

SHORTCUTS

GIVING BACK



Photo: Kelli Udall

Delivering Help to Families Facing Serious Illness

BY RENEE BRINCKS

Partnership for Children is based in Salinas. Executive Director Jennifer Ramirez helps provide medical transport for children in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties.

The families of children fighting cancer, autoimmune disorders, heart issues and other conditions might navigate obstacles ranging from medical debt to unreliable transportation.

"Imagine your child being diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, and then learning that you've got to travel to San Jose or San Francisco several times a week for treatment—but, you don't have a car," says Jennifer Ramirez, executive director of Partnership for Children (PFC).

PFC provides free, door-to-door medical transit and gas subsidies for seriously ill children and families in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. The Salinas-based nonprofit has also expanded its pandemic-related assistance, reaching out to more than 175 households in need.

After the father of one ill child lost his hospitality job, for example, PFC covered a month of rent and provided two months of food assistance.

"That support gave the father time to look for another job, with the assurance that the rent would be paid," says Ramirez. "It makes a huge impact."

In addition to covering housing costs for some 50 families, PFC has doubled its number of weekly hospital rides since July.

"Transportation should never be barrier to a child's medical care. That's why we're here," says Ramirez.

To donate to Partnership for Children, or to learn more, please visit www.partnerforkids.org.