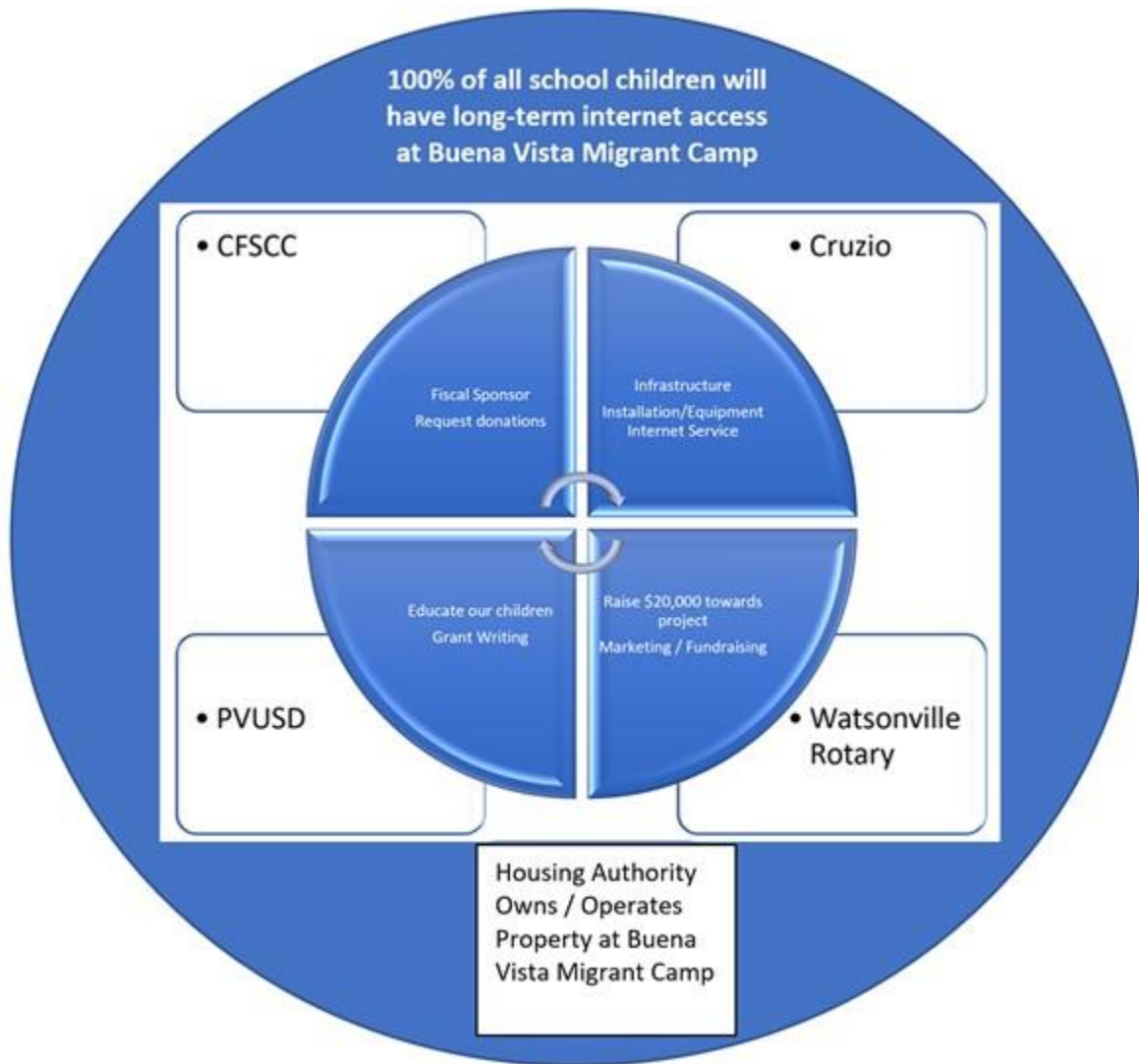


Kids Get Connected

Supplemental Information



- Watsonville Rotary is committed to raise \$20,000 towards the total project cost, in collaboration with all Rotary Clubs in Santa Cruz County.
- CFSCC (Community Foundation Santa Cruz County) is the fiscal sponsor and will track and distribute donated funds. CFSCC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (tax ID# 94-2808039).
- PVUSD (Pajaro Valley Unified School District) will teach our all children through distance learning.
- Housing Authority, as the property owner and operator, will allow the infrastructure and services to be installed and maintained.
- Cruzio is the internet service provider, and will install all infrastructure and equipment.

Who are the collaborators making this project come to fruition?

OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE THE PRIMARY COLLABORATORS, with the following partners



The Watsonville Rotary Club is committed to raise \$20,000 towards the total project cost, in collaboration with all Rotary Clubs in Santa Cruz County.

Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned? Will it build Goodwill & Better Friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



You can deal with a Rotarian with confidence. Our motto, "Service Above Self" drives us to make our communities and the world a better place. The International President each year develops a theme for their year. Holger Knaack, our current International President, uses "Rotary Opens Opportunities."

Our distinct point of view and approach gives us unique advantages. Our multidisciplinary perspective helps us see challenges in unique ways. We apply leadership and expertise to social issues and find unique solutions. Our passion and perseverance create lasting change. We make a difference at home and around the world. www.watsonvillerotary.com

CFSCC is the fiscal sponsor for "Kids Get Connected", through Equal Access Santa Cruz County.

HERE FOR GOOD

Our Purpose

Our vision is to make Santa Cruz County thrive for all who call it home, now and in the future. Our mission is to bring together people, ideas, and resources to inspire philanthropy and accomplish great things.



Our values drive our actions:

Solutions: We support effective programs that address community issues and enrich the lives of Santa Cruz County residents.

Trust: We earn trust through integrity, accountability, discretion, transparency, prudence, and extraordinary service.

Opportunity: We leverage our resources toward a future that is just, equitable, and inclusive of our diverse community.

Get to know us and how we can help you invest in what you love. www.cfsc.org

PVUSD has 150 school children who need the Wi-Fi internet access in their homes at the Buena Vista Migrant Camp. PVUSD is providing instruction through a distance learning format on PVUSD Chromebooks and hotspots in an effort to close the Digital Divide.



Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) covers a 150-square-mile, predominantly rural and agricultural area, in both Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.

PVUSD serves over 20,106 students from Watsonville, Aptos, Freedom, Aromas and Pajaro.

The District has 16 elementary schools, six middle schools, three high schools, as well as alternative schools, childcare centers and charter schools. The majority (66%) of PVUSD students are or were at one time English learners, 81% are low-income qualifying for free or reduced price meals, 10% are migrant, and 14% receive special education services. In addition, the District serves 59 foster youth and 16% of students meet criteria for homelessness due to multiple families living under one roof (all pre-COVID-19 numbers). Data examination and stakeholder feedback inform PVUSD priorities which include efforts that value innovation, increase rigor, and inspire joy as students are prepared to be college and career ready upon graduation. Student assets in this community include linguistic capital that allows them to communicate, form relationships and aspirational capital to overcome adversities. Pajaro Valley Unified has developed transformational learning and student support models to address unique learning needs through the whole child lens and that build off the many strengths of every student.

<https://www.pvUSD.net/>

Cruzio is the internet service provider, who will provide and install all infrastructure, equipment and service.



Cruzio Internet and Equal Access Santa Cruz County



Equal Access Santa Cruz County has a simple goal: to bridge the digital divide and bring true high-speed broadband to every family in the Santa Cruz community, regardless of income level. The project is spearheaded by Cruzio Internet, one of the country's oldest independent ISPs and a trusted partner in the Santa Cruz community for over 30 years.

When the current health crisis hit our county, our education system was an immediate area of major concern. It was obvious that the need for high-quality broadband had never been higher, and that low-income families would be the hardest hit.

Working with the County Office of Education (COE) and the Pajaro Valley School District (PVUSD) Cruzio quickly developed a plan to expand coverage and provide free and subsidized high-speed internet to dozens of low-income families and students. The program provides families with free internet service including state-of-the-art home wifi for three months and then a heavily-discounted rate thereafter.

“Our priority is to support all students and families with the resources and tools needed for distance learning—especially our most under-served students”, said Jason Borgen, Chief Technology Officer for COE. “Focusing on equity, and doing everything we can to remove the digital divide from Santa Cruz County, the COE and Cruzio, working together, can truly make a difference here,” he continued.

Demand for the service was overwhelming and clearly there was an opportunity to expand the program and serve many more families. Working closely with COE and PVUSD, Cruzio developed a plan to utilize district-owned properties to distribute wireless internet to many, many more families, students, and teachers. Faced with an urgent situation, Cruzio has relied on our own resources and our excellent connections within our industry. A quick call to one of Cruzio’s trusted technology partners, Aviat Networks, led to a donation of several high-end backhaul radios for use in the project. “We’re grateful for the opportunity to help Cruzio and Santa Cruz broaden the ability to communicate, learn, and continue to advance in life, even in these difficult times”, said Pete Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Aviat Networks.

While we didn’t at first consider outside donations as a possibility, once it was suggested we realized that not just Cruzio management and staff, but also other members of the Santa Cruz County community and the greater technology community recognize the importance of educational opportunity — and equity — for low income families in our county. This knowledge has inspired us to expand the Equal Access Santa Cruz program and seek out new projects and opportunities that serve these goals.

The Digital Divide is newly revealed and it is creating unequal educational opportunity. As children are barred from libraries, community centers, and even friends’ houses, they need internet in their own homes. EASC has already provided that service to over 50 families and we are poised to serve hundreds more. And we need to act fast to connect as many people as possible as the fall semester begins.

“Our mission has always been the same,” said Chris Frost, Director of Infrastructure & Technology at Cruzio, “to offer affordable, high-quality Internet access to every home, business, and family in Santa Cruz County. Thanks to the support and vision of the community, we’re a step closer to that goal today.”



Cruzio’s headquarters in downtown Santa Cruz
www.cruzio.com

Equal Access Santa Cruz County is powered by Cruzio Internet. Founded in 1989, Cruzio is one of the largest independent internet service providers in California. We provide cutting-edge technology services for more than 9,000 households and businesses in Santa Cruz County.

100% locally owned and staffed, Cruzio has on-site technical support, local roving IT, and a welcoming storefront in downtown Santa Cruz where members can drop by anytime to pay a bill or get advice from our technical staff. Cruzio is known for its friendly, hands-on customer service that caters to its diverse client population, from residents and local nonprofits to small and large businesses throughout Santa Cruz County.

The Housing Authority owns and operates the Buena Vista Migrant Camp



For nearly 40 years, the Housing Authority has operated the 103-unit migrant farmworker housing development known as Buena Vista Migrant Center, just outside of Watsonville. Historically, the migrant farmworker housing program has provided seasonal housing to migrant farmworker families between May and November. Over the years, however, changes in climate and farming practices have led to a longer growing season and more families have come forward asking to remain year-round in the community to avoid disruptions in their children's education. In the past year, the Housing Authority has supported and implemented new changes in state law, allowing us to house these families longer, from April through December. The Housing Authority Board of Commissioners also joined local government and community advocates to support changes to the "50-mile rule" which required that all migrant families move more than 50 miles away upon the Center's seasonal closure. Due to this advocacy, recent legislation now allows up to half of migrant families with school age children to stay together in the local community and keep their kids enrolled in school.

"For the last 50 years, the Housing Authority's programs and services have provided critical lifelines to those in our community lacking safe, affordable, and dignified housing. One of these lifelines has been the Buena Vista Migrant Center, where the agricultural workers who plant, pick, and process the fruits and vegetables so vital to our economy have a place for themselves and their families to live and belong. The Housing Authority's recent advocacy helped to result in extending the housing program for a longer duration each year, as well as allowing exemptions to the 50-mile rule so that school age children can finish their school year without interruption." - Mark Stone, State Assembly member

Reference: page 6 & 7 of the Housing Authority Annual Report

<https://www.hacosantacruz.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Housing-Authority-Annual.pdf>

<https://www.hacosantacruz.org/>

