



VILLAGE COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTER

Village Community Resource Center



@vcrbrentwoodca

FALL VOL 1 NEWSLETTER



FIGHTING CANCER: THE LAZAREX TEAM

On October 4th, a dedicated team of *promotoras* (community health promoters) from the Village Community Resource Center and representatives from the Lazarex Cancer Foundation embarked on a mission to raise awareness about the remarkable advancements in the battle against cancer.

The Village Community Resource Center (VCRC) wellness team has begun a valuable partnership with the Lazarex Cancer Foundation, an organization committed to enhancing cancer health outcomes increasing diversity in FDA cancer clinical trials, and improving patient access to care.

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AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY

This year started out with a bang! Our new location at Oakley Elementary is now fully open to serve the community. We have partnered with the Oakley Unified Elementary School District to bring a much needed literacy program to its students. VCRC is now using the Lindamood Bell literacy program to get our community's TK-2nd graders reading by the time they get to third grade. Did you know that children should be reading by third grade or else they face an uphill battle? According to Penn State's College of Education, Millions of American children make it to the fourth grade without attaining a proficient level of reading...

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RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

FOOD PANTRY

VCRC began our food pantry in the middle of the COVID pandemic. Recognizing that many families were facing challenges in accessing sufficient food for their tables we listened to their concerns and partnered with our amazing partners

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FIGHTING CANCER: THE LAZAREX TEAM

They achieve this by providing support in clinical trial navigation, covering trial-related travel expenses, and collaborating with vulnerable communities to rally resources. Their vision is to ensure that anyone affected by cancer receives hope, dignity, support, and access to the latest treatments throughout their cancer journey.

In pursuit of this vision, Lazarex and VCRC have united their efforts to disseminate information and connect with the Latinx community in East Contra Costa County.

Historically, this community has faced limited access to resources and information that can significantly impact their fight against cancer and that of their families.

As part of this collaboration, VCRC's dedicated promotoras (community health promotor) will strive to assist patients from all walks of life and age groups, battling various forms of cancer. Their ultimate goal is to enhance cancer survival rates through early screenings and detection, with a particular focus on the medically underserved to address healthcare disparities. The initiative seeks to enable patients to take advantage of contemporary medical breakthroughs, recognizing that time may be of the essence in their fight against cancer. Importantly, they believe that a patient's financial status should not be a barrier to the choices they make or the treatments they require. They present clinical trials as a viable option for those who wish to remain actively engaged in their fight against cancer. Many involved in this effort have either personally faced the challenges of cancer or witnessed a family member navigating this journey without adequate care due to a lack of knowledge about available resources. The collective goal is to transform this reality. They approach their work with a culturally humble and competent perspective, aiming to demystify the available resources for patients and their families, guide them through the complexities of the medical system, and do it all with compassion in their hearts.

Join us in the struggle to bring healing to those fighting cancer and their loved ones!

Get involved and/or donate: <https://www.vcrcbrentwoodca.org/vcrc-get-involved/>
Learn more about Lazarex: <https://lazarex.org/>

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RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

FOOD PANTRY

...including White Pony Express ([White Pony Express](#)), Grocery Outlet ([Independence From Hunger - Grocery Outlet](#)) and Delta Community Services we have been able to distribute literal tons of food to the people of East Contra Costa over the last few years. Community volunteers...

The Food Distribution program takes place at VCRC's Brentwood center conveniently located at 633 Village Dr. off of Brentwood Boulevard in Brentwood, CA every Wednesday, with the exception of holidays. The distribution begins promptly at 1:30 PM and continues until 3:00 PM, or until supplies last.

For further inquiries or assistance, please feel free to contact Gloria at 925-325-2625.

AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY

This is particularly evident among children from low-income backgrounds. In 2009, when fourth-graders took the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading test, a staggering 83% of students from low-income families, and 85% of those attending high-poverty schools, fell short of achieving a "proficient" reading level.

Proficiency in reading by the end of the third grade holds significant importance in a child's educational journey. Failing to achieve this proficiency has been linked to increased rates of dropping out of school, ultimately suppressing both individual earning potential and the nation's competitiveness and overall productivity.

VCRC has the goal to get our community's kids reading proficiently by then of the 2nd Grade!

Byron After School Academy

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Friends of the Byron Library Club, who so graciously hosted us over the years. Without them, our program would not have been able to grow and flourish as much as it did.

We have moved to a new location in Byron! Because of the opening of a local bar right next to our center, children and families began to feel unsafe. Father Ron and St. Anne Church opened an adjacent space to the church to us. St. Anne Church has been a central feature of our local community. Hosting community service organizations like the Lions Club and amazing events such as immigration legal support fairs as well as general resource fairs. We thank them for their support.

Kids now have a secure space where they can learn, dream, and just be kids.

Hurry! There are still a few spots available. Valerie (925) 791 -1277



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