

MEDIA ADVISORY



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Packard Foundation awards \$20k to Community Bridges

South County Kids Get Afterschool Enrichment

Watsonville — April 2, 2008

La Manzana Community Resources, a program of Community Bridges, received a \$20,000 grant from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation. Funds will be used to support La Manzana's afterschool program through enhanced art and dance activities, training in technology and curriculum, and additional staff to serve 20% more children.

In 2005, La Manzana Community Resources established the Readiness Project, to provide an afterschool program for Kindergarten students whose performance was at a significantly lower level than their peers. The goal of the Readiness Project is to enrich the academic and social experiences of children of low-income recent immigrants and farmworkers that enter Kindergarten without pre-school preparation.

The program is proving to be successful -- Of last year's Readiness Project participants, 100% are moving on to first grade, and 82% of the 22 students who had end of the year reading scores are now at or above grade level in reading (data reported by Terry Eastman, Director of Curriculum and Assessment at Pajaro Valley Unified School District).