost Medi-Cal benefit that provides intensive care coordination for people experiencing homelessness, individuals with serious mental illness or substance use disorders, pregnant and postpartum mothers, and those transitioning between institutions. Bilingual, bicultural lead care managers connect people with health care, housing, food, transportation, public benefits, and other essential services. By creating stability and addressing needs before they become emergencies, the program helps people break cycles of crisis and avoid preventable emergency room visits—improving lives while easing pressure on hospitals and the broader health care system.



Standing with Families in Crisis

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the **Puentes Para Familias** Emergency Relief Fund raised more than \$50,000 to support immigrant families following the sudden detention of a primary wage earner or caregiver. Families can lose income and care overnight, placing children and dependents at immediate risk. With 100% of donations going directly to families, the fund provides up to \$2,500 for rent, groceries, childcare, utilities, transportation, and other urgent needs—keeping families across Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties housed, fed, and together.



Celebrating 50 Years of Meals, Connection, and Care

Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz

County marked its 50th anniversary and surpassed 10 million meals delivered since the program began. During 2025 alone, Meals on Wheels served 1,630 older adults and delivered 195,874 meals, providing not only nourishment, but also companionship, safety checks, and a dependable connection to the community. A recent survey found 97% satisfaction among participants, while congregate diners reported healthier eating (94%), better health (93%), and less isolation (90%); 83% relied on the meals as their main source of nutrition.

PEOPLE SERVED

20,451

Children
8,683

Teens
1,564

Adults
5,887

Seniors
3,938

**FAMILY
SUPPORT**

6,012
bags of food in
distributions

4,604
advocacy and
resource-support visits

1,494
counseling visits

924
hours of educational
programming

**CHILDREN &
YOUTH**

1,854,551
nutritious meals
reimbursed

25,076
days of early care
and education

77,641
WIC food benefit
packages

312
hours of youth activities

SENIORS

195,874

meals provided to
older adults

3,938

adults age 60 and
older served

1,739

adults age 75 and
older served

1,630

Meals on Wheels
participants served

SPECIALTY CARE

Transportation & Health Care

145,490

door-to-door rides
provided

16,340

days of adult day
health care provided

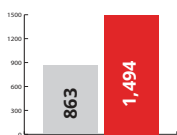
906

people served
through Lift Line

128

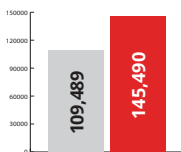
people served through
Elderday

CURRENT TRENDS



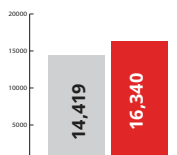
73% increase in counseling visits

From **863** to **1,494** visits



33% increase in door-to-door rides

From **109,489** to **145,490** rides



13% increase in days of adult day
health care. From **14,419** to **16,340**
care days

'You're a Good Mom'



In 2019, Teresa walked into the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) office carrying more than a newborn. She was carrying exhaustion, depression, and the fear that she was failing as a mother. Breastfeeding was painful, and the guilt she felt for wanting to stop only deepened her sense of isolation.

With nowhere else to turn, Teresa braced herself for the judgement when she

walked through the doors of WIC. Instead, she was welcomed with a hug and the staff listened without criticism. They offered practical breastfeeding support, connected her with resources, and said something Teresa has never forgotten.

"You're not alone. You're doing a great job and you're a good mom."

Those words changed everything.

For the first time since her daughter was born, Teresa took a deep breath and, in that moment, she experienced the profound relief of being truly supported.

"The support gave me stability and from there I was able to access the resources to start building a life for me and my baby."

A year later, she joined the WIC team, and today, seven years later, Teresa has become the kind of person she once needed herself. And guess what she says to other mothers who walk through that door? "You're not alone. You're doing a great job and you're a good mom".

That's a generational impact. That's the kind of full-circle transformation your leadership makes possible. Not only immediate relief, but lasting changes.



“The support gave me stability and from there I was able to access the resources to start building a life for me and my baby.”

OUR PARTNERS

\$1 MILLION AND ABOVE

County of Monterey
Federal Funds
California State Funds
Seniors Council of Santa Cruz and
San Benito Counties
Measure D - Santa Cruz County

\$500,000 - \$1 MILLION

County of Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission

\$100,000 - \$499,000

City of Santa Cruz
City of Capitola
First 5 Santa Cruz County
Community Foundation for
Monterey County
Community Foundation
Santa Cruz County
Packard Foundation
Sunlight Giving Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Monterey Peninsula Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Santa Cruz County Office of Education
Central California Alliance for Health
Federal Home Loan Bank of
San Francisco

\$10,000 - \$49,999

California Air Resources Board
UC Santa Cruz
Palo Alto Medical Foundation
Pacific, Gas & Electric

\$10,000 AND UNDER

City of Scotts Valley
City of Watsonville
United Way of Santa Cruz County
Dudley-Vehmeyer Brown Foundation
Parks California





Photo courtesy of The Pajaronian

PAJARO RISING

For Pajaro residents, recovery after the 2023 floods has meant rebuilding what was damaged while protecting what could not be replaced: the community's history, identity, and voice.

After one of the most devastating events in the community's history, Pajaro residents chose to tell their own story through art, creating a permanent public expression of who they are. Inspired by conversations with families rebuilding after the 2023 floods, the Pajaro Mural, *Life Transforms / La Vida se Transforma*, tells the story of a community rooted in hard work, strengthened by adversity, and united by hope.

Designed collaboratively by **Hijos del Sol**, **Community Bridges**, and **Pajaro residents**, the 160-foot mural honors the agricultural families who have shaped

Pajaro for generations while celebrating the resilience and hope that continue to define the community today.

Assembly Bill 102 funding, secured through advocacy by local and state leaders—including **Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas**, **State Senator John Laird**, and the **County of Monterey**—made the mural possible. Administered by the **Community Foundation for Monterey County**, the project brought public agencies, local organizations, artists, and residents together around a shared vision. The result is more than a mural: it is a lasting tribute to Pajaro's history, culture, and resilience.

Long after the floodwaters receded, this mural will continue telling the story of a community that refused to let hardship define its future.

Generosity has no minimum.

Give once, give monthly, volunteer your time, donate assets, or leave a legacy—there is a meaningful way to contribute at every level. Whatever fits your life and

your means, every gift helps our neighbors receive essential support, greater access to resources and the care and dignity they deserve at every stage of life. In their own words, the steadfast supporters featured here share why they give and what it means to strengthen the community we call home.

Mary S.

Monthly Giving Advocate

"The volunteers and staff are deeply committed to the social and emotional well-being of those they serve ... If we don't support programs like this, we're doing a disservice not only to those in need but to our community as a whole. It's imperative, especially now, to support Meals on Wheels."

Mary S. has been a steadfast champion of Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County (MOW) for more than 11 years.

Karen G.

Endowment Donor

"Cuts in federal programs have hit the most vulnerable in our County hard, and the Community Bridges team works to ease the suffering among us. Those who have extra, need to step up and give to those in need, and Community Bridges is the perfect vehicle to do that."

Karen G. established a Charitable Remainder Trust benefiting Community Bridges as a long-term commitment to the wellbeing of her home: Santa Cruz County.



Holly G.

Monthly Giving Advocate

"I donate to Meals on Wheels because it is near and dear to me. Food insecurity is such a great struggle in this country, and anything I can do to reduce the need locally and give to an amazing organization like Community Bridges warms my heart. Some folks in this county would not survive without this valuable resource."

Since 2016, Holly G. has been a monthly contributor to Meals on Wheels.



Russell K.

Monthly Giving Advocate

"It feels good when you help people. It's inspiring to see how much it means to the people you help. You can't fake that kind of genuine gratitude. It's not a feeling you can buy. You have to do it and experience how helping people feels - it's unlike anything. It can be emotionally moving—and sometimes heartbreaking—but profoundly worthwhile."

Since 2015, Russell has been a loyal donor, and in 2023 he deepened that commitment by becoming a volunteer—an experience he describes as both grounding and profoundly meaningful.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support and Revenue

REVENUE SOURCE	FY 2024-25
Government Grants	\$18,337,194
Foundation & Other	
Institutional Grants	\$1,216,739
Individual & Business Contributions..	\$1,186,267
Service Fees	\$3,465,919
Interest and Other	\$296,277
Total Support and Revenue	\$24,502,396

Expenses

PROGRAM OR FUNCTION	FY 2024-25
Child & Adult Care Food Program	\$4,447,234
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	\$2,556,927
Early Education Division	\$2,632,873
Meals on Wheels	\$1,942,369
Lift Line	\$3,040,101
Elderday	\$2,165,551
La Manzana Community Resources ..	\$2,730,632
Mountain Community Resources	\$668,918
Nueva Vista Community Resources	\$397,840
Live Oak Community Resources	\$547,817
Management, General & Other	\$3,103,518
Fund Development	\$674,783
Total Expenses	\$24,908,563

Change in Net Assets

ACTIVITY	FY 2024-25
Deficiency of Support and Revenue Over Expenses	(\$406,167)
Increase in Grant-Funded Assets	\$666,105
Depreciation of Grant-Funded Assets	(\$582,926)
Decrease in Net Assets	(\$322,988)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$13,142,384
Net Assets, End of Year	\$12,819,396

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

ASSET	JUNE 30, 2025
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,873,636
Investments	\$1,350,685
Grant Receivables	\$3,946,386
Other Receivables	\$1,164,950
Inventories	\$38,887
Prepaid Expenses	\$335,378
Deposits	\$68,550
Property and Equipment, Net	\$13,400,816
Total Assets	\$22,179,288

Liabilities and Net Assets

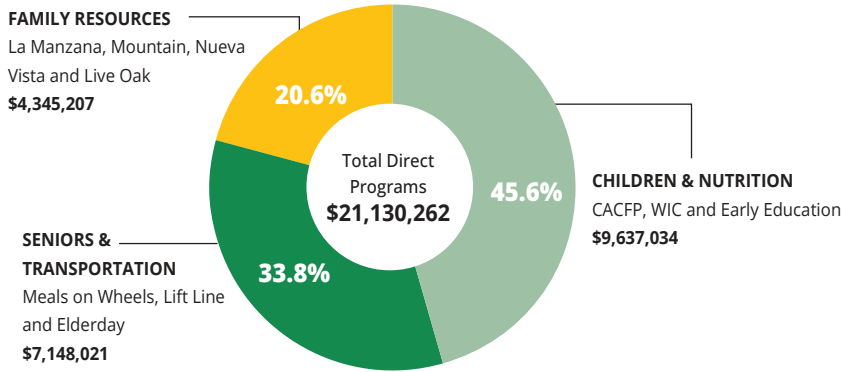
LIABILITY OR NET ASSET	JUNE 30, 2025
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	
.....	\$1,225,356
Salaries and Benefits Payable	\$1,383,198
Refundable Advances	\$1,392,999
Notes Payable	\$5,025,542
Transportation Reserve Fund	\$332,797
Total Liabilities	\$9,359,892
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	
.....	\$12,289,885
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$529,511
Total Net Assets	\$12,819,396
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$22,179,288

1. Includes \$3,953,224 distributed directly to day care home meal sites.

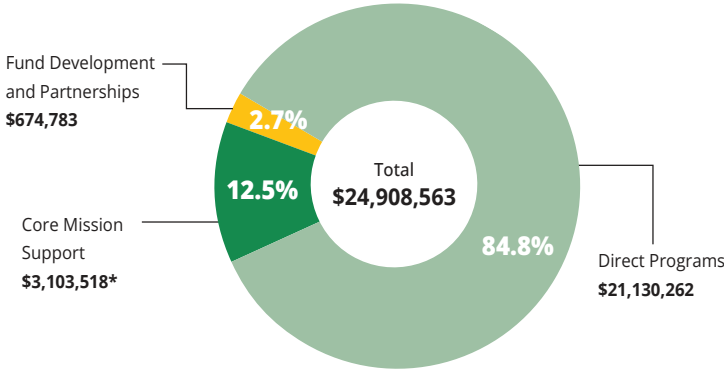
2. These audited statements do not include the value of WIC food benefits. In FY 2024-25, WIC distributed 77,641 food benefit packages with a total value of \$7,764,100.

Audit note: These numbers reflect our FY 2024-25 financial statements as audited by Kaku & Mersino, LLP. For the complete financial report, please call 831-688-8840 or visit communitybridges.org/financials.

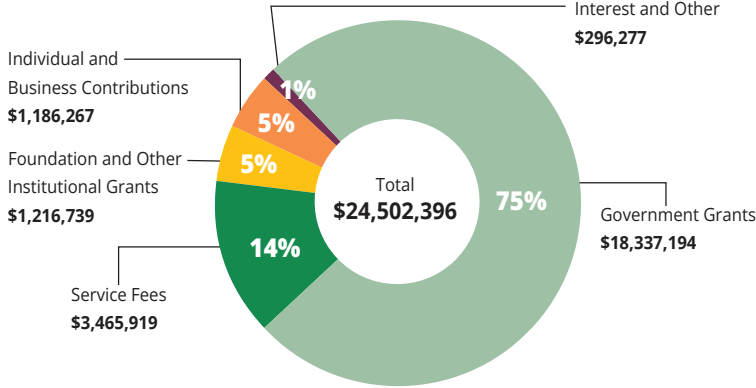
Direct Program Spending



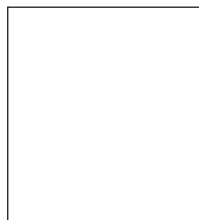
Operating Expenses



Operating Revenue



519 Main St, Watsonville CA 95076
831-688-8840
Info@cbridges.org | communitybridges.org



Thanks to you we can
provide these services to over
20,000 children, families and seniors.
This season, make an impact by
supporting our programs at
communitybridges.org/donate.