

ENDING THE YEAR TOGETHER

THE POWER OF CONNECTIONS

Bridge Communities has always been about the power of connections, the blessing of coming together across barriers. That's why we're bridge communities – friendships that bring together divided people. More than a transfer of resources from the wealthy to people in need, this bridge community is what we're trying to build.

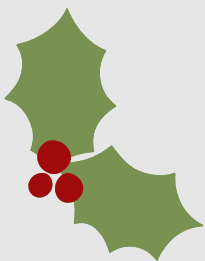
“I'm reminded of our goal as I read about Bishop Zac Niringiye of the Anglican Church in Uganda. ([Plough, November 14, 2022](#)) When asked about the seemingly obvious need to help poor people, he responded, “Help poor people? Who is the one who needs help here? It's you. Poverty is not the problem. Greed is the problem. People don't need projects. They need you. A human, choosing their side, taking their place. If you're not willing to do that, you're not credible. Jesus came among us. He is God with us! Not a remote God transferring money to us.”



That's why we're bridge communities – friendships that bring together divided people.

People don't need projects. They need you. That sums up nicely the calling to which we are trying to respond with our neighbors. It's hard though. Projects and “transferring money” are easier than building friendships across social divisions. Thankfully, our faith is not in ourselves, or our own resources, but in God. As Bishop Niringiye says, “The Holy Spirit always pushes us out of the center, toward the margins and the people who are less privileged. In that way people come together. All you need to be able to do is let yourself be touched. Then you will find real joy, joy from God!” ”

Executive Director, Andy Singleterry



BEHIND THE SCENES CHANGES

Beginning in 2024, San Jose Bridge Communities will transition from being an independent non-profit organization to being a local program of Servant Partners. To our neighbors and participants, this shouldn't be a noticeable change at all. The major difference will come in our funding: donations to support Bridge Communities will now go to Servant Partners, and our accounting and budgeting will go through their systems. Our donor webpage will be updated to send givers to Servant Partners, and we'll close our bank account. But our services in the neighborhood won't change.

As you may know, in a sense Bridge Communities has always been a program of Servant Partners. Andy and Annabel, our primary leaders, are Servant Partners staff. We're making this change now to free them up from extra administrative work which will now be handled by the Servant Partners office. Hopefully this will allow Bridge Communities to flourish further in developing communities of leaders!

HELP US WITH A SPECIAL NEED

We are raising **\$300,000** to help us hire our community leaders. They have been trained and we would like to offer them part-time jobs that will allow them to generate an income for their homes and practice their learned skills. Will you help us?

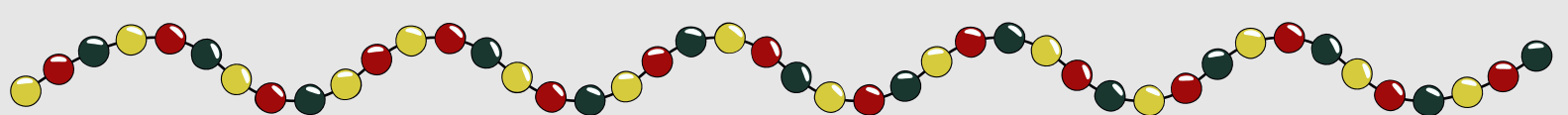
The positions this amount will help us cover include:

- Life Skills Trainers
- Parenting Trainers
- San Jose Bridge Communities Coordinator
- Office Coordinator
- Youth Coordinators

Thank you for helping us make this a reality for our community!

[DONATE](#)

*New donation process via Servant Partners
Fund: Select "Staff Member, Intern, or Project (write name below): San Jose Bridge Communities"





MEET OUR THERAPIST

We started 2023 recognizing that the community was struggling with their mental health due to the impacts of COVID on health and finances. The State of California opened up Mental Health services for the older adults and children regardless of their legal status, but adults between the ages of 18 through 50 were not included in the plan for 2023. Through a generous donation from Silicon Valley Community Foundation, we were able to meet this need in our community and expand our reach to other neighborhoods in Santa Clara County and San Mateo County. **Vanessa Raudales Friedrich** came on board to serve as our bilingual therapist. Vanessa comes with many years of experience as a mental health therapist serving Santa Clara County families. In addition to offering mental health therapy to our neighbors, Vanessa facilitated self-care workshops to educate the community on techniques to rest and destress. As 2023 comes to a close, we will continue to serve the community in health education and self care strategies in efforts of promoting mental health care and family health wellness.



This coming year will be a new beginning for our community and organization. Please keep us in prayer for a smooth transition and for joyful hearts of what's to come in the new year .

SEASON OF GENEROSITY

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we take a moment to pause and look back at all that has been accomplished and the needs that still remain. We have been blessed this year by partners who have stepped up to meet the needs of our community when we found ourselves in an emergency. Thank you for helping us with your generosity so that we could continue providing food to our neighbors. Also, thanks to a generous donation from Silicon Valley Community Foundation we were able to offer mental health services to many adults in our community who are often left without these important services. In addition, we were able to train our program participants in a leadership curriculum and other evidenced based programs which motivated them to get involved and take ownership of the programs of which they were once participants. Our hope is that our community members continue to develop their leadership skills and reach out to their neighbors as well.

“ *You can make a difference in families, women and children..* **”**

We would like to extend the invitation to continue to support us and to get involved. You can make a difference in families, women and children of East San Jose. You can give a one-time donation or become a monthly donor. Your generous contribution will help us continue to offer programs that develop skills for our community. Hurry and make your end of the year donation so that it counts towards your 2023 giving! All contributions are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to:

Servant Partners

(memo note: San Jose Bridge Communities - (and name the program or general fund)

P.O. Box 3144 Pomona, CA 91769 or you can give online

[DONATE](#)

Upon completing the information, please select “project” and type San Jose Bridge Communities (and name the program or general fund).

Thank you for your support!

