

MEDIA ADVISORY



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Elizabeth Schilling, Program Director
Community Bridges
Live Oak Family Resource Center
Office: 476-7284
Cell: 239-6012
Email: elizabeths@cbridges.org

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S.H. Cowell Foundation Supports Live Oak Youth Programming

04/20/2011 Santa Cruz, CA— The S.H. Cowell Foundation has awarded a grant of \$90,000 to Community Bridges Live Oak Family Resource Center to support the center's Live Oak Transformation Plan for Youth. The Plan is a 12-month pilot program created to serve Live Oak area youth age 6 to 20 and their families through a variety of programs aimed at promoting leadership, decision-making, life skills development, and pro-social interactions.

With the Cowell Foundation's support, the Live Oak Transformation Plan for Youth will involve multiple organizations to engage youths with the help of adult volunteers. The Santa Cruz County Juvenile Probation Department will provide a 10-week summer gang-prevention program using evidence-based Aggression Replacement Training curriculum. ETR Associates' Center for Youth Success will bring an instructor to implement their *Tech Teach/Tech Learn* program, a 2-week technology course which will train youth to teach younger students how to build websites. The Sheriff's Activities League will continue and expand the Mid-County/Live Oak Youth Futsal League. The Sheriff's Activities League will also bring the San Francisco Giants Community Fund's Junior Giants program to Live Oak youth baseball fans. The Psychology Department at UCSC is expanding its work in Live Oak with an oral history project which will culminate in a mural at Live Oak Elementary School planned for 2012. The Live Oak Family Resource Center will provide Positive Discipline classes for parents of teenagers with a focus on gang prevention. Coordinated by LOFRC and the Volunteer Center's *YouthServe* program, new volunteer opportunities will also be developed to serve the Live Oak community, such as neighborhood cleanup and community gardening projects at the Live Oak Grange Hall.

The S.H. Cowell Foundation has been a strong supporter of community-building in Live Oak. In 2004, the Foundation funded the development of a report entitled, "Live Oak: A Community Snapshot", highlighting the unique needs of the Live Oak community. In 2009, the Foundation provided a \$150,000 matching grant toward the maintenance costs associated with a new facility developed by the Santa Cruz County Redevelopment Agency to house the Volunteers Center of Santa Cruz County and Live Oak Family Resource Center. The Cowell Foundation has also supplied funds for previous youth work and general operating expenses of the Live Oak Family Resource Center.

Volunteers interested in assisting with the Live Oak Transformation Plan for Youth can contact Elizabeth Schilling at (831) 476-7284 ext. 105 or visit www.communitybridges.org/liveoak.htm.

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