



CERES COMMUNITY PROJECT

NEWSLETTER FALL 2023



A New Home The Center for Food, Youth & Community

As you know, Ceres has grown a lot over the past three years. We're so grateful to our community of volunteers and donors for making it possible for us to reach thousands of youth and clients with life-changing services.

To support our continued growth and impact, we are planning a new home for Ceres' regional services. Consolidating the bulk of our staff and programs into a large site that we own will enable us to eventually scale from about 200,000 to 800,000 meals per year and to reach 50% more youth.

We're excited about this move for many reasons. Owning our home provides greater stability for Ceres, and therefore for the clients who depend on our meal delivery. Investing in solar, microgrid battery backup, and all-electric, efficient kitchen appliances and equipment will reduce our per-meal

cost along with the energy use and carbon impacts of each meal and provide continuity of operations during power outages.

We worked hard to find a site that would be accessible to youth who can most benefit from Ceres' Youth Development Program. Our new home is centrally located in Southwest

Santa Rosa, roughly equidistant from our two current Sonoma County kitchens, within 15 minutes of six major, diverse high schools, and a block away from bus service.

We have already purchased the property on Apollo Way, have received entitlements from the City of Santa Rosa, and will submit our building plans for approval soon.

Funding for this project will come from a variety of sources including an allocation we've already received from the State,

Get Involved!

- *Spread the word amongst your friends*
- *Learn more on Zoom, November 9, 12 - 1 pm*
- *Join our Capital Campaign email list*

Register at
Center.Ceresproject.org

Expanding Our Capacity

What are the impacts of a new home for Ceres?



federal New Market Tax Credits, a robust capital campaign, a recent bequest, and the eventual sale of our Sebastopol kitchen facility. We expect to break ground in the third quarter of next year, and to move in late in 2025.

We have more than 56% of the funding committed for the project, including dozens of pacesetter gifts from our community. You can see the list of donors and the members of our Capital Campaign Committee and Honorary Advisory Committee on our website at Center.CeresProject.org. We aim to complete our Capital Campaign by July 2024. If you are interested in supporting the project with a gift, a multi-year pledge, or by raising funds, please contact

Deborah Ramelli, Director of Development & Community Affairs at dramelli@ceresproject.org.

Over the next two years, we will engage our staff, volunteers, and community in planning for the transition to our new home. We expect to keep our existing Sebastopol garden, and to maintain a delivery hub and afterschool program in our Novato kitchen.

Please visit Center.CeresProject.org to see architectural renderings, sign up to receive updates, and learn more about this transformative project and how you can help us bring this vision to life to advance the health of our community.

Center.CeresProject.org

Left: the new meeting room, from outside in the edible garden. Right: view to the northwest over Apollo Way.



*“I really appreciate the food,
and everyone’s kindness.
It makes a world of difference.”*

—SANDI, CERES CLIENT



Above: Ceres client Sandi, reclaiming her health thanks to the medically tailored meals from Ceres.

Making a Difference

How expanding our service will help clients like Sandi

Ceres Community Project’s new Center for Food, Youth & Community will allow us to mentor more teens, who learn to garden and prepare organic, medically tailored meals, and nourish more clients who are living with a serious illness. Sandi, a current Ceres client, is a great example of the difference Ceres meals can make.

Sandi is living with diabetes, a variety of mobility issues, and on a low-income – all of which make it difficult for her to put healthy meals on her table. Since Ceres’ meals and supplemental grocery bags started arriving in May, her blood sugar has improved, with her A1C dropping from 7.3 to 6.2 points (the goal for people with diabetes is 7.0 or less). She’s also lost weight and noted, “It makes my mental outlook better because

before I was trying and nothing was happening. Now I’m not even really trying, and I feel better.”

Support Ceres

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a tax-deductible distribution of funds which can be donated directly to Ceres from your IRA. This may make sense for you if you are 70 ½ or older, are required to take money from your IRA but do not need it for living expenses, and want to avoid being pushed into a higher tax bracket. To make a QCD, speak to your IRA custodian and follow your financial institution’s forms and requirements.

For more information:

[Ceresproject.org/qualified-distribution-ira](https://ceresproject.org/qualified-distribution-ira)

As a kid, Sandi was never taught about food or how our eating habits can affect our health. She shared that our meals have absolutely changed her relationship with food. Now, she’s tried new healthy food like kale and chickpeas and is loving vegetables. Her favorite meals are the frittata, turkey meatloaf and the chili, and she says that our salad dressing is so good that we could bottle and sell it.

Sandi is just one of the 1,158 clients that we’ve served this year. We are excited that with our new kitchen facility, we’ll be able to care for many more clients like Sandi.

Thank You

To the following corporate and foundation partners who have provided recent funding of \$1,000 or more, or over \$2,000 in-kind donations.

Allensby Charity Fund Trust – San Rafael Elks Lodge

American AgCredit

Clif Family Foundation

Climate Ride, Inc.

Clover Sonoma

Commercial Décor Group

Costco Wholesale Corporation

County of Marin Nonprofit Community Partners Program

County of Sonoma – Area Agency on Aging

eScrip

Gourmet Mushrooms, Inc.

Kale Yes!

Luther Burbank Corporation Foundation

Mercy Wellness

Navitas Organics

Press Democrat

Providence – Community Health Investment

Redwood Credit Union

Redwood Hill Farm

Safeway Foundation

Sonoma County Vintner's Foundation

Summit State Bank

Welfare League of Santa Rosa

Whole Foods Market

Why not give monthly with our Corporate Giving Program?

We are so grateful to all our volunteers who give their time and talents to our community, such as Terry (pictured right.) Since May 2023, the following individuals surpassed 300 hours:

Kathy Allen

Chris Iversen

Carolyn Jansen

Barbara Johanson

Andrew Levine

Maryn Pryor

William Schrader

Yvette Simone

Janice Sunday

Antonio Trevino



Harvest of the Heart

This year's event raised over \$400,000 to nourish our clients and engage youth.

Thank you to our guests, sponsors, volunteers, staff, bidders, and auction donors!

Contact us about sponsoring our 2024 event at Harvest@ceresproject.org



A Big Thank You to Our Sponsors



Thank You to Our Food & Beverage Partners

- Good Vybes Lemonade
- Iron Horse Vineyards
- Martha Stoumen Natural Wines
- Moonlight Brewing Company
- Oliver's Market
- Park Avenue Catering
- Sweet T's Restaurant + Bar
- Three Leaves Food
- Wildwood Wines



Congratulations!

Ceres' Delivery Angel and filmmaker, Matthew Geer, nominated Ceres as his favorite non-profit in the nationwide *A Really Goode Cause* competition from Murphy Goode Winery.... and he won!!! Thanks to his heartfelt film, Ceres was selected as one of the three winners. See it at:

Ceresproject.org/goodecause

Thank you to everyone for supporting Ceres' Harvest of the Heart!
Right: Teen Leaders Colleen and Lauren at Ceres' Cornucopia table.



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Help make the holidays happy!

With the cost of food rising, our meals are more crucial than ever for those facing the dual challenge of limited financial means and a serious illness. Please make a generous one time or monthly gift this holiday season.

Donate Now

online at
Ceresproject.org/falldonate



Above: Ceres Teen Leaders Sydney and Mac packaging meals in our Novato kitchen.