2024 December Newsletter

BRIGHT FUTURES NEWS



EXPANDING HORIZONS WITH MI VIDA MI FUTURO

Bright Futures is thrilled to announce the expansion of the Mi Vida Mi Futuro program in collaboration with Building Healthy Communities. This enhancement of our college readiness modules, incorporating dual enrollment opportunities and CalKIDS, broadens the scope of our educational outreach.

Mi Vida Mi Futuro, led by a dedicated team of Promotoras, has been instrumental in educating families about navigating the educational landscape. Through home visits and community presentations, often held in locations like local churches, school sites, and community centers. They deliver crucial information at times convenient for families. These sessions cover topics from the A-G requirements and financial literacy to the importance of early college preparation.

Alma Cervantes, Regional **Education Equity and Justice Director at Building Healthy Communities in Monterey** County, emphasized the program's impact. "Our Promotoras are community members and parents who are experts at connecting with the community and are trusted messengers with a wealth of knowledge," she said. "Their valuable work will strengthen family and community engagement in education and eliminate barriers to equitable

education for all." The success of Mi Vida Mi Futuro over the past three years is a testament to its necessity and effectiveness. By reaching families who might otherwise lack access to such resources, including presentations in English, Spanish, Triqui, and Mixteco, we are making significant strides in improving socioeconomic outcomes in our community.



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STEERING PARTNER FEATURE STORY



Dr. Romero Jalomo Vice President of Student Affairs Hartnell College

It has been a pleasure and honor working with our Steering Partners and Bright Futures staff over the past 10 ten years. My interest in joining the group has centered around college readiness and post-secondary success for our students. I've understood that obtaining the outcomes we desire would require a collective impact approach where everyone has a role and responsibility to fulfill. The seven goal areas we identified and developed are essential to our main objective: providing a brighter future for our children. The recruitment of county leaders from

the non-profit sector, education, government and industry have helped us draw attention to pain points within each goal area. Our Steering Partners are united and committed to identifying and supporting solutions that can remove obstacles and support cradle to career initiatives. As a Steering Partner, I appreciate the support we've received from our Core Conveners and thank the Bright Futures staff who have provided leadership and support for our partnership.

MC GIVES! MAKE AN IMPACT WITH END OF YEAR GIVING!

Monterey County Gives continues and Giving Tuesday is December 3rd! Bright Futures is incredibly grateful to all donors who have supported the mission through MC Gives. Thanks to your generosity, Bright Futures has raised \$12,650! As Giving Tuesday approaches, the goal is to reach \$50,000, ensuring that the impact on the community grows even stronger.

Please visit www.mcgives.com/bright

and make a difference today. Every dollar counts in supporting integral educational programs like CalKIDS, which has allocated \$36 million for Monterey County's children to start their college savings accounts, plus initiatives that enhance economic mobility and educational outcomes locally. Consider making your yearend gift as the nonprofit campaign runs until December 31, 2024. Together, let's make a lasting difference this giving season.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS AT SAN LUCAS ELEMENTARY

On November 8, the Bright Futures team had the privilege of attending the student award ceremony at San Lucas Elementary School. It was an important moment when the accomplishments of the students were recognized. There were 49 out of approximately 70 students qualifying for a CalKIDS account. This marked a significant milestone in the efforts to support educational opportunities in South County. This event also highlighted the importance of community support in driving Bright Future's mission forward. The gratitude on the faces of families was evident as they saw the tangible benefits of the CalKIDS funds.



especially in a community like South County where it's needed most. "Through Monterey County Gives!, we can expand our reach and continue to make a significant impact on our community," said Tony Amezcua, director of Bright Futures. "Every donation helps us bring essential resources like CalKIDS to more students, boosting their potential for academic and career success."





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