

Outstanding Partnerships Recognitions

As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize partnerships that support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness through the Outstanding Partnership category. Partnerships can be with/between government agencies, nonprofits/CBOs, advocacy groups, faith organizations, individuals (including those facing homelessness), and businesses. The partnership must support people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County in some way, but does not have to only serve people experiencing homelessness.

Nominees

1. **C4SI - Capitalists for Shared Income Project:** C4SI - Capitalists for Shared Income and Trinity Center
2. **Community Supports Program:** Staff at Contra Costa Public Health Community Supports Program
3. **CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach Community-wide Partnership:** Kenneth Humphrey, CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, City of Concord, Contra Costa Public Works, CCH: Health Care for the Homeless, CalAIM providers, and local shelters
4. **CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach/SOS Richmond Partnership:** Tanya Ruscigno, O'Neill Fernandez, CORE Mobile Outreach and SOS Richmond
5. **City of Antioch/CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach Partnership:** Rebecca Sanders, CCH's CORE mobile outreach program and the City of Antioch
6. **City of Antioch/Facing Homelessness Partnership:** Nichole Gardner, Facing Homelessness and the City of Antioch
7. **City of Antioch/SHARE Community Partnership:** Ricka Davis-Sheard, SHARE Community and The City of Antioch
8. **Data Improvement Project:** Contra Costa Health Divisions - Business Intelligence, Contra Costa Health Plan and Health, Housing, and Homeless services
9. **Delta Landing Partnership:** Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa and BACS at Delta Landing
10. **El Portal Place:** Housing Authority of CC, CCH, Hope Solutions, Overa
11. **Furnishing For The Future:** Make it Home and Continuum of Care
12. **GROW Community:** GROW Community
13. **Homeless Workforce Integration Network (H-WIN):** Homeless Workforce Integration Network (H-WIN) is a collaboration between Contra Costa Health: H3 (Health, Housing & Homeless Services), the Contra Costa Workforce Development Board (WDBCC), and a wide network of community-based organizations

- 14. Homelessness 101 Series:** Albert Garcia, Contra Costa County Library, Contra Costa Health: Health, Housing, and Homeless Services, Cities of Antioch and Walnut Creek and White Pony Express
- 15. Hope Solutions Teamwork:** Hope Solutions' Housing Works Rapid Rehousing and Eviction Prevention Program
- 16. Lao Family Community Development/ Oxford House Partnership:** Lao Family Community Development - Housing For Strong Reentry and Oxford House
- 17. Laundry Love with Grace:** Grace Episcopal Church, Martinez; City of Martinez; Episcopal Impact Fund; First Congregational Church, Martinez; Laundry Love (national); Episcopal Impact Fund; Martinez Community Foundation.
- 18. Leave No One Behind:** NAMI Contra Costa, City of Concord, Minar, Hope Solutions, Opportunity Village. Contra Costa Crisis Center, SOS Richmond, Loaves and Fishes, Facing Homelessness in Antioch, Place of Peace Outreach, Delta Sigma and various faith centers across the county
- 19. Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa Partnership/ Opportunity Junction Partnership:** Opportunity Junction and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa
- 20. Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa/ Trinity Center Partnership #1:** Trinity Center and Loaves & Fishes Contra Costa
- 21. Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa/ Trinity Center Partnership #2:** Trinity Center and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa
- 22. Navigating Home:** Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Navigators
- 23. Pet Support for People Experiencing Homeless #1:** Joybound People & Pets, Contra Costa Animal Services and Contra Costa Health
- 24. Pet Support for People Experiencing Homeless #2:** Joybound and CCH's CORE mobile outreach program
- 25. Point in Time Count GIS Project:** The Contra Costa Department of IT (DoIT) Geographic Information System (GIS) team and CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3)
- 26. Prevention Screening Tool Project:** Contra Costa Crisis Center, CCH: H3 Coordinated Entry Team and Prevention Providers
- 27. Recovery Services for Latinos Experiencing Homelessness:** Pueblos Del Sol, Support4Recovery and Contra Costa Health
- 28. Reentry Housing Partnership :** Nova Vita LLC and LFCD Housing for Strong Reentry Program
- 29. Reentry Services Collaboration:** CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office, CCH: Detention Health Services, the Office of Reentry and Justice (ORJ), and the Community Advisory Board (CAB)

- 30. Support for Families in WCCUSD #1:** WCCUSD Families in Transition Team and Community Education Partnerships
- 31. Support for Families in WCCUSD #2:** West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and Community Education Partnerships (CEP)
- 32. Supporting Children in Shelters:** Bay Area Rescue Mission and Community Education Partnerships
- 33. Supporting Immigrant Workers:** Hijas del Campo and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa
- 34. Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Clients:** Violet Barton and her team of case managers at Contra Costa Health: Family, Maternal and Child Health
- 35. Supporting Wellness in Shelters:** The Fountain Project and Bay Area Rescue
- 36. Supporting Wellness in West County:** The Fountain Project SOS Richmond and GRIP
- 37. TAY Support: Community College Basic Needs Partnership:** Hope Dixon, Contra Costa Community College District, Basic Needs Programs and Youth Action Board
- 38. TAY Support: Community College Welcome Week:** Sherina Criswell, CCH's CORE mobile outreach Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Education Team; Youth Action Board (YAB) and Contra Costa Community Colleges
- 39. TAY Support: DVC Partnership:** CCH's CORE mobile outreach program and Diablo Valley College
- 40. TAY Support: FYI Vouchers:** Contra Costa Employment and Human Services (ESHD) Children and Family Services Bureau, Hope Solutions and Housing Authority of Contra Costa County
- 41. TAY Support: TAY By Name List Case Conference Partnership:** Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Team; CCH's CORE mobile outreach TAY, Education Team & Family Teams; CCH's Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services (CCYCS) Team; Hope Solutions TAY Programs Team; and Trinity Center.
- 42. TAY Support: Youth Action Board:** RYSE Center, CCH: Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) and the Continuum of Care (CoC)
- 43. Teaming Up For Success:** Nola Wright, ECM Case Manager, Contra Costa Health and Ms. Roman Smith, client
- 44. Trinity Center/ St. Mary's Partnership:** Trinity Center and St. Mary's congregation with St. Vincent de Paul network
- 45. Unsheltered Veterans Surge Event:** VA Homeless Program, CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, CCH's Coordinated Entry Team, Insight Housing, Shelter Inc's SSVF program and Veterans Accession House

The following pages contain descriptions of each nominee as provided by the person (s) who nominated them

C4SI - Capitalists for Shared Income Project

Key Partners: C4SI - Capitalists for Shared Income and Trinity Center

Nominated by: Leticia Wiesner, Trinity Center

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *The partnership between C4SI Capitalists and Trinity Center directly supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County by providing \$58 credit cards that help meet immediate and practical needs. These funds empower individuals to purchase essentials—such as clothing, personal care items, or transportation—that are critical to getting back on their feet. This support, combined with Trinity Center’s programs in housing navigation, workforce development, and community services, helps members overcome barriers, restore dignity, and take meaningful steps toward stability and independence. By addressing both urgent needs and long-term goals, the partnership plays a vital role in reducing homelessness and strengthening the community safety net in Contra Costa County. This support, combined with Trinity Center’s programs in housing navigation, workforce development, and community services, helps members overcome barriers, restore dignity, and take meaningful steps toward stability and independence. By addressing both urgent needs and long-term goals, the partnership plays a vital role in reducing homelessness and strengthening the community safety net in Contra Costa County.*

CCH: Community Supports Program

Key Partners: Staff at Contra Costa Public Health Community Supports Program

Nominated by: Gabrielle Fowler, CCH: Public Health: ECM

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Housing navigators with the CCH: Public Health Community Support Program help Medi-Cal Members who are homeless or at-risk find temporary/permanent shelter or housing. These Housing Navigator case managers manage clients referred from the Public Health ECM program. Housing navigators provide in-person housing navigation and tenancy sustaining services through case management. In addition to assisting clients with housing searches & application submissions, these housing navigators sometimes go beyond to network with landlords and property managers, assist clients with measures to increase their income and searching for opportunities to get their clients support for deposits and move-in cost assistance. The Contra Costa Public Health Community Support Housing Navigators are a small but mighty team. They are a team of 4 covering West, Central, East & Far East County.*

CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach Community-wide Partnership

Key Partners: CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, City of Concord, Contra Costa Public Works, CCH: Health Care for the Homeless, CalAIM providers, and local shelters

Nominated by: Lisa Thomas, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination: *As CARE Coordinator for CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, Kenneth Humphrey collaborates with the City of Concord, Concord Police Department, Public Works, Health Care for the Homeless, CalAIM providers, and local shelters to create a coordinated response. These partnerships not only address immediate needs but also support long-term housing and health stability. Engagement of People with Lived Experience: Kenneth prioritizes including people with lived experience of homelessness through peer specialists who help guide services, build trust, and ensure outreach remains client-centered and trauma-informed. The partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County by connecting them to basic needs, health care, CalAIM services, shelters, and housing navigation. By working closely with local agencies and including peer specialists with lived experience, Kenneth Humphrey and CORE mobile outreach build trust and help clients engage in long-term stability resources.*

Staff says, "We open the door for many client encountering issues with addiction and homelessness" and "we help clients with their recovery"

CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach/SOS Richmond Partnership

Key Partners: CORE Mobile Outreach and SOS Richmond both have a lot of people with lived experience on the teams which really helps clients feel comfortable.

Nominated by: Carmen Francois, CCH: Public Health: ECM

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination: *Together they assist clients with housing, referrals, hygiene, snacks. SOS Richmond offers a safe place to rest.*

Tanya Ruscigno from CORE Mobile Outreach and O'Neil from SOS Richmond are amazing

City of Antioch/CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach Partnership

Key Partners: CCH's CORE mobile outreach program and the City of Antioch

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, City of Antioch

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 3

Reason for nomination: *Antioch funds a CORE mobile outreach team to support people experiencing homelessness in Antioch. Every day the CORE mobile outreach team is out in the field connecting one-on-one with the unhoused of Antioch, providing survival supplies, connecting people to resources and completing applications for housing and other resources. They work alongside Antioch's Police, Public Works and Code Enforcement to provide support to the residents when the city abates homeless encampments. I especially want to recognize Rebecca Sanders, a CORE mobile outreach Program Coordinator, who goes all in for our unhoused residents. She really loves her job and it is evident in all she does. The City of Antioch is truly blessed to have Rebecca and CORE mobile outreach out on the streets caring for our unhoused community members.*

City of Antioch/Facing Homelessness Partnership

Key Partners: Facing Homelessness and the City of Antioch

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, City of Antioch

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 3

Reason for nomination: *Nichole Gardner and her non-profit, Facing Homelessness offer resources to our local unhoused residents. in the city of AntiochThe City of Antioch helps fund and support this amazing partnership. Together these partners collaborate on how to support the work of Facing Homelessness, including how to best assist the unhoused and promote their resources to those who need it. Nichole is the boots-on-the-ground advocate for the City of Antioch's Unhoused Residents. She fights for their rights by attending City Council Meetings and any other meetings she can find, speaking up for them, calling for solutions and challenging the status quo. She drives around town in her bus offering food, water, and resources while offering a listening ear, words of encouragement and a compassionate heart.Nichole has a Facing Homelessness in Antioch Facebook page that is informative, collaborative and encouraging for all community members.*

City of Antioch/SHARE Community Partnership

Key Partners: The SHARE Community and The City of Antioch

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, City of Antioch

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 3

Reason for nomination: *The SHARE Community brings showers and toilets on wheels to the street to help our unhoused neighbors - delivered with an unexpected level of care they call RADICAL HOSPITALITY®. When the City of Antioch receives calls or a walk-in requesting for basic services such as food, clothing, showers, etc, a resource we often share with our unhoused residents is the shower program through The SHARE Community. The City of Antioch helps fund and support this amazing partnership. The City sends clothing donations, financial resources, youth and adult volunteers, and promoting their resources. The SHARE Community provides showers, toilets, clean clothes and shoes, a grooming station, and beverages and snacks to local guests on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As the unhoused community members arrive, they are welcomed with smiles, hugs and a whole lot of love. The location where The SHARE Community provides their offerings, tables and chairs are set up for eating, playing games, and connecting with friends, old and new. This location also has a medical mobile unit and is a place where Loaves and Fishes provides lunch. The SHARE Community's mission is to share hope, abundance, resources and encouragement by creating ways for people to work together toward positive change.*

Ms. Ricka Davis-Sheard, Founder and Executive Director of the SHARE Community offers the unhoused a bit of normalcy on every Tuesday and Thursday with hot showers for the unhoused community. While they are in the

"in between" stages. Ms. Ricka and the SHARE Community not only offer hot showers to the unhoused community they also offer clean clothes, new under garments, shoes, breakfast, hot coffee/water & they share resources. Ms. Ricka and the SHARE Community give so freely of their time, energy, and an overflowing abundance of love, joy, patience, and steadfast commitment to the unhoused. It's a calling that can only be carried out with hearts as generous and compassionate as theirs. [submitted by Ms. Evon Ufland]

Data Improvement Project

Key Partners: Contra Costa Health Divisions - Business Intelligence, Contra Costa Health Plan and Health, Housing, and Homeless services

Nominated by: Jamie Schechter, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Streamlining data to better support participants experiencing homelessness. Through this partnership, Contra Costa Health brings together multiple divisions to better serve people experiencing homelessness. Key activities have included:*

- *developing a high risk flag notification so Contra Costa staff can better support participants who may experience things like emergency department admission. This increased coordination ensures staff are less likely to lose track of participants experiencing a crisis*
- *partnering to streamline CalAIM claiming and billing to increase community support services*
- *partnering to utilize health data to improve the Continuum of Care's Housing Needs Assessment and reduce data collection burden on staff and participants seeking housing*

Delta Landing Partnership

Key Partners: Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa and BACS at Delta Landing

Nominated by: Janette Kennedy, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 5

Reason for nomination: *The two organizations work to help the homeless community by providing services, such as a hot and nourishing meal at Delta Landing, an interim housing facility that provides basic healthcare, housing navigation, and case management provided on-site to help residents recover from homelessness and find permanent housing.*

Loaves and Fishes and BACS have worked together for the last 3 years and have provided many people with hope. Lived experience staff and board members help advise the work Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa does everyday.

El Portal Place

Key Partners: Housing Authority of CC, CCH, Hope Solutions, Overa

Nominated by: Schechter xx, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination: *In partnership we were able to successfully house 54 chronically homeless individuals in record time. All partners worked together to ensure processes were efficient and residents were able to move into a welcoming and inclusive environment.*

Furnishing For The Future

Key Partners: Make it Home and Continuum of Care

Nominated by: Shelby Ferguson, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisorial District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Make it Home - Make it Home has been partnering with many local homeless service providers in the Contra Costa Continuum of Care to provide furniture for participants moving into housing at a very low cost to providers. Make it Home has fully furnished countless participants homes who are moving into housing on their own, many for the first time.*

This partnership ensures that households moving into housing do so with dignity. Having furniture contributes to long term success in maintaining housing and helps participants feel a sense of pride and ownership over their new home.

GROW Community

Key Partners: GROW Community project in Concord

Nominated by: Ronda Deplazes, Community Member

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination: *GROW Community project in Concord pulls together amazing people and volunteers to provide clothing, showers, food, acceptance and encouragement for people experiencing homelessness.*

Homeless Workforce Integration Network (H-WIN)

Key Partners: Homeless Workforce Integration Network (H-WIN) is a collaboration between Contra Costa Health: H3 (Health, Housing & Homeless Services), the Contra Costa Workforce Development Board (WDBCC), and a wide network of community-based organizations including ad

Nominated by: Morgan Perkins, Hope Solutions

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *HWIN's mission is to close the gaps between housing and workforce by bringing together professionals in the community whose job it is to support people experiencing homelessness. The goal is to better connect county residents to the resources that enable them to have stable housing, to earn a livable wage, and to thrive. Quarterly network meetings bring together providers and administrators to learn, share resources, problem solve, network and make referrals. Past programming has featured presentations from Sparkpoint, HealthRIGHT 360, and the Department of Child Support Services. More recently the H-WIN network has taken field trips to sites like America's Job Center of California (AJCC), Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP), and Lao Family Community Development (LFCD). These cooperative actions improve warm hand-offs, strengthen communication, and build service pathways to help participants access training, education, and employment opportunities.*

Now in its fourth year, H-WIN has grown from an idea for the 2020 Workforce Accelerator Fund (WAF-8) project into a countywide network and trusted space for collaboration. Service providers from all sectors come together to make our programs work better for our participants.

Homelessness 101 Series

Key Partners: Contra Costa County Library, Contra Costa Health: Health, Housing, and Homeless Services, Cities of Antioch and Walnut Creek and White Pony Express

Nominated by: Jaime Jenett, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *The Homelessness 101 series is a collaborative educational initiative designed to increase public understanding of homelessness in Contra Costa County. This partnership brings together public agencies, nonprofits, and community members to create an accessible, engaging space for learning and dialogue. Launched through a partnership between the Contra Costa County Library and Contra Costa Health's Health, Housing, and Homeless Services team, the series offers informative sessions tailored for a wide audience—from concerned residents and aspiring service providers to individuals currently experiencing homelessness. Albert Garcia from Contra Costa County Library has played a central role in the success of this initiative. His leadership in coordinating with library sites across the county ensured that each session was well-organized and community-centered. Albert also led the development and distribution of marketing materials, helping to broaden outreach and increase attendance. Additionally, he worked closely with city staff, nonprofit partners, and volunteers to align logistics and ensure that each event was welcoming and impactful. The series has been hosted in Pittsburg, San Pablo, Concord, Antioch, and Walnut Creek, with up to 40 attendees per session. Attendees have included government officials and staff, safety net service providers, interested community members and people experiencing homelessness. Highlights include: • City Engagement: Staff from Antioch and Walnut Creek actively participated in planning and outreach. • Direct Support Services: White Pony Express*

provided food and essential supplies to attendees. CORE mobile outreach teams were present to provide attendees experiencing homelessness with direct access to services and information. • Library Support: Local librarians helped manage logistics, distribute supplies, and recruit attendees. Homelessness 101 exemplifies the power of cross-sector collaboration. It not only educates the public but also directly supports individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The initiative's success is a testament to the dedication of its partners—especially Albert Garcia's behind-the-scenes coordination and leadership.

Hope Solutions Teamwork

Key Partners: Hope Solutions' Housing Works Rapid Rehousing and Eviction Prevention Program

Nominated by: Ronald Broach, Hope Solutions

Supervisory District of Nominee: Director of Housing and Support Services

Reason for nomination: *This program has consistently exceeded the milestones outlined in the 2024–2025 fiscal year agreement. Through the coordinated efforts of dedicated Case Managers, Employment Specialists, and Housing Navigators, the program has housed and stabilized numerous individuals and families facing homelessness, creating lasting pathways to independence. This team's impact is reflected not only in the number of units secured, but in the quality, safety, and suitability of the homes they connect clients to. Their commitment extends beyond housing placement—fostering relationships, increasing economic stability, and ensuring long-term tenancy. Collectively, their work transforms lives and strengthens the community's ability to end homelessness. Combining their individual strengths, they lift one another higher, creating a solid foundation for the next wave of clients to step into stability—truly a “Transformers, activate!” moment in the fight to end homelessness. The difference between Hope Solutions and others is simple: our service delivery model is rooted in Compassion, Understanding, Flexibility, and Forgiveness—all tied together with our action phrase: “We are going to LOVE on you, and there ain’t nothing you can do about it.” The true Grammy Award winners of these services are our unhoused neighbors, who gain vital support in securing and maintaining housing, accessing employment opportunities, and increasing their income. These steps open the door to the social and economic mainstream, providing immediate stability and the potential for generational wealth. Our work also ripples far beyond the individuals we serve. Community members benefit when encampments*

disappear from their neighborhoods—property values rise, fear and anxiety decrease, and their streets become safe and welcoming once again. Children are no longer exposed to the dangers that often accompany homelessness, giving them a healthier, more secure environment to grow up in. And for our staff, this work is a privilege. They have the rare and rewarding opportunity to walk alongside someone on their journey toward self-sufficiency and independence—a front-row seat to transformation in action. Aristotle once said, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” While Madam Director Klevin, Employment Specialists Erica and Morgan, Housing Navigators Kelly and Amanda, and Case Managers Unique, Sara, Toni, and Ron each shine brilliantly in their individual roles, they are also essential pieces of a much larger whole—one dedicated to healing our community and breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Together, the Hope Solutions Housing Works Rapid Re-Housing and Eviction Prevention Team exemplifies collaboration at its finest, combining expertise, compassion, and relentless dedication. Their collective efforts do more than provide housing—they ignite hope, inspire stability, and create pathways to lasting independence. It is with great pride that I present this exceptional team as nominees for the Outstanding Partnership category, honoring their unwavering dedication and transformative impact on our community.

Laundry Love with Grace

Key Partners: Grace Episcopal Church, Martinez; City of Martinez; Episcopal Impact Fund; First Congregational Church, Martinez; Laundry Love (national); Episcopal Impact Fund; Martinez Community Foundation.

Nominated by: Rev. Deb White, Grace Episcopal Church

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 5

Reason for nomination: *Laundry Love with Grace washes the clothes and bedding of low and no-income families and individuals in Martinez. We provide the quarters, detergent, and snacks and spend time in community together at Launderland in Martinez while the laundry is running. People with lived experience of homelessness work side-by-side with volunteers to wash their clothes and bedding. Laundry Love at Grace has grown exponentially since our first Friday when we washed about seven loads of laundry for three people. We now regularly wash about 100 loads per week. We are part of a national group that brightens the lives of thousands of people each month through love, dignity, and detergent!*

Leave No One Behind

Key Partners: NAMI Contra Costa, City of Concord, Minar, various faith centers across the county, Hope Solutions, Opportunity Village. Contra Costa Crisis Center, SOS Richmond, Loaves and Fishes, Facing Homelessness in Antioch, Place of Peace Outreach, and Delta Sigma

Nominated by: Elder Desiree Rushing, NAMI Contra Costa

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *“Leave No One Behind” (LNOB) Program is a part of the NAMI FaithNet program and we partner with the City of Concord, Minar, Various faith centers across the county, Hope Solutions, Opportunity Village. Contra Costa Crisis Center, SOS Richmond, Loaves and Fishes, Facing Homelessness in Antioch, Place of Peace Outreach, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. LNOB supports unsheltered people in the encampment behind Target in Antioch, the encampment at the railroad tracks in Antioch on A street and the encampment in the JCPenney parking lot in Brentwood as well as people on the streets of Oakley, Antioch and Pittsburgh. We give unsheltered people and people with mental health issues food, resources and prayer when they ask. NAMI Contra Costa also participates in the planning of the annual Homeless Persons' Memorial event which includes many of the same partners listed above. Faith Centers in Contra Costa County allow us to feed and use their property for education and shelter and the sorority has donated articles and food to us to distribute. We have received backpacks with socks, toiletries.etc. NAMI Contra Costa staff is comprised of people peers we serve in the community. For more information go to: NAMI Contra Costa | Weekly Warm Meals Volunteering. Ashley Lowe adds "The partnership actively seeks out and documents homeless encampments in Contra Costa County and adjusts meals provided to them based on the level of need. Homeless individuals are welcome to come by and pick up food from NAMI CC's office,*

even if it isn't a lunch day. They feel supported by one of their basic needs being met." Gigi Crowder adds, "NAMI Contra Costa volunteers and staff directly engage with people with lived experience of homelessness by talking with them and providing takeaway lunches for them weekly, and more frequently if they come by again. The partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County because they provide some basic needs (water, food, sanitizers) to unsheltered individuals who normally have a difficult time getting nutrition."

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa/Opportunity Junction Partnership

Key Partners: Opportunity Junction and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

Nominated by: Joleen Lafayette, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Opportunity Junction serves individuals who are very low income giving them the opportunity to learn admin skills or nursing skills for an opportunity in a new career. Loaves and Fishes provides hot meals to Opportunity Junction 4 days a week ensuring their clients have nutrition and access to healthy food*

Since 2000, Opportunity Junction has been providing training, support, work experience, and placement assistance, which help motivated Contra Costa County job seekers launch careers that lead to financial security. When we work together, motivated job seekers develop the skills and confidence they need to succeed. Their success makes their families and our community stronger. Mission: Driven by the fundamental belief that everyone who works hard deserves the opportunity to succeed, our mission is "to help motivated Contra Costa County job seekers develop the skills and confidence to launch careers that lead to financial security."

Opportunity Junction programs help job seekers launch careers Programs: Our core programs help motivated job seekers launch careers that lead to financial security. We offer job training for careers in healthcare (starting with Certified Nursing Assistant training) and office administration (focused on office technology skills). We also offer career counseling and placement

assistance to those with other goals and ambitions. In the evenings, we offer classes in computer applications.

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa/Trinity Center Partnership #1

Key Partners: Trinity Center and Loaves & Fishes Contra Costa

Nominated by: Pamela McGrath, Trinity Center

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination: *Trinity Center serves unhoused and unstably housed adults by providing essential services, including meals, showers, laundry, clothing, that help support their engagement with housing focused case management, workforce development for employment readiness, whole person wellness, and integration into the community. Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa County offers a hot, nutritious, noontime meal each weekday at Trinity Center, making Trinity Center an official Loaves & Fishes Dining Room where anyone can receive hot nutritious meals. Loaves & Fishes also brings their Culinary Training Program to Trinity Center once a year, providing valuable job training. Together, we ensure that our marginalized neighbors receive nutritious meals and other vital life preserving services that allow people to apply their efforts and energy to engage in life enhancing programs and services. Trinity Center and Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa County collaborate on events and activities outside of their established partnership activities. We brainstorm and day dream about how to offer more and better services to our entire community.*

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa/Trinity Center Partnership

#2

Key Partners: Trinity Center and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

Nominated by: Joleen Lafayette, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Trinity Center is an amazing organization who provides food, daily shelter, showers, laundry and navigation services to people living in Contra Costa County who are unhoused, food insecure*

Loaves and Fishes partners with Trinity Center by operating one of our dining rooms within their Walnut Creek facility, where we provide hot, nutritious meals to their clients Monday through Friday. We also offer a free 12-week culinary training program each January, open to Trinity Center clients who are interested in pursuing a career in the culinary industry. During the program, participants prepare dinners for Trinity Center's Winter Nights program, further supporting the community while gaining valuable hands-on experience.

Navigating Home

Key Partners: Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Navigators

Nominated by: Casey Costa, EHSD

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *As Navigators we receive referrals from the community & various agencies to help the public who are in need including 211, CORE, Season of Sharing, Salvation Army, Loaves & Fishes, Greater Richmond Interfaith Program, and the Child Abuse Council. Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Navigators help the community find housing, connect them with shelters, help with past due rent, help with deposits & first month rent, help the public navigate the various housing programs & help advocate for the public as well. As Navigators we receive referrals from the community & various agencies to help the public who are in need. We are constantly receiving referrals directly from 211 & CORE mobile outreach. Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Navigators help the community find housing, help connect them with shelters, help with past due rent, help with deposits & first month rent, help the public navigate the various housing programs & help advocate for the public as well. Our goal is to help the public through any crisis they may have & help them become self-sufficient. Without a stable roof over one's head how can they become self-sufficient?*

Pet Support for People Experiencing Homeless #1

Key Partners: Joybound People & Pets. Contra Costa Animal Services and Contra Costa Health

Nominated by: Rebecca Sanders, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Joybound and Contra Animal Services partnered with CCH to spay/neuter and vaccinate over 30 unhoused pets so that their unsheltered owners could be housed. This partnership was essential in housing more than 35 unsheltered individuals. This collaboration continues with Joybound offering free pet vaccination clinics monthly in our community. These partners have also provided support to pets of people in interim housing like Delta Landing. Without this support, people with pets would be resistant to housing. Thank you to Joybound for assisting us in keeping these families together!*

Pet Support for People Experiencing Homeless #2

Key Partners: Joybound and CCH's CORE mobile outreach program

Nominated by: Alexander Martinez-Harris, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 5

Reason for nomination: *CCH's CORE mobile outreach program is proud to nominate Joybound People and Pets as an outstanding partner in our work to support unsheltered residents at a longterm encampment in Antioch.*

Joybound brought their animal welfare expertise and resources into encampments where companion animals had become a significant barrier to shelter and housing. By providing discounted veterinary care, spay and neuter surgeries, and rehoming options, Joybound empowered clients, people with lived experience of homelessness, to make informed choices about their pets while preserving the deep emotional bonds that matter so much to them.

Joybound's services addressed service needs for which CORE mobile outreach required assistance: the overwhelming number of unvaccinated and unaltered animals in encampments. Without access to these services, many individuals were ineligible for shelter or housing due to pet limits, leaving them stuck in unsafe conditions. Through Joybound's care and compassion, more than 30 dogs were safely rehomed, 5 animals were spayed and neutered and vaccinated, and 4 puppies were fostered. These outcomes directly reduced barriers to housing, supported the encampment residents health and safety, and created a pathway for people to move indoors.

CORE mobile outreach staff build trust with individuals every day, but it was Joybound's willingness to meet us in encampments and treat the

encampment residents and their' pets with dignity that made this partnership exceptional. Their work not only improved animal welfare but also gave the residents hope and practical solutions at a time when they felt stuck. Joybound's collaboration with CORE is a model for how community-based organizations can bring unique expertise to homelessness response and create life-changing results.

Point in Time Count GIS Project

Key Partners: The Contra Costa Department of IT (DoIT) Geographic Information System (GIS) team and CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3)

Nominated by: Janel Fletcher, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *The Contra Costa Department of IT (DoIT) Geographic Information System (GIS) team are exceptional planning and implementation partners who are integral to the successful completion of the annual homeless Point-in-Time Count coordinated by the CCH: H3 team in Contra Costa County. Their partnership ensures Contra Costa's PIT Count runs efficiently and effectively. DoIT GIS provide support to H3 through all phases of the PIT Count. DoIT provide updated field- and office-based mapping & monitoring applications, provide training to H3 staff and volunteers, participate in meetings and count day, and conduct post-processing and product development. The partnership supported people facing homelessness by ensuring that 145 volunteers participating in the 2025 Point in Time count had a seamless app experience with clear and accurate routes to visually count people experiencing homelessness and their sleep settings. Additionally, the team prepared census tract data results for CCH:H3 to make informed estimations about the number of people, characteristics and experiences of individuals and families living in unsheltered conditions. The Point-in-Time Count is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and results are used to prioritize federal funding for homeless services in Contra Costa County. Their collaboration makes trainings fun and interactive for our volunteers. They are always willing to help our volunteers with any technical issues that may arise*

the day of, always going above and beyond. For ensuring the application is user friendly and making sure volunteers feel supported.

Thank you, Bear Hartley, Martin Lynch, Morgan March, Philip Weeks, Tatiana Moger, and Timothy Brink. H3 is grateful for your partnership.

Prevention Screening Tool Project

Key Partners: Contra Costa Crisis Center, CCH: H3 Coordinated Entry Team and Prevention Providers

Nominated by: Shelby Ferguson, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Contra Costa Crisis Center, our local 211 provider, the Coordinated Entry team, and the Prevention providers are the key players in implementing the new prevention screening tool that assesses and prioritizes households at risk of homelessness for our very limited prevention resources in our community. Contra Costa Crisis Center has been an invaluable partner in the roll out of the new and improved prevention screening tool. They have been screening countless calls utilizing this new tool and referring to our prevention providers when participants at risk of homelessness are eligible. It is incredibly challenging work as it is a new way to prioritize households for our limited prevention resources and is a very important piece of our Coordinated Entry System.*

Recovery Services for Latinos Experiencing Homelessness

Key Partners: Pueblos Del Sol, Support4Recovery and Contra Costa Health

Nominated by: Eduardo Segura-Melendez, BiBett

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Support 4Recovery Casa Andres: The Pueblos Del Sol (BiBett) residential and detox program partners closely with Support4Recovery's Casa Andrés, the only other Spanish-speaking program and sober living home in the county, to address the unique needs of the homeless Hispanic community. Many of the clients we serve face not only substance use challenges but also cultural and language barriers that make accessing treatment difficult. By working together, we ensure that these individuals receive care that is both linguistically accessible and culturally responsive. When homeless Hispanic clients enter our detox or residential program, we begin planning their next step in recovery with Casa Andrés. Through this partnership, clients have a direct pathway to a sober living environment where their language and culture are understood and respected. Casa Andrés provides a safe, supportive space where recovery principles are reinforced in Spanish, reducing isolation and increasing the chances of long-term success.*

CCH: CORE Mobile Outreach: Our residential and detox program works closely with Contra Costa Health's CORE mobile Outreach to meet the needs of the homeless community by addressing both recovery and housing challenges. CORE identifies individuals experiencing homelessness who struggle with substance use and provides direct referrals into our detox and residential services. To ensure a smooth transition, we use a warm handoff

process where case managers from both programs meet with the client to develop a plan that connects treatment and housing resources. Through outreach efforts, CORE's workers share information about our services during their street-level engagement, while our staff provide clients with up-to-date housing and shelter resources at discharge. When transportation is a barrier, CORE assists in getting clients from the streets or shelters to our intake appointments so they can access treatment without delay. We maintain ongoing communication through regular case conferences, which allows us to coordinate care for shared clients and address recovery, housing, medical, and mental health needs holistically.

CCH: Health Care for the Homeless: in particular Dr. Hernandez and his team. Our residential and detox program also works in collaboration with the doctor from the local homeless van clinic, who plays a vital role in addressing the medical needs of our clients and the wider community. Many individuals experiencing homelessness face serious health challenges that often go untreated, creating additional barriers to recovery. By partnering with the clinic, we are able to connect clients to essential medical services while they engage in treatment. The doctor provides physical exams for our clients, helping us meet intake requirements and ensuring that underlying health issues are identified and addressed early. This partnership also allows our program to provide continuity of care for homeless clients, many of whom do not have a primary care provider. When medical needs arise beyond our scope, we are able to refer clients directly to the clinic for further evaluation and treatment.

This collaboration strengthens the overall care we provide, as recovery is not limited to sobriety but also requires attention to physical health. Through the support of the doctor and the homeless van clinic, our clients gain access to compassionate, low-barrier medical care that would otherwise be out of reach. Together, we not only improve individual health outcomes but also strengthen the network of care available to the homeless community as a whole.

Reentry Housing Partnership #1

Key Partners: Nova Vita LLC and LFCD Housing for Strong Reentry Program

Nominated by: joyce lao, Nova Vita LLC

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1 a Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Reason for nomination: *We want to recognize Nova Vita LLC, led by Joyce Jingjing Lao, and the Housing for Strong Reentry Program, supervised by Wilanda Hughes. The partnership directly engages people with lived experience of homelessness and incarceration by housing them in safe, stable environments and listening to their feedback to improve services. Since March 2025, the partnership has supported nearly 10 individuals by combining quality housing with reentry case management and wraparound services. This collaboration removes one of the greatest barriers for justice-involved individuals—stable housing—while promoting long-term stability, family reunification, and reduced recidivism*

This partnership is built on a human-centered and mutually supportive approach. Joyce provides dignity, structure, and accountability in housing, while Wilanda not only supports residents but also assists Joyce in daily management, strengthening the collaboration. Though new, this partnership is already breaking cycles of homelessness and incarceration and creating second chances in Contra Costa County.

Reentry Housing Partnership #2

Key Partners: Lao Family Community Development - Housing For Strong Reentry and Oxford House

Nominated by: Ryan Domingue, Oxford House

Supervisorial District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Wilanda Hughes and Rohullah Najibi from Lao Family Community Development (LFCD) work hands on with clients and have found housing and provided funding for many men and women to come to my Oxford House Inc. homes in Contra Costa County. They have awesome resources and find housing solutions for so many men and women each year.*

Reentry Services Collaboration

Key Partners: CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office, CCH: Detention Health Services, the Office of Reentry and Justice (ORJ), and the Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Nominated by: Lisa Thomas, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Public Defender's Office: This collaboration ensures that unhoused individuals preparing for release are referred to CORE for homeless services, often the same day. Together, CORE and the Public Defender's Office coordinate transportation, intake, and referrals to services such as shelter, housing, and alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment. The Public Defender's Office remains engaged with CORE throughout the individual's transition, providing updates and supporting continued service connections. Key Partners: Nicole Green and Lori Beath*

Detention Health Services: Working closely with Detention Health medical staff, CORE helps connect individuals with Medi-Cal, discharge medication plans, and follow-up medical care. CORE also provides transportation to ensure people leaving custody can pick up prescriptions and attend post-release medical appointments. Key Partner: Rissa Guitarte

Office of Reentry and Justice (ORJ): ORJ bridges reentry systems countywide. Together, CORE and ORJ conduct planning calls, develop referral tools, and provide group programming inside detention facilities. CORE provides weekly support groups in detention facilities, and these groups focus on life skills, housing opportunities, and peer-selected support topics, helping prepare individuals for success after release. Key Partner: Patrice Guillory

Community Advisory Board (CAB): CAB serves as the link between community voice and systems planning. CAB and CORE share program outcomes, contribute to discussions on funding opportunities, and collaborates with other stakeholders on AB109 strategies. Key Partner: Gariana Youngblood

This re-entry service partnership actively engages individuals with lived experience of homelessness and reentry by incorporating their input in groups, advisory discussions, and service planning. Their perspectives shape programming and ensure the services remain grounded in real-world needs. This re-entry service collaboration provides a continuum of support from detention to the community. Services include housing support groups inside detention facilities, pre-release and post-release planning, transportation, and coordinated referrals to housing, treatment, and sober living environments. Together, partners, including Men and Women of Purpose, Hope Solutions and Lao Family Community Development ensure that individuals at risk of homelessness have access to stable housing options, healthcare, and recovery supports as they transition back into the community. Tim Perkins from the Contra Costa Office of Education adds a special shout out to Cedric Windston of Men and Women of Purpose: "Cedric is instrumental in helping inmates pre and post release. He has been integral in getting inmates the needed resources to succeed."

Since July 2024, this partnership has successfully supported 181 individuals exiting detention into treatment programs and 16 individuals transitioned directly from detention into their own rental units. These outcomes show the effectiveness of the partnership in reducing homelessness and strengthening reentry pathways.

Support for Families in WCCUSD

#1

Key Partners: WCCUSD Families in Transition Team + Community Education Partnerships

Nominated by: Halle Homich, Community Education Partnerships

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination: *They partner together to identify and support students and families experiencing homelessness. The Families in Transition Team, which consists of 4 team members: the WCCUSD Homeless and Foster Liaison, the CEP Program Manager/FIT Biligual Support Specialist, the Academic Case Worker and the Community Resource Specialist collaborate to identify students and families in the school district who are experiencing homelessness. We provide bus passes, school supplies + backpacks, graduation support, housing resources, tutoring and academic support, and referrals to other community resources.*

Our team members have welcomed and enrolled countless newcomer families who have come through the Richmond family shelters.

Support for Families in WCCUSD

#2

Key Partners: West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) and Community Education Partnerships (CEP)

Nominated by: Martha Encarnacion, Community Education Partnerships

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination: *CEP is a contracted partner with WCCUSD to support their Families in Transition Office to ensure students and families are receiving the services they need to remove barriers for students to attend school. WCCUSD and CEP work together in developing better structure to ensure families get the support they deserve and find ways to bring awareness on the McKinney Vento act.*

WCCUSD and CEP also work together to plan events and meet with other local agencies in partnership to meet the needs of our community.

Supporting Children in Shelters

Key Partners: Bay Area Rescue Mission and Community Education Partnerships

Nominated by: Martha Encarnacion, Community Education Partnerships

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination: *Bay Area Rescue Mission has a family homeless shelter where they have programs for families and Community Education Partnerships works with the Rescue Mission to provide academic 1:1 tutoring and small group support to the kids living at the shelter. Community Education Partnerships also works with the Rescue Mission and the school district to make sure students have access to quality education. The Rescue Mission ensures collaboration on events and programming with Community Education Partnerships is integrated in the shelters programming.*

Both have been working together for a few years and has been a successful program where they both uplift each other.

Supporting Immigrant Workers

Key Partners: Hijas del Campo and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

Nominated by: Joleen Lafayette, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 3

Reason for nomination: *Loaves and Fishes provides hot nutritious meals to Hijas Del Campo agency that serves immigrant workers working in the fields of Contra Costa County*

Loaves and Fishes provides 50 hot meals two times a week to Hijas Del Campo who then takes them to their clients who are working in the fields in Contra Costa County. Many of their clients are threatened by ICE and are very low income people experiencing food insecurity.

Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Clients

Key Partners: Violet Barton and her team of case managers at Contra Costa Health: Family, Maternal and Child Health

Nominated by: Nancy Mosqueda, CCH: Public Health: FMCH

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination: *Contra Costa Health: Family, Maternal and Child Health does a tremendous job trying to provide support to pregnant and parenting people experiencing homelessness. Violet is a great leader for our team- she's always looking for ways ideas to help case managers find housing resources for pregnant and parenting clients struggling with housing. These programs include homeless services and also things like Welcome Home Baby and First 5. She helped me support a pregnant client in a very complicated situation who was living on the streets. Thanks to Violet's help and the work of our team, the client had a healthy baby and got connected to family in a different part of the state. She helped me think of solutions I wouldn't have even considered and now our client and her baby are happy, healthy and living in secure housing. Violet provides our team much needed management, support and leadership which helps us serve our homeless clients even better. It is amazing having her. She is very knowledgeable with extensive experience in Family Maternal and Child Health so she understands our work in the field and she works with us closely to make sure we do an outstanding job with our clients. She's always very responsive.*

Supporting Wellness in Shelters

Key Partners: Key partners include The Fountain Project offering medical and life wellness services that serve residential clients of the Bay Area Rescue Mission's Life Transformation Program

Nominated by: Wayne Earl, Bay Area Rescue Mission

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination: *The Fountain Project has partnered with the Bay Area Rescue Mission (BARM) for many years. They come onsite to BARM multiple times a year for their One Heart Health Fairs, where they provide medical and wellness services, guidance on health care, and support for overall well-being. Their compassionate approach to health and healing meets our clients where they are, enhances their understanding of health and wellness, and encourages them to actively participate in their own health journeys. In addition to these health fairs, the Fountain Project offers the same services to BARM students and staff twice a week at their new facility on Harbor Way. All services, classes, and instruction are provided entirely free of charge and with love.*

Supporting Wellness in West County

Key Partners: The Fountain Project (nominee), SOS Richmond and GRIP (nominators)

Nominated by: Morgan Richie, SOS Richmond

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination: *The Fountain Project has been a transformative partner in expanding access to wellness and health services for unhoused residents of West Contra Costa County. Through their innovative collaboration with SOS Richmond's Safe Harbour site and GRIP, they have introduced programs and resources that bring healing, hope, and dignity to neighbors who too often face insurmountable barriers to care. This partnership does more than provide services — it changes lives. By creating safe, welcoming, and trust-based opportunities for people to participate in wellness activities, the Fountain Project has inspired individuals to take courageous steps in their health journeys. Many who first engaged through this partnership have gone on to connect with primary care, behavioral health, and housing resources. The impact has been deeply felt by both program participants and staff. Families in shelter have found renewed strength and healing, parents have gained tools to manage the daily stresses of homelessness, and children have discovered joy, creativity, and resilience. SOS Richmond and GRIP team members themselves report direct benefits to their own health and well-being from the Fountain Project's offerings — a testament to the holistic power of this work. These services not only restore dignity to participants but also help frontline staff show up with greater patience, compassion, and energy for the hard work they do every day. By offering free acupuncture, chiropractic care, and massage therapy, the Fountain Project provides immediate relief from the*

physical and emotional toll of homelessness and service work. Participants have described these opportunities as “life-changing.” One GRIP resident shared: “For the first time in months, I felt human again.” An SOS staff member echoed this, saying: “The Fountain Project not only supports our clients — it helps us as staff show up with more compassion and energy.” The Fountain Project exemplifies the spirit of an Outstanding Partnership. By meeting people where they are, reducing barriers to care, and walking alongside unhoused residents and service providers alike, they have proven themselves an indispensable ally in building a healthier, more resilient, and more compassionate community for all.

TAY Support: Community College Basic Needs Partnership

Key Partners: Contra Costa Community College District, Basic Needs Programs and Youth Action Board

Nominated by: Caroline Miller, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination: *Over the past year, the Youth Action Board (YAB) has partnered with the Contra Costa Community College District's Basic Needs Programs (4CD) to better support Youth & Young Adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness or in need of essential services. This partnership centers YYA with lived experience. Together, the YAB and the 4CD Basics Needs Program helped shape the county's YYA Strategic Plan process and brought critical homeless resources directly to students during Welcome Week.*

The YAB would like to give special thanks to Hope Dixon, Basic Needs Coordinator at Contra Costa College. Hope's unwavering support and genuine commitment to uplifting youth voices has been key to this partnership's success. From consistently showing up to YAB meetings to helping host the first-ever YYA Homelessness Panel at Contra Costa College during Homeless Awareness Month 2024, Hope has modeled what it means to be a true partner and advocate.

TAY Support: Community College Welcome Week

Key Partners: CCH's CORE mobile outreach Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Education Team; Youth Action Board (YAB) and Contra Costa Community Colleges

Nominated by: Caroline Miller, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *The Youth Action Board (YAB) partnered with the CCH CORE mobile outreach Transition Aged Youth (TAY) Education Team to bring vital homeless resources directly to students across all Contra Costa Community College District campuses during Welcome Week. This partnership is rooted in lived experience—both CORE mobile outreach staff and YAB members have lived experience of homelessness—and their work and partnership are critical in ensuring outreach is authentic, effective, and driven by those who know the challenges firsthand. By providing resources on campuses, the partnership meets students where they are, breaking down barriers to housing and support.*

The YAB would like to give a heartfelt shoutout to Sherina Criswell, Care Coordinator with the CORE mobile outreach TAY Education Team. Thank you for bringing your heart to this work every day and for your gift of connecting with everyone you meet. You embody the spirit of this partnership—leading with care, authenticity, and commitment to young people

TAY Support: DVC Partnership

Key Partners: CCH's CORE mobile outreach program and Diablo Valley College

Nominated by: Sherina Rina Criswell, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination: *The key partners in this collaboration include CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, Diablo Valley College (DVC), and Contra Costa Health Services. This partnership brings together education, outreach, and healthcare services to create a more holistic approach to supporting individuals experiencing homelessness. People with lived experience of homelessness are engaged in multiple ways. CORE mobile outreach regularly employs or consults with peer advocates who have firsthand experience with homelessness, ensuring services remain compassionate, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant. These individuals often participate in outreach efforts, act as trusted messengers, and provide feedback that helps shape the services offered through this partnership. Their insight is critical in building trust with unsheltered populations and in tailoring responses to real-world challenges. The CORE mobile outreach and DVC partnership supports people facing homelessness by bridging critical gaps between emergency outreach and long-term stability services. CORE mobile outreach teams conduct field engagement to identify and connect unsheltered individuals with immediate needs such as shelter, food, hygiene kits, and medical care. Through collaboration with DVC, individuals are also given access to educational pathways, workforce development, and support programs that aim to create sustainable exit routes from homelessness. In addition, DVC's Basic Needs program and Student Services provide wraparound supports—including case management, mental health counseling, and assistance with applying for*

financial aid and housing. This integrated model allows clients and students experiencing homelessness to transition from crisis to stability, with educational and vocational tools to support long-term independence.

One unique aspect of this partnership is its commitment to reducing the stigma of homelessness within educational spaces. By fostering a culture of inclusion and support at Diablo Valley College, students facing housing instability can pursue their education without fear of discrimination. The collaboration also emphasizes the importance of mobility and flexibility—CORE’s mobile units and outreach strategies are designed to meet people where they are, both physically and in terms of their readiness to engage in services. This trauma-informed approach has proven effective in building trust and empowering clients toward self-determined goals.

TAY Support: FYI Vouchers

Key Partners: Contra Costa Employment and Human Services (ESHD) Children and Family Services Bureau, Hope Solutions and Housing Authority of Contra Costa County

Nominated by: Shelby Ferguson, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *This partnership is a collaborative effort to serve former foster youth in moving into independent housing, many for the very first time in their lives. This collaboration helps the young person apply for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher, a housing voucher for former foster youth. The team also provides housing navigation to help locate a unit, and financial assistance to help participants secure and move into housing.*

TAY Support: TAY By Names List Case Conference Partnership

Key Partners: Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Team; CCH's CORE mobile outreach TAY, Education Team & Family Teams; CCH's Contra Costa Youth Continuum of Services (CCYCS) Team; Hope Solutions TAY Programs Team; and Trinity Center.

Nominated by: Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *This partnership helps ensure that all TAY experiencing literal homelessness in Contra Costa County are connected to the services they need to move toward housing stability, offering a model of coordinated response in addressing homelessness for a specific population in our community. Also special thanks to the CCH:H3 HMIS team for creating the report / data system to support implementation!*

This housing-focused case conference, led by the Coordinated Entry (CE) Team, convenes bi-weekly and brings together dedicated TAY providers to identify housing solutions and pathways for every known TAY-headed household experiencing literal homelessness in our community. Since its launch in November 2024, through the Tipping Point Collaborative's Bay Area TAY initiative, this effort has strengthened the homeless system's response and deepened collaboration among TAY providers. Impact highlights (Year One): 350+ unduplicated TAY discussed and served 300+ connected to street outreach 120+ referred to shelter 90+ referred to permanent housing programs 100+ connected to other essential services and/or reunited with family This meeting ensures that all TAY experiencing homelessness in Contra

Costa County are connected to the services they need to move toward housing stability. Together, this collaboration represents the power of partnership in driving solutions for young people facing homelessness and offers a model of coordinated, housing-focused response.

TAY Support: Youth Action Board

Key Partners: RYSE Center, CCH: Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) and the Continuum of Care (CoC)

Nominated by: Caroline Miller, CCH: Health, Housing and Homeless Services

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination: *Since 2022, RYSE has partnered with Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) and the Continuum of Care (CoC) in advancing our county's response to youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness. Together, we launched the Youth Action Board (YAB) in 2024, creating paid leadership roles for young people with lived experience. Through the YAB, youth leaders directly shape and guide system improvements in collaboration with key stakeholders working to end YYA homelessness. Their vision is at the heart of the YYA Strategic Plan which reflects their vision to "increase the number of centers like RYSE—spaces with wraparound services that prioritize joy, healing, hope, and fun." Through the Housing Justice Program, RYSE provides housing stabilization, rental assistance, family reunification, conflict resolution, and advocacy with landlords and agencies with an approach that is deeply relational and grounded in healing, justice, and youth leadership. RYSE also advocates alongside young people, ensuring that their lived experiences are at the center of policy and practice. In 2024, more than 200 young people received housing support and linkages through RYSE's programs.*

H3, the CoC, and YAB extend our deepest gratitude to the RYSE Center for your commitment to young people. Special shout-out to Kanwarpal Dhaliwal, Gemikia Henderson, and Randy Joseph. Thank you for keeping us accountable and reminding us of the healthy struggle toward building a Contra Costa where

2025 HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH TOOLKIT

YYA are not just supported but truly honored and uplifted as partners in shaping their own ecosystem of care.

Teaming Up For Success

Key Partners: Nola Wright, ECM Case Manager, Contra Costa Health and Ms. Roman Smith, client

Nominated by: I don't know Smith, Client

Supervisory District of Nominee: Care Manager

Reason for nomination: *I am honored to nominate Nola Wright for her exceptional partnership in supporting me and my children during one of the most difficult times in our lives. Over the past year, Ms. Wright has worked side by side with me through Enhanced Care Management, not only ensuring my medical needs were met but also helping me navigate the many barriers that stood between my family and safe housing. Our work together was truly a partnership. Ms. Wright stayed in close communication with me, checking in regularly, listening to my concerns, and helping me set priorities. She supported me in scheduling medical appointments, making sure prescriptions were refilled on time, and advocating for my care when I felt overwhelmed. At the same time, she recognized that my family's health and safety could not be separated from our unstable housing situation. When I was offered an apartment, Ms. Wright immediately stepped in as a partner. She connected me with a housing resource that paid the security deposit, but she didn't stop there. She walked me through the application process, encouraged me when I doubted myself, and followed up to ensure everything was completed on time. Her consistent support meant I didn't have to navigate these challenges alone. Through this collaboration, we were able to secure a safe home for me and my children, moving us out of an abusive environment and preventing homelessness. This nomination recognizes not only Ms. Wright's dedication but also the partnership between myself,*

Enhanced Care Management, and local housing resources. Together, this partnership provided stability, safety, and a foundation for a better future for my family.

Miss Nola Wright makes a life-changing difference for those she serves. She ensures that each person feels seen, heard, and cared for throughout the entire process of transitioning into housing. Her assistance goes beyond just finding a place to live; she provides resources such as food pantry access, meal delivery services tailored to health needs, and guidance toward community supports that strengthen long-term stability. Individuals like myself have directly benefited from her compassion and thoroughness. Nola helped me secure a home for my three daughters and myself, helping to remove us from a domestic violence environment. I left every meeting feeling comfortable and supported every step of the way. Her work is deeply valued not only by the individuals and families she helps but also by the broader community, which recognizes her as someone who restores hope and dignity to people who need it most.

Miss Nola Wright is not only a resourceful advocate but also a truly kind and caring individual. She treats every person with respect and humanity, making sure no need is overlooked. Her dedication is personal and heartfelt, and she carries out her work with a spirit of generosity that makes a lasting impression. She does not just place people into housing—she makes sure they feel secure, cared for, and supported in building a better future. Her work is a shining example of what it means to truly end homelessness, one life at a time.

Trinity Center/ St. Mary's Partnership

Key Partners: Trinity Center and St. Mary's congregation with St. Vincent de Paul network

Nominated by: Joshlynn Little, Trinity Center

Supervisorial District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Over the past several months, Trinity Center has had the privilege of building a meaningful and impactful partnership with St. Mary's congregation working with the St. Vincent de Paul network. Together, we have worked hand in hand to support our unhoused and housing insecure neighbors in Contra Costa County, ensuring they have access to not only critical day services and case management through Trinity Center but also vital one time financial assistance through St. Vincent de Paul. This collaboration has directly resulted in \$5,000 of financial support to Trinity Center members, meeting a wide range of urgent needs. With these funds, members have been able to pay for car insurance, secure a car starter to get to work, cover a PG&E bill, maintain storage units, register their vehicles, repair a car, pay a phone bill, and even cover application and deposit fees for housing. These supports have prevented setbacks that often push individuals deeper into crisis while also creating opportunities for stability and forward progress. Our partnership centers the voices and lived experiences of those we serve. Every request that comes through is rooted in the immediate and specific needs expressed by our members. By listening to their circumstances and advocating alongside them, this partnership empowers individuals with agency and dignity rather than assuming a one size fits all solution. The flexibility of this partnership has been especially meaningful, allowing us to address barriers that, though they may seem small, are often the deciding*

factor in whether someone can access employment, maintain housing, or continue on their path toward stability. This partnership has had a direct and tangible impact on individuals experiencing homelessness in our county. By addressing critical financial gaps, Trinity Center and St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul together help members avoid losing what little stability they have while moving them closer toward their long term goals. For example, paying for a phone bill allows a member to stay connected to their employer and case manager. Covering car repairs or registration keeps transportation available for work and appointments, and for the many individuals who live in their cars, keeping those repairs and registrations current is vital to ensuring their home remains usable and safe. Supporting application fees and deposits removes a significant barrier to securing housing. These interventions are life changing, giving our members hope and opportunities to move forward.

The success of this partnership is not only in the dollars spent but also in the relationship built between our organizations. Our staff, particularly in collaboration with Barb from St. Mary's, have created a streamlined and responsive process that makes assistance both accessible and timely. This trust and communication have been key to maximizing impact, and we are deeply grateful for the compassion and dedication St. Vincent de Paul brings to this work. We look forward to continuing to strengthen this partnership and expanding the ways we can meet the needs of Trinity Center members together.

Unsheltered Veterans Surge Event

Key Partners: VA Homeless Program, CCH's CORE mobile outreach program, CCH's Coordinated Entry Team, Insight Housing, Shelter Inc.'s SSVF program and Veterans Accession House

Nominated by: Jai De Lotto, Department of Veterans Affairs

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination: *Together this team provides services to unsheltered and At-Risk Veterans. We had a successful Unsheltered Veterans Surge Event on 7/30. The goal was to identify Unsheltered Veterans in CCC, connect them to the VA (if not in the system), admit same day interim housing and HUD VASH Program for voucher. We had 4 Outreach teams with a representative from SSVF, VA Homeless Programs and CORE, each bringing their specified knowledge and skillset to the teams. Used the Veteran By Name List (VBNL) to identify the eligible unhoused Veterans and location. We had multiple meetings as a team to make sure the list stayed updated. CORE was the lead driver due to their knowledge of the hot spots, SSVF completed screenings in the field to support the enrollment process, VA Homeless Program completed a prescreening to identify specific program eligibility - before sending the Veteran to the HUB where we had onsite HUD VASH Screenings, Social work Triage, Nurse, Supportive Services for Veterans Families, Social Security Rep, Veterans Benefits Rep, Veteran Service Officers, Veterinary services and free phones. We had additional drivers to take Veterans to the HUB and then to the housing they were referred to. VA and CoC Coordinated Entry Specialists sat side by side to confirm if Veterans were in each systems and to gather the most recent status of services received. As a team we exceeded our goal: 32 Veterans engaged in street outreach, 10 Veterans admitted to our HUD VASH program and streamlined for a HUD VASH Voucher, 13 Interim Housing placements, Social Security assisted 10 Veterans, VBA 9 Veterans and 26*

Veterans presented at the HUB for services. We only had 2 months to coordinate this big event and since our Veteran services and CoC Homeless Programs teams already had a lot of these relationships already established along with the processees in place, we were able to build upon that and make is a successful event. Brittany Ferguson from the Contra Costa Coordinated Entry Teams adds, "Jai DeLotto, on behalf of the VA coordinates with the various Veteran Services in Contra Costa. He coordinates the Veteran's By Names Lists meetings and spearheaded the 2025 Contra Costa Veteran Surge event. His leadership is truly admireable."