United Way of Santa Cruz County Programs

We ignite our community to give, advocate and volunteer so that our youth succeed in school and life, our residents are healthy, and our families are financially independent.

Learn about United Way’s Programs & Events and how they are connected to our goals of:

YOUTH SUCCESS  HEALTH & WELLNESS  FINANCIAL STABILITY  COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

www.unitedwaysc.org
Jovenes Sanos is a Watsonville-based youth leadership group working to elevate youth voices to shift the stigma around mental wellness and increase youth access to mental health resources. JS seeks to cultivate peer-to-peer connections and promote hope, healing and resiliency to create a culture of health and thriving.

1 in 5 young people reports that the pandemic had a significant negative impact on their mental health.

Stuff the Bus is an annual event in partnership with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education that provides back-to-school supplies to students who are experiencing homelessness or other hardships. This is a family-friendly experience that offers a great opportunity for community members to volunteer.

2,100 Backpacks were donated to youth experiencing homelessness & other hardships.

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Youth Action Network is a countywide youth initiative that works to create a community where youth and adults promote youth well-being by connecting young people to resources and opportunities to create positive community change and elevate youth voices in decision-making.

57.3% of youth in Santa Cruz County believe their participation made a difference in their school or community.

-YAN 2021 Countywide Survey

United 4 Youth is a community empowerment model - assembling teams of nonprofits to co-design innovative, collaborative programs that lead to positive and sustainable outcomes for our youth. Our two cohort grantees are Cradle to Career in Live Oak and Community Action Board’s Luna y Sol Center in Watsonville.

345 youth were supported by United 4 Youth in 2021

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The Santa Cruz County Shared Safety Workgroup is a collaborative that works to better meet the needs of survivors and victims of crime. The Workgroup includes representation from justice, government, community members, service providers, and survivors of crime. Shared Safety involves centering on survivors, viewing safety as wellbeing, and emphasizing a public health approach, which works to break the cycle of harm and make the system work.

Crime survivors who receive help are less likely to experience crime again.

-SCC Blueprint for Shared Safety

2-1-1 is a FREE service that connects community members to information about critical health and human services available in their community. 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 2-1-1 also provides incident-specific information during times of disaster, including road closures and shelters.

Nearly 9,000 individuals helped in 2021