

Community Resilience During COVID-19

COVID-19 has presented us with many unprecedented challenges. Despite these difficult times, there have been many examples of strength and inspiration. In this newsletter, we highlight the efforts of two of our community partners, in their own words, in responding to the pandemic and helping fulfill the essential needs of our diverse and vulnerable communities.

Proyecto Pastoral/Promesa Boyle Heights

While COVID-19 is affecting all of us everywhere, its impact on the vulnerable community of Boyle Heights is tremendous.



[Proyecto Pastoral](#) has expanded and adapted to meet the high needs of the community. Our staff has been working hard to connect residents to much needed resources like food, rental assistance, socio-emotional support, and clear and accurate information. As such, Proyecto has become a hub to coordinate and ensure community residents in Boyle Heights have access to all they need.

Our homeless shelters have expanded to 24-hour operation since the pandemic began and now serve 70 homeless men and senior women daily. This means additional meals, socio-emotional support, and medical attention. We have secured new space to offer social isolation for seniors, and set up meal shifts to allow them to eat their meals separately.



Our IMPACTO youth program has pivoted to offer virtual support for youth, which is much needed for both parents and youth during this time. IMPACTO is also reaching out to families to assess those who are food insecure, and distributing meals and necessities to families and seniors in Pico Gardens. Our early childhood education centers are still open for about 15 children of essential workers, and staff has adopted social distancing with the children and a rigorous cleaning schedule.

[Promesa Boyle Heights](#), a community collaborative led by Proyecto Pastoral, kicked into gear to quickly put together a [resource guide](#) for families and community partners. This has been crucial to our community, staff and partners. The promotoras have been reaching out to their networks and conducting wellness check-ins to connect community members with resources. Promesa was also in the midst of carrying out census outreach, which now continues online and via phone banking. Promotoras are actively promoting census participation as trusted messengers in their community.

Cancer Support Community Los Angeles

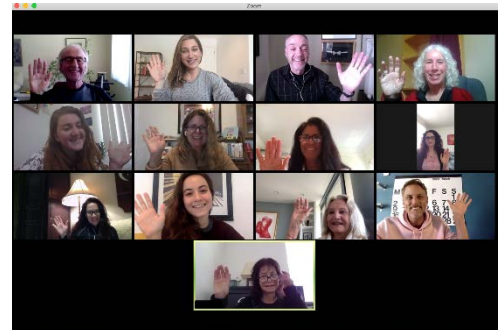


[Cancer Support Community Los Angeles \(CSCLA\)](#) is a refuge for people dealing with a crisis unlike any other - cancer.

Now that our doors have closed in response to a different crisis, we've had to quickly adapt to a world in which physical gathering is not possible. Our staff faces the challenge of creating a sense of community and helping our members cope with loneliness, while remaining distanced in our own homes.

By transitioning all our programs to a virtual platform, currently 22 groups and counting, we found that it was possible to sustain our services, and more. We have gained new members who weren't able to come to our physical space. Members whose treatments require bed rest or whose medical status requires them to remain at home are now able to receive support through an online medium. And this, to us, is a huge silver lining in what is a difficult and trying time.

With virtual offerings we are looking at new ways to reach people living with cancer and their loved ones across Los Angeles. This includes expanding our Spanish language support groups and strengthening the community that already exists with even more resources. And we continue to host educational talks, now in a view-from-home webinar format.



We feel inspired by the new virtual space we have been able to create and the uplifting stories participants have shared thus far. CSCLA has navigated the psychological and emotional challenges of cancer for decades through education and empowerment of our participants, and we will continue to push through the COVID-19 crisis.

New UCLA COVID-19 Tracking Tool

[COVID-19 Rates and Risk Factors by California County Dashboard](#) presented by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's California Health Interview Survey (CHIS).

New Items Added to COVID-19 Resources for Community-Based Organizations

[UCLA KP Center for Health Equity: COVID-19 Resources for Community Groups](#) provides a list of regularly updated resources for diverse and vulnerable communities.

Interested in participating in a UCLA COVID-19 Research Project?

[Stop COVID-19 Together](#) is collecting information to better understand how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted our communities.