

PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CaIWORKS)

After losing her job due to an injury, Patty struggled to find work. Determined to regain stability for her family, she sought assistance from CaIWORKS and United Way Monterey County (UWMC).

CaIWORKS is a public benefit providing cash aid to eligible California families in need. As a condition of participation, recipients engage in education, subsidized employment, or volunteer service. UWMC, in partnership with the Department of Social Services, matches clients with community service positions to build job skills, references, and make connections.



PATTY VARGAS
Community Member

Patty currently volunteers at Dorothy's Kitchen, a full-service kitchen that cooks hot breakfasts and lunches twice a day for marginalized people and those living in poverty in Salinas. She not only honed her cooking skills but also gained a deeper sense of empathy for the people she met. She connected with individuals who shared their stories of resilience. Patty not only found purpose and community support, but she also began her journey back to self-sufficiency.



93 RECEIVED
FINANCIAL LITERACY
EDUCATION



127 CUSTOMER
REFERRALS



73 MATCHED WITH
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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Stuff the Bus

Cheryl Camany is the Homeless and Foster Youth Liaison of the Salinas City Elementary School District. She works directly with students and families facing homelessness. These students often live in shelters, cars, encampments, motels, or residences without basic amenities like water and electricity. Many families are doubled or tripled up with other households. Last year, the Monterey County Office of Education identified nearly 13,000 students eligible for this program.

Stuff the Bus is a countywide fundraising drive to provide new school supplies for students living in or near homeless conditions in Monterey County. By partnering with United Way Monterey County, Cheryl is able to support students' educational success and lessen the burdens that families face. With the help of **Stuff the Bus**, families feel relieved, and students feel a sense of pride in their new school supplies.



CHERYL CAMANY
Homeless and Foster Youth Liaison



6,200 BACKPACKS
WERE DISTRIBUTED

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Family, Friends, and Neighbors

Denise Jaime is the Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) Program Coordinator. She supports centers in Greenfield, King City, and Gonzales. FFN Early Childhood Educators support its community's culture, language, and values. These informal child care providers offer low-cost, high-quality early childhood education so children are academically, socially, and emotionally prepared to enter kindergarten.

Denise explains, "We give [the providers] a space to come and explore along with their own kids or with the kids that they take care of. The playgroups are an opportunity to really expand the kids' development as far as the sensory, social development, cognitive, and all of the development events by the opportunities that we give them of exploration."



119 FFN providers were supported with program grants



DENISE JAIME

Door to Hope
FFN Coordinator



78% of providers improved their knowledge, skills, and abilities to support children's social-emotional and self-regulation skills

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FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION

Maria Isabel Ramirez, a resident of Greenfield for nearly eight years, reflects on her experience attending the Financial Literacy Education Program's workshops. Initially drawn in by announcements of the parent academy, she quickly found the information invaluable. Maria Isabel believes these workshops are essential for empowering her community and helping families access opportunities that often feel out of reach.

She emphasizes the rising costs of living and the importance of education in achieving a fair and equal life. By equipping families with the knowledge to navigate financial challenges, the program plays a vital role in fostering growth and stability within Greenfield. Maria Isabel's hope is that these workshops continue, ensuring that her community has the tools needed to thrive.



MARIA ISABEL RAMIREZ
Community Member



628 participants attended
the financial literacy workshops



95% of workshop attendees
demonstrated improved knowledge and
financial literacy skills.