

# BRIDGING CULTURES

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## PUENTES ENTRE CULTURAS

Dear friends and neighbors,

We hope this letter finds you healthy and safe during this unprecedented time. Over the years, you have been an essential part of our community and we can't thank you enough for your donations, time spent volunteering, and for the relationships you have helped us build. ***Our community needs your help again.***

As we are adapting to the struggles and challenges of this time, there are many in our community who have been disproportionately affected. Many in our community have increased risk of contracting the virus because of their jobs, health conditions, close living quarters or limited resources that make it difficult to maintain safe physical distancing. Many of our friends and volunteers have lost income and won't be eligible for financial help or government assistance. Many do not have access to medical insurance.

We recently conducted a survey of impacted neighbors who've volunteered alongside you, greeted you at summer barbecues, or practiced English at our ESL classes. Out of 161 people surveyed: 15% are working reduced hours, 14% have lost their jobs and 15% say they are working, but their employers aren't taking adequate steps to prevent transmission of the virus. **46% of these friends and neighbors are struggling to pay rent and 40% are struggling to pay utilities.**

*"My family consists of four members, my husband, my two children and myself. The way this crisis affects us is that in our jobs they only give us a few hours. Because of this, there is less money and **we cannot make essential payments.** Also, we live in fear that when we go out to work we might catch the virus and not have the money to pay for a hospital because we don't have medical insurance."*

*"The virus crisis is affecting us emotionally, spiritually and economically. It is reducing our income by **70 percent.** There are seven in our family, two adults, three youth and two younger children."*

Bridging Cultures as an organization is strong, and continues to serve our community. We have secured small grants for our operating expenses in lieu of the annual fundraiser. While our staff and board are busy working on ways to adapt our programs to the current situation, we have launched a bold campaign to raise \$77,000, to be used solely for emergency funds that will go directly to help pay for rent and utilities for Canby area families who have lost income due to the pandemic and are not eligible for other resources.

The government has provided stimulus money to many families, designed to help get them through this difficult time, but **many of our neighbors are left out of this relief package entirely.**

**If you received stimulus funds that you don't need or have extra to share at this time, will you donate it to this fund?** If you are impacted yourself by this crisis, you can still help by donating \$100 or any other amount that you can spare. You can also share this letter with your family and friends and

encourage them to do the same. You can be assured that your generous donation will directly assist those with the greatest need in our community.

During this time of social distancing, we call on your commitment to the relationships that have been built—*this is the time where friendships are put to the test*. Many of you have already asked how you can help.

**To donate, please fill out the attached donation card or visit us at [www.bridgingculturescanby.org](http://www.bridgingculturescanby.org) and click the donate button.**

Please join us in creating a community where people are safe, valued and empowered through transformative relationships.

To health and community,

Charlie Gingerich  
President, Bridging Cultures Canby