

Let's Make a Difference



BIG IDEA

To provide respite for individuals and families struggling with housing insecurity and homelessness while connecting them to resources to uplift themselves.

SCAN TO DONATE



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MONTEREY COUNTY **GIVES!**
Joining Together for Big Ideas

831-392-1500

P. O. Box 127, Seaside, CA 93955

www.villageprojectinc.org



As we envisioned the remarkable unity within our community, our confidence in your collaborative spirit is unwavering! In just 48 hours we have reached our goal \$30,000 milestone! We're feeling inspired to set our sights higher!

Here's the challenge to our incredible community: Can you rally together and help us surpass our initial goal, aiming for an impressive \$35,000 by midnight on December 31st?

We're calling on you not only to contribute but to become a beacon of change by sharing our donation link with your friends, family, and colleagues. Together, we can amplify our impact and reach new heights.

[Donation Link](#)

Every dollar matters, and your generosity, big or small, fuels our vision to provide shelter and essential mental health services. Click the link below to donate and then pass it on! Share the hope, share the change, and let's make this collective effort resonate far and wide.

Let's turn this collective effort into an even more extraordinary success story by joining forces and making a lasting impact together!

[Donate Today](#)

Unwrapping the Magic of Our Holiday Celebration



We had a fantastic time at our annual holiday party, and we owe a HUGE thank you to the amazing team at The Creperie for graciously hosting us for the second year in a row!

The atmosphere was filled with joy and laughter as we indulged and played a medley of games that brought out the competitive spirit in all of us.

Check out the photos below for a glimpse into the fun and games that made this evening so special. We hope these moments bring a smile to your face as you reminisce about the good times we shared.

We hope each and every one of you had a holiday filled with warmth, love and unforgettable memories. Wishing you all a Happy New Year ahead!

Thank you, Elkhorn Slough Foundation



We would like to thank the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for an incredible day of exploration in Moss Landing. The boat ride you hosted allowed us to marvel at the beauty of the area while gaining valuable insights into the unique ecosystem it sustains. We cherished the opportunity to share information about our organization amidst such a stunning backdrop, fostering a deeper connection with our mission.

Your hospitality and commitment to environmental education are truly commendable, and we're grateful for the enriching experience. Here's to more partnerships that inspire a shared passion for knowledge and conservation.

[Click here to learn more about Elkhorn Slough Foundation.](#)

Thank You, Lead Institute



Congratulations, to our remarkable Executive Director, Stacie Andrews, MSW, for successfully completing the 10-month Lead Institute program hosted by the Community Foundation for Monterey County!

This intensive program delved into values-based nonprofit management, offering training and coaching to fortify leadership skills and enhance the impact of organizations within our communities.

Stacie's commitment to growth and development is truly commendable. The celebratory finale at the Youth Arts Collective marked not only the program's conclusion but also the collective achievement of the 2023 Cohort. We are immensely proud of Stacie and the entire cohort for their dedication and passion in shaping a brighter future for our organizations and communities. Here's to the next chapter of impactful leadership!

Pages of Possibility



Thank you to our dedicated librarian, Karen, who has worked tirelessly to curate an outstanding reading list for the students at the Mae C. Johnson Education and Cultural Enrichment Academy! We believe in the power of literature to expand minds and vocabularies, and we're excited to provide our students with the opportunity to delve into new, enriching books.

To make this dream a reality, we've created a wish list on Amazon, and we're reaching out to our wonderful community for support. If you're passionate about fostering a love for

reading and education, we invite you to consider purchasing a book or two from our wish list.

Your contribution will make a meaningful impact on our students' learning journey. Please share the link with your friends, family, or anyone who shares our vision for empowering young minds through the magic of books. Let's build a community of readers together!

Wish List

Career Opportunities

Join our team! We currently have openings for an Operations Manager and Billing Specialist. Click the links to explore each opportunity.

- [Operations Manager](#)
- [Billing Specialists](#)

To apply, kindly forward your resume and cover letter to village@villageprojectinc.org

Happy New Year

Wishing everyone a joyous and prosperous New Year filled with moments of laughter, love, and endless possibilities! In celebration of a fresh start, please note that our doors will be **closed on New Year's Day, January 1st**, to allow our team a well-deserved break. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Here's to a year filled with positivity and success! Happy New Year!

Program Highlights

Mae C. Johnson Education and Cultural Enrichment Academy

We've had an absolute blast celebrating this festive spirit throughout this month!

- **Holiday Party** - Our students were treated to an unforgettable holiday celebration that would not have been reality without the incredible support from our donors and outstanding team at the After School Academy! Thank you to the generosity of our wonderful donors, our students received fantastic presents. In addition to the joyous gift-giving, we engaged in spirited games and shared festive carols with the Seaside Fire Department. We're immensely grateful for the collaborative efforts that made our holiday party a resounding success!
- **We would like to thank the following donors** - Thank you to Seaside Boys & Girls Club, Seaside Fire and Police Department, Del Rey Oaks Police Department, Shoreline Community Church, Seaside Children's Center, Mayor Ian & Rita Oglesby, The Salvation Army, Home Depot in Sand City and Watsonville, Seaside Paris Bakery, Devon Vermetti, June Davis, and Vonneva Black!
- **Secret Santa** - A heartfelt thank you to the Whites for Racial Equity for their thoughtful and generous contribution of Secret Santa gift cards to our clients. Their support has brought warmth and joy to this holiday season, ensuring that our clients experience the spirit of giving and care. This gesture not only provides tangible assistance but also reflects a commitment to fostering inclusivity and unity within our community. We are immensely grateful for their kindness, as it has undoubtedly made a positive impact on the lives of those we serve!
- **Art Collective** - We'd like to acknowledge the incredible artistic contributions of our Artist in Residence, Adam Gota, along with the talented students from the after school academy. Together, they crafted a masterpiece in celebration of Kwanzaa. Additionally, their collective efforts extended to establishing an art collective, fostering creativity and unity on the inspiring day of Kuumba.

Emanyatta

Dr. Grace Carroll guided our annual Kwanzaa teaching at Emanyatta, where she led a session filled with knowledge, cultural richness, and shared traditions.

Her expertise and dedication shone through as she facilitated a meaningful exploration of the seven principles of Kwanzaa, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation among participants.

Dr. Carroll's commitment to cultural education and community engagement has truly made a lasting impact in Emanyatta.

Counseling and Therapy

We are committed to fostering the well-being of our community through a diverse array of therapeutic services, all provided at **no cost** to residents in Monterey County.

Let us guide you on your therapeutic journey, offering a spectrum of services that include:

- Equine Therapy
- Play Therapy
- Art Therapy
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Support Group Sessions

Your well-being is our priority, and we're here to support you every step of the way.

For further information on any of our therapy services or to schedule an appointment, please contact us at our office (831) 392-1500.

Outreach and Engagement

A huge congratulations are in order for Aaliyah, our exceptional Outreach and Engagement Assistant, on reaching the milestone of completing her capstone at CSUMB and successfully wrapping up her senior year!

Aaliyah's dedication, hard work, and passion have not only contributed to her personal achievements but have also enriched our team and community. We couldn't be prouder of her accomplishments and the bright future that lies ahead.



Art Program

Celebrating synergy of creativity and community, our students in our art program showcased their talent at The Creperie during its 1-year anniversary.

The venue came alive with the vibrant expressions of our budding artists, and our Artist in Residence, Adam Gota, shared his immense pride in their courage to showcase their artwork for the community.

It's a testament to the creative spirit flourishing within each student, and we couldn't be more thrilled to witness their artistic journeys unfold.

Community Health Workers

As we bid a bittersweet farewell to Evelyn, Community Health Worker Coordinator, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the invaluable contributions she has made to our team and community over the past two years.

While we will miss her dearly, we wholeheartedly wish Evelyn the best of luck on her next journey.



Volunteer Program

We had such a fun experience at the Gift Wrap Shop at the Del Monte Shopping Center!

A huge thank you goes out to our fantastic volunteers whose enthusiasm and dedication made the event truly special. Wrapping gifts and spreading holiday cheer was not only a festive affair but also a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community.

The spirit of the holidays was alive and well, and we're already buzzing with excitement for next year! If you're eager to volunteer with us for future events, [click here](#) to sign up.

Resources

Mental Health is Health!

Mental Health is Health! It's okay to not be okay at times, but when the bad days outnumber the good ones, it may be a sign that something is going on. If you are concerned about your mental health – reach out for support. Reaching out for support is one of the kindest things you can do - for you! Find free Monterey County Mental Health Resources, Services, Events, and more at Wellness4US.org.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline) and is active across the United States. When people call, text, or chat at 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems affect them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary. For more info, visit 988lifeline.org.

Covid-19 Resources

Stay up to date with news on COVID-19 vaccines! We are committed to providing our community with timely and accurate information so that everyone can make informed decisions.

Pain isn't always obvious, but most suicidal people show some signs that they are thinking about suicide. The signs may appear in conversations, through their actions, or in social media posts. If you observe one or more warning signs, especially if the behavior is new, has increased, or seems related to a painful event, loss, or change, step in or speak up. For more info, visit suicideispreventable.com.

The Trevor Project

You deserve a welcoming, loving world.

And so do the people you care about. Here you can reach out to a counselor if you're struggling, find answers and information, and get the tools you need to help someone else. For more info, visit thetrevorproject.org

Take Action for Mental Health

Take Action for Mental Health is the campaign for California's ongoing mental health movement. It builds upon established approaches and provides resources to support Californian's mental health needs. Californians have been through an unprecedented time with profound mental health impacts: a global pandemic, an economic recession, social and political unrest, racial inequity and violence, and multiple disasters. The trauma, grief, and loss of millions of Californians are real. It's no wonder many people are struggling or not quite feeling themselves. For more info, visit takeaction4mh.com.

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Questions? Contact us today 831-392-1500