When asked to write about how the current pandemic situation has affected local non-profit businesses, my first thought was, wait, do I operate a business or care for children?

For over 40 years Humboldt Educare has been so much more than a business. It is true that as a business, Educare has employed countless adults who have made the field of Early Childhood their life’s work and Child Development students exploring the career. We have served hundreds and hundreds of families with children who needed to work and wished for a safe and stimulating environment for their children. As the only private, Non-Profit childcare program in our county, Educare was founded in the belief of the sanctity of childhood and the passion to provide the experiences and environment that such a belief dictates. Sadly, our next thought was what an devastating blow to children and families if this program were to become yet another COVID-19 casualty.

Educare was among the first of local programs to embrace play-based learning, even before brain development confirmed its necessity or it became a trend. It is truly exciting, even in the face of this threat, to know that research supports our historic decisions.

As O. Fred Donaldson says, “Children learn as they play. More importantly, in play, children learn how to learn.” What an even bigger nightmare it would be if COVID-19 succeeds in changing this developing landscape of group care in Early Childhood, making us forget all we have come to know about what is best for children. Worse than simply returning to the days of handouts, seatwork, and the letter of the week; what if previously passionate practitioners, who used to stay awake at night thinking of ways to meet individual children’s needs, connect with a reluctant parent, or motivate a novice teacher, feel forced to reluctantly embrace taped boxes on the floor for children to play in? Educare knows we cannot go back. We cannot unknow what we have always known, and we will work hard to come back from this stranger than before. We also know that COVID-19 has made even the staunchest supporters of play-based quality programming for young children in out of home care, frightened and sad. Knowing how vitally important this is for our children, where will families go to find it? Families that do not qualify for Head Start, Early Head Start, or other state or federally funded child-care subsidies, will still need child care to return to work and they deserve quality, too.

Families will want more outside playtime in enhanced natural environments and programs that can serve their infant, toddler, and preschooler without having to visit three separate programs. Educare is working hard to re-open with these needs in mind. Educare also knows that these are challenging times for all businesses, and especially businesses working to care for our youngest community members. We will continue to loudly, passionately, and tirelessly support those who continue to do this good work, and will advocate for 41 more years, for all children and their right to a childhood full of wonder and discovery.

As Jean Piaget says, “Children have real understanding only of that which they invent themselves.”

Did you know that Humboldt Educare is the only private, Non-Profit childcare program in Humboldt County? That we have been providing quality play-based learning for over 40 years and are in danger of losing this resource, just as families need us most? Due to COVID-19, we have lost our lease and are actively searching for another location. A location that will allow us to continue to support local families and provide children with the experiences and environment that we know to be vital for them and our future. As Jean Piaget tells us, “Play is the answer to how anything new comes about”. Our children have always been tasked with finding new solutions to the challenges our society faces, and we need them to have all the tools they can to do the job.

Helping foster a safe and stimulating place for their children

Please consider supporting our GoFundMe campaign as we prepare to find, renovate, and license a new location: https://www.gofundme.com/f/humboldt-educare-preschool

All donations are tax deductible and VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. Please contact us via email at humboldt.educare@gmail.com or Ranae at 707-613-7189 with questions, ideas, leads or words of encouragement.
Addressing Hunger in Humboldt County During a Pandemic

As the world and our community grappled with the tremors of COVID-19, the inability to access enough food is the main foodbanking warehouse and before the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. Food insecurity — the inability to afford healthy food for all family members — alike. According to data from Feeding America, California’s food banks are experiencing a 73% increase in demand. Food insecurity makes it impossible for the first time in 25 years.

On February 28th just as COVID-19 began to manifest, a city woman suffered a stroke that left her unable to walk, due to the food distribution center shut down during a critical time.

In the subsequent weeks, it became clear that staff and programs had to be moved out of the 14th Street facility. According to Anne Holcomb, Food for People’s Executive Director, “Our first priority was to find a safe and accessible space for our Eureka Clover Pantry.” The Eureka Food Pantry, which was opened in 2007, is now serving 3,100 food boxes per month from a temporary site.

Fortunately, the City of Eureka offered temporary use of the old Chamber of Commerce building at 9th and H. Operations in the new location began on May 11. A chief of staff has moved their office to the Broadway site and the rest of the staff are working within several other leased warehouse spaces that now serve as storage and warehouse space.

“We’re grateful to have found space for our operations but there’s no question that the constant shuffle of pallets of food and staff amongst multiple sites and the need to draft operations away from the facility that had been the ‘motherhood’ for hunger relief in Humboldt County for the past 20 years has been challenging.”

Comprehensive food distributions throughout Food for People’s countywide network of 17 food pantries, 1 mobile pantry site, Homebound Delivery Program, Mobile Produce Pantry, Backpacks for Kids program, and Resource Centers agreed that getting food to children and resources centers agreed that getting food to children and distributing the bags to children and volunteers saved.

If you are interested in supporting Food for People in their hunger relief efforts or the recovery from the damages to their building you can make a donation at www.foodforpeople.org. If you or someone you know in need of food assistance, please visit our website www.foodforpeople.org for the most up to date information.

In order to address increased food needs as well as COVID-19 safety precautions, Food for People has implemented drive-up and drive-thru food distribution models at sites that have the space to accommodate, and safe distancing requirements are in place, using traffic cones, custom tape, and signage at sites where a drive-thru won’t work. Officers from the CET (Community Safety Enhancement Team) at Eureka Police Department and staff from Eureka Unified provide assistance with drive-thru services located at select sites, serving close to 1000 individuals each month.

All employees and volunteers are required to wear gloves and masks, and food boxes and bags are placed on a table for the individual to pick up, which is eliminated after the pandemic. For the seniors enrolled in Food for People’s Senior & Homebound Program the benefits of COVID-19 have been particularly daunting. According to Carrie Smith, Food for People’s Child and Senior Nutrition Coordinator “In the weeks following the COVID-19 shelter in place orders, we found an overwhelming number of calls from seniors concerned they would not be able to access food and worried they would go hungry.”

Fortunately, we are using senior arrival to pick up food so that seniors can see their faces because they are all participating in the county’s weekly school meal program provided to seniors by the school food service program. Each week seniors receive a meal and the food is delivered to their homes by the school food service program. Each week seniors receive a meal and the food is delivered to their homes by the school food service program.

Food for People’s Children’s Summer Lunch Program also looks very different this year. In past years they typically served 22-25 countywide but with the shutdown of schools, bus driving constraints and stoppage capacity made it impossible for the first time in 25 years. Food for People reached out to Eureka Unified School District to see if they would join in and they did. Volunteers from City Schools and the Northern Humboldt County Children’s Lunch Partnership. One hundred boxes per week are being distributed by the City Family Resource Center and DreamQuilt, and Food for People has contracted with local farmers in the area, who are supplementing the boxes with weekly deliveries of fresh produce and resources to the Local Organic Farmers Fund. Overall the food insecurity network in Humboldt County has been tested beyond any previous time, but has managed to adapt to meet the challenges that are thrown at us. Holcomb shared “The bottom line is that we’re fortunate to be part of a community that pulls together when times get tough. This is new territory for all of us, and it’s hard to know how the devastating economic impacts of the coronavirus will play out in the coming months and perhaps years. But the on-going support of first responders, essential service workers, and those who provide critical safety nets has been heartwarming and inspiring. We have the deepest gratitude for all the volunteers, community partners, and financial donors who have stepped up to support the Backpacks for Kids program and helping Food for People in their hunger relief efforts.”

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Food for People has always been a nonprofit that is uniquely positioned to help during times of crisis. Food for People has always been a nonprofit that is uniquely positioned to help during times of crisis. Food for People has always been a nonprofit that is uniquely positioned to help during times of crisis. Food for People has always been a nonprofit that is uniquely positioned to help during times of crisis. Food for People has always been a nonprofit that is uniquely positioned to help during times of crisis. Food for People has always been a nonprofit that is uniquely positioned to help during times of crisis.

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Food for People
The Food Bank For Humboldt County
Fighting Hunger in Humboldt County

Countywide Food Distributions

Senior Nutrition
Senior & Homebound food needs have grown amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Here volunteers from the CERT team pre-pack bags for delivery.

For more information on how to access services visit www.foodforpeople.org

Nutrition Education
To promote cooking healthy meals on a tight budget, especially with fruits and vegetables.

Child Nutrition
Our Child Nutrition Programs are designed to reach kids during the summer and on weekends when school meals are unavailable.

Healthy Foods
Our Free & Mobile Produce Markets provide healthy foods to individuals countywide.

Community Partnerships
to provide healthy food in safe and accessible settings to those in need.

COVID Response
We have adapted and expanded to meet the increased need for food amid the COVID Pandemic including drive-thru distributions.

You Can Help Fight Hunger in our Community

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

www.foodforpeople.org
Changing Tides Family Services is a dynamic full service agency dedicated to increasing the health and success of children, youth, families and individuals in our community. Over 200 full and part time staff cover more than 4,000 square miles, providing an array of child care, behavioral health, and special needs services. Guided by a dedicated staff and a committed Board of Directors, our organization is celebrating its 45th year in Humboldt County.

When the COVID-19 Pandemic started, Changing Tides Family Services went to work! Here are few things we accomplished:

• Immediately secured and distributed essential supplies to child care providers and caregivers, including diapers, disinfecting wipes, gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer with over 450 deliveries to date

• Rapidly transitioned to continue providing comprehensive disability and mental health services to over 200 children, youth, and families remotely during shelter-in-place

• Picked up 275 hot meals made by families and friends through special Pop-Up Parent Cafes across the county, delivering them through virtual online sessions and distributing family resource bags, books, and resiliency tools

• Launched special emergency child care services for our community’s Essential Workers

• Distributed over $150,000 to child care providers and caregivers in direct assistance for COVID-19 needs

• Partnered with local organizations, like the Humboldt Area Foundation, to ensure that families had the tools to access services remotely

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Although our buildings are not currently open to the public, we are still here for you by phone, email, Facebook, or our website! Proud to be a part of the community we serve, and proud to be stronger together.

Changing Tides Family Services
2379 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501
Call 707-444-8293 or 1-800-795-3554 or visit www.changingtidesfs.org

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We’re better together.

Hospice of Humboldt continues to provide heartfelt care amid the ongoing coronavirus public health crisis.

Established in 1981, Hospice of Humboldt is a non-profit organization and member of the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization. Hospice of Humboldt provides professional-level care and support services for patients and their families who are facing life-limiting illness. Hospice of Humboldt provides a broad array of services to meet the diverse needs of patients and families from admission through bereavement.

We are here to help you through this difficult time.

Returning to normalcy will be different for everyone involved. Our caring and professional staff can support you in your unique situation.

Heartfelt Care
when it matters the most

Hospice of Humboldt
www.hospiceofhumboldt.org
(707) 445-8443

Hospice of Humboldt remains dedicated to the well-being of our community. When the statewide shelter-in-place order first began in March, most of us were not expecting to still be facing this health crisis in November. To keep our staff, patients, and community safe, we have been working diligently to ensure that we follow the most current guidelines and safety precautions set forth by the World Health Organization, California Department of Public Health, and California Department of Public Health, and California Department of Health and Human Services (CDHS).

Our home care teams continue to provide hospice services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are still taking referrals, admitting patients, and providing interdisciplinary services to patients and families who have been newly diagnosed or whose condition has worsened. Hospice House remains open, providing around-the-clock care for our patients.

Our home care teams continue to provide the essential care that is needed in our community.

Donations can be made on our website www.hospiceofhumboldt.org by phone (707) 445-8440, or mailed to 1327 Timber Flat Rd., Arcata, CA 95521.

Hospice of Humboldt is proud to be part of this community, working together during the most challenging of times. We want to thank you to Hospice staff and all essential workers who are showing up each day to ensure that community needs are met. Additionally, thank you to all of you for spreading the word and protecting our loved ones. Together we will get through this.

If you have questions about Hospice services or would like to learn more, call (707) 445-8440. Hospice of Humboldt has been serving families locally for over 41 years, and is privileged to work with you.

We urge you to take advantage of the supports we would like to provide.

Many take the training in order to serve as a volunteer Hospice Grief Support Services Mediator, and some find the training to enhance work and personal life organization.

They interview to learn individual concerns and begin to see possible group dynamics. The Trainers move to develop a specific facilitation style designed for each individual group, organization or agency. We listen to feedback and making custom workshops. Trainers work directly with individuals. They interview to learn individual concerns and begin to see possible group dynamics. The Trainers move to develop a specific facilitation style designed for each individual group, organization or agency. We listen to feedback and making custom workshops. Trainers work directly with individuals. They interview to learn individual concerns and begin to see possible group dynamics. The Trainers move to develop a specific...
Friendship is a powerful thing. It’s fun, most anyone can be a friend and it’s important.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

It’s fun, most anyone can be a friend and it’s important.
Inspired by the strength and adaptability displayed by our families

Our motto at the Humboldt Library Foundation (HLF) is “Open the World.” Our mission is to support the Humboldt County Library system. Over the past twenty-four years, we have raised over $1.4 million dollars to help our libraries acquire books, audio and digital materials, upgrade technology and support programming. We recently helped our libraries build their electronic capacity so that they can continue to serve our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All the volunteers on the board of our nonprofit foundation share a passion for the library. We work to sustain and strengthen this irreplaceable community resource which opens the world to young and old alike. It inspires the imagination and deepens our understanding of the world. We share a belief that free access to information is fundamental to our democratic way of life.

Here in Humboldt County the public library is part of the fabric of our many communities; you can gain access to its resources online, in any one of the eleven branch libraries, or through the bookmobile which serves 14 outlying communities.

But fully funding the many needs of the library system is a challenge and that’s why what we do is so important. Over the past twenty-four years we have purchased thousands of books, provided major funding to upgrade the online catalog, replaced public and staff computers and sponsored children’s programming.

With free access, libraries are information centers that abound with opportunities and unbridled possibilities. Even more so now, in the shadow of COVID-19 with branches temporarily shuttered, the library is humming with activity. Added by a recent HLF grant of $314,500 librarians have been able to expand access to electronic resources, to Zoom children’s story hours, and to provide online resources for K-12 students. From the library’s website you can download electronic books, audio books, magazines, check out music, search databases and research your genealogy. Until they can reopen the doors, curbside service is available to pick up materials reserved by using the online catalog.

The needs are great and there are many ways you can help. Check out our website www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org to find out more and to DONATE. You can help brighten a young child’s life, help families imagine a wider world or open doors for anyone sheltering in place. It’s easy – check out our ad next to this column and Buy A Book today!

Healthy relationships are crucial for healing from trauma.

EYS provides a holistic approach to support adoptive families.
evolveyouthservices.org

Our world is shifting and we work to simplify and make more sense of it. As unpredictable as it may be, adjusting to new ways of living is a facet of our existence. The change caused by this ongoing pandemic is challenging – and yet it is where the most significant growth occurs. As a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of youth and families involved in foster care, we believe that this period will be an opportunity to use National Nonprofit Day as an opportunity to celebrate the resilience of our youth in foster and adoptive care and their families.

Through hardships, we see your strength. Through challenges, we celebrate your growth. It is only through our togetherness, your commitment and our dedication, that we can overcome the difficulties presented by Covid-19.

As such persons in need of aid, we should be on the path to healing. At EYS we provide personalized, trauma-driven care centering around the unique needs of each youth and their families. Whether youth in foster or adoptive homes would benefit from a little extra help to succeed in a placement, are in need of counseling or support in navigating daily challenges, we create an individualized plan to meet that need. Together, we work to reduce family conflict, mitigate the effects of trauma, and strengthen the bond between family members.

At Evolve Youth Services we focus on tapping into each family’s unique potential and helping youth evolve into the best versions of themselves. It is our mission to guide through troubled waters and we are proud to see the light that eventually brightens all paths.

Through encouragement, understanding, and the application of the ten principles of Healthy Young Families, foster and adoptive children, and families together with the library’s website you can download electronic books, audio books, magazines, check out music, search databases and research your genealogy. Until they can reopen the doors, curbside service is available to pick up materials reserved by using the online catalog.

The needs are great and there are many ways you can help. Check out our website www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org to find out more and to DONATE. You can help brighten a young child’s life, help families imagine a wider world or open doors for anyone sheltering in place. It’s easy – check out our ad next to this column and Buy A Book today!
The thought of Southern Humboldt losing their community hospital is unimaginable. Moreover, if this were to happen there would no longer be an emergency room for the 120-mile stretch of Highway 101 from Williams to Fortuna. SoHum Health Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3), is heading the call to ensure this potential disaster of our community hospital does not come to pass.

In working collaboratively with College of the Redwoods and Humboldt County, SoHum Health has already purchased a property situated directly off Highway 101 on Spruce Creek Road in Garberville. Our shared vision is to relocate the emergency and acute care departments into a new, modern hospital at this site. The new campus will also include an updated community health center, laboratory, and radiology department (which includes CT, X-ray, ultrasound, and mammography), that will minimize costs and provide room to grow. Once the hospital and health center move to their new home at the Spruce Creek campus, SoHum Health will expand the much-needed Skilled Nursing Facility from the current eight beds to 40 beds.

Heeding the Call for a New Hospital in Southern Humboldt

There are 30,000 people who call Southern Humboldt home, and this number can triple in the summer months with tourism and canna workers. With the mighty Eel River, ancient redwood groves, and the epic Lost Coast, it’s not hard to understand why so many have chosen to live here. Southern Humboldt has a long history of going against the mainstream way of life. We stand determined to diverge from the rest of rural America in another way — healthcare.

Families in rural areas are faced with difficult decisions as their age or develop chronic health conditions. Too many end up forced to leave the magical place they call home in order to access the healthcare they need. A recent local healthcare presence is what is needed. The service SoHum Health provides fills a vital need in the Southern Humboldt community by allows the elderly and those with chronic conditions to remain in their community, saves lives in emergency situations, aids good-paying jobs, and makes the community an attractive place for people to raise their families and travel. COVID-19 has brought the importance of the call to the forefront yet again, as the need for hospital beds and medical infrastructure has become more apparent than ever. Residents of Southern Humboldt simply cannot rely on traveling out of the area to get healthcare. Our community must focus on developing our own vital infrastructure to ensure long-term sustainability.

On January 1, 2030, new statewide earthquake safety standards will take effect that Jerald Phelps Community Hospital in Garberville will be unable to meet. If SoHum Health does not construct a new facility that meets the stringent state seismic requirements by the end of 2020, they will have no choice but to close their doors. Assuming the state will relax these seismic restrictions is a gamble our community cannot afford to take.

The SoHum Foundation makes sure your healthcare district continues to provide services like radiology, CT, mammography, home health visits, primary care, skilled nursing and the only 24/7 emergency room in Southern Humboldt. We sincerely thank you for your support in helping to make SoHum a happy and healthy place to live.

To find out more about SoHum Health Foundation’s plans and how you can be a part of it, visit www.sohumhealthfoundation.org, email foundation@shchd.org, or call (707) 253-6530.

make SoHum Health possible.

SoHum’s new community hospital is coming soon and you can be a part of it. Visit sohumhealthfoundation.org to learn more or to make a donation.