



AGENDA

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

2:00 PM

Virtual Only: Register:
<https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/j/9876543210>

Homelessness Awareness Month Committee

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).
3. Review Materials: Posters [25-4468](#)
Attachments: [Poster Mock Ups 10.17.25](#)
Jaime Jenett, H3
4. Review Materials: Video Script [25-4469](#)
Attachments: [2025 HAM Video Script DRAFT CEI 10.17.25](#)
Jaime Jenett, H3
5. Review Materials: Toolkit [25-4470](#)
Attachments: [Connecting to Services - Families with School Aged Children 2025](#)
[Connecting to Services - Families with Children Ages 0-5 2025](#)
[Connecting to Services - Transition Aged Youth 2025](#)
[Connecting to Services - Veterans](#)
[Contra Costa Data Resources](#)
[HAM Committee Agenda 10.22.25](#)
[How to Help - Donations 2025](#)
[How to Help - Landlords 2025](#)
[How to Help- Faith Community 2025](#)
[November 2025 Calendar](#)
[2025_10_16-HAM-Flyer-Toolkit](#)
[2025_10_16-HAM-StartHereFlyer](#)
Jaime Jenett, H3

6. Update: BOS Presentation [25-4471](#)

Attachments: [BOS HAM slide deck 11.4.25](#)
[HAM resolution FINAL](#)
[Memorial resolution of support FINAL](#)

Nicole Green, Chair

7. Update: HAM Reception [25-4472](#)

Attachments: [Outstanding Housing Provider Nominees](#)
[Outstanding Partnership Nominees](#)
[Outstanding Volunteer Nominees](#)
[Phoenix Rising Nominees](#)

Jaime Jenett, H3

8. Updates: Memorial Event

Wayne Earl, Committee member

9. YAB Led Adultism Training update

Caroline Miller, H3 or YAB member

10. Marketing of HAM Events and Materials

Jaime Jenett, H3

Register for Homeless Persons' Memorial Planning Meetings here:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/WMbqxBEoQQabBH1lS4TPmQ#/registration>

Adjourn

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 2400 Bisso Lane, D2, Concord during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Council on Homelessness: contracostacoc@ccealth.org



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-4468

Agenda Date: 10/22/2025

Agenda #: 3.

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Review Materials: Posters

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Contact:

Information:

Review mock up of posters created by CCH communications department to be displayed at 11/4 reception

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Review

2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH



“My life is getting so much better. I even like cleaning my house.”

- Sylvia

HOUSING IS LIFE CHANGING

2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

*"I've been clean
18 months and
got custody of
my baby back."
- Marco*



**HOUSING GIVES FAMILIES
THE POWER TO REBUILD**

2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH



*“Homeless is
being unhoused,
but homeless is
also surviving.
I’ve kept my
4.0 despite
everything.”
- Ruth*

**UNHOUSED,
NOT UNMOTIVATED**

2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH



“I started getting used to being homeless, but now I’m glad I’m here. Once I cooked food and showered in peace, I was ready to stay.”

- Terrance

**A HOME CAN
CHANGE EVERYTHING**



2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

*“I got a place. I
got my own bed.
I got everything.”
- Jerrold*



**HEALING STARTS
WITH A DOOR**



2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

*“This program
has allowed me
to pick my pride
back up.”*

- John



HOUSING IS HEALING

2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

“I was scared of this whole system, but people here are very respectful. Now I have the opportunity to make something of my life.”

- Mindy



**RESPECT BUILDS TRUST,
TRUST BUILDS SUCCESS**



2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH



“If I look at myself last year compared to this year, I’m a totally different person. I see brightness now.”
- Tavis

**HOUSING IS
TRANSFORMATIONAL**



2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH



*“The shelter staff
made it easier
for me to start
putting my life
back together”*

- Darren

**A NEW BEGINNING STARTS
WITH A SAFE PLACE**

2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

*“People don’t
understand how
hard it is to be
homeless.”*

- Mike



**IT’S NOT A CHOICE –
IT’S A CRISIS**



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-4469

Agenda Date: 10/22/2025

Agenda #: 4.

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Review Materials: Video Script

Presenter: Jaime Jenett, H3

Contact:

Information:

Review draft script of video created by CCH Communications department based on themes identified by HAM Committee

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

SOUND	VISUAL	TEXT
Music	Tent or something showing homelessness	
MANY PEOPLE THINK HOMELESSNESS COULD NEVER HAPPEN TO THEM. OR THAT IT'S THE RESULT OF BAD CHOICES. BUT THE TRUTH IS... HOMELESSNESS IS OFTEN JUST ONE CRISIS AWAY	Images of homelessness	
	Photo of Mike	"People don't understand how hard it is to be homeless." – Mike
BEHIND EVERY STORY OF HOMELESSNESS IS A MOMENT WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED... A LOST JOB... RENT INCREASES... MEDICAL BILLS... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, UNTREATED ILLNESS THESE ARE THE REAL REASONS PEOPLE LOSE THEIR HOMES. IT'S NOT ABOUT CHARACTER... IT'S ABOUT CRISIS.	Image of homelessness Glimpses of an eviction notice, a hospital bill, etc. Images of homelessness	
	Photo of Mario	"Before this happened, I used to be judgmental about homeless people. Now I know it's not because people want to be homeless - something happened." – Mario

IN CONTRA COSTA ALONE... MORE THAN 14,000 PEOPLE TURNED TO HOMELESS SERVICES LAST YEAR. MOST NEVER IMAGINED IT COULD HAPPEN TO THEM.	Data graphic: 14,000 people in Contra Costa used homeless services in 2024	
TAKE SYLVIA... AFTER LOSING HER MOTHER, SHE AND HER DOGS LIVED IN HER VAN. CORE OUTREACH, SHELTERS, AND HOUSING PROGRAMS HELPED HER MOVE INTO HER OWN APARTMENT, WHERE SHE RECENTLY BAKED HER FIRST CAKE AT HOME IN YEARS.	Photos of Sylvia	
OR MARCO. HE LIVED FOR YEARS IN A RICHMOND ENCAMPMENT, BATTLING ADDICTION. WHEN HIS BABY WAS REMOVED FROM HIS CARE, HE CHOSE SOBRIETY. TODAY, CLEAN FOR 18 MONTHS, HE'S REUNITED WITH HIS CHILD AND LIVING IN STABLE HOUSING THANKS TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT.	Photos of Marco	
AND RUTH, A 21-YEAR-OLD FROM ALAMO.	Photos of Ruth	

REJECTED BY FAMILY FOR THEIR IDENTITY... RUTH FOUND HELP THROUGH OUR HOMELESS SYSTEM OF CARE. NOW, THEY'RE SAFELY HOUSED, THRIVING IN SCHOOL, AND DREAMING OF THEIR FUTURE.		
HOUSING IS TRANSFORMATIONAL.... WHEN PEOPLE FINALLY HAVE A SAFE PLACE TO LAND... EVERYTHING STARTS TO CHANGE.	Housing images (maybe Delta Landing, El Portal, Concord Shelter?)	
HEALING STARTS WITH A DOOR...	Photo of Terrance	Healing starts with a door "Once I cooked food and showered in peace, I was ready to stay." - Terrance
HOUSING GIVES FAMILIES THE POWER TO REBUILD	Photos of Maria	Housing gives families the power to rebuild "I'm doing it for my kids." – Maria
RESPECT BUILDS TRUST, AND TRUST BUILDS SUCCESS.	Photos of Mindy	Respect builds trust. Trust builds success. "I was scared of the whole system but people here are very respectful." – Mindy
HOUSING IS HOPE	Photos of Tavis	Housing can change lives "If I look at myself last year compared to this year, I'm a totally different person. I see brightness now." - Tavis
HOUSING IS HEALING	Photo of John	Housing is healing

		"This program has allowed me to pick my pride back up." – John
A HOME CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING	Photo of Jerrald	A home can change everything "I got a place. I got my own bed. I got everything." – Jerrold
HOMELESSNESS ISN'T INEVITABLE... IT'S SOLVABLE. BUT IT TAKES ALL OF US.	Images of people smiling, in housing, etc.	
GET INFORMED. GET INVOLVED. ADVOCATE. TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE CHANGE.	Graphic	Get informed. Get involved. Advocate. cchealth.org/h3
	CCH logo & CoC logo	



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-4470

Agenda Date: 10/22/2025

Agenda #: 5.

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Review Materials: Toolkit

Presenter: Jaime Jenett H3

Contact:

Information:

Review toolkit marketing and contents. Scheduled release date 10/27

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Review

Connecting to Services Families with School Aged Children

Your path to support can start today.

Call 211 to begin exploring housing and support options.

If your family is experiencing homelessness, free programs in Contra Costa County can help with housing, school support, and basic needs.

Bringing Families Home

Helps families at risk of homelessness who are also receiving Contra Costa County Child Welfare services. Ask your Child Welfare case manager if you qualify.

CalWORKS Cash Aid

Families at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness who are connected to CalWORKS may be eligible for housing resources and programs through program. Ask your case manager if you qualify.

(866) 663-3225 | [CalWORKs](#)

CARE Center – Richmond

Drop-in site for families with children experiencing homelessness.

- Basic needs: meals, bathroom, laundry, showers, mail
- Case Management

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP)

165 22nd Street, Richmond

Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Sat-Sun: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

CocoKids (Child Care Resource & Referral)

CocoKids is a trusted nonprofit organization dedicated to helping families find quality child care, early learning resources, and support services in Contra Costa County and beyond. They work to ensure children get the best possible start in life.

Services include child care referrals, subsidy programs, and parenting resources.

866-262-6543 | cocokids.org

CORE Mobile Outreach – Families

Specialized team support families living outside by connecting them to services and housing.

Call 211 and say you're a family with children.

School District Homeless Liaisons

Every school district in Contra Costa County has a Homeless Liaison who can help families experiencing homelessness. Liaisons make sure children and youth can stay enrolled in school and receive the support they need to learn.

You can enroll your child in school immediately even without the documents normally required for enrollment, such as:

- Proof of residency
- Immunization or other health records
- School records
- Legal guardianship papers

Your child may also:

- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which they are eligible
- In some cases, transportation can be arranged to help your child stay at their current school. The liaison will work with you to determine eligibility.
- Continue attending their last school (school of origin) even if you move outside that area
- Automatically qualify for free school meals

To find your school district's liaison and learn more about services, visit [CCCOE Homeless Youth Services](#)

Family Shelters

Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond

Families and adults

Men: **510-215-4868** | Women & Children: **510-215-4860**

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP), Richmond

Families with children

Walk in during [CARE Center operating hours](#) or call 211

Mountain View, Martinez

Families with children

Call 211, option 3

STAND! For Families of Violence, Confidential Location

Survivors of domestic violence (including families)

888-215-5555

Winter Nights Safe Parking, Pittsburg

Families, couples, or individuals living in vehicles

925-435-2074

Winter Nights Family Shelter (September - June), Rotating locations

Families with children

925-435-2074

Connecting to Services Families with Children (0-5)

Your path to support can start today.

Call 211 to begin exploring housing and support options.

If you have children ages 0–5 and are experiencing homelessness, there are free services in Contra Costa County that can help you with housing, childcare, and basic needs

Bay Area Crisis Nursery

- Nursery Care: Children can stay up to 30 days
- Emergency Childcare: Daily, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Day Services: Help with employment, court, classes, medical visits

Residential Overnight: Voluntary short-term care during crises

- Respite Care: Monthly breaks (1-3 days)

925-685-8052 | bayareacrisisnursery.org

Bringing Families Home

Helps families at risk of homelessness who are also receiving Contra Costa County Child Welfare services.

Ask your case manager if you qualify.

CalWORKS Cash Aid

Families at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness who are connected to CalWORKS may be eligible for housing resources and programs through program.

(866) 663-3225 | [CalWORKs](https://calworks.ca.gov)

CARE Center – Richmond

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Services include child care referrals, subsidy programs, and parenting resources.

866-262-6543 | cocokids.org

CORE Mobile Outreach – Families

Specialized team support families living outside by connecting them to services and housing.

Call 211 and say you're a family with children.

Head Start

Free or low-cost preschool and childcare for ages 0-5.

- Part-time and full-day care, 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Home-based services, health, nutrition, and mental health services

925-272-4727 | CSBConnect.org

Family Shelters

Bay Area Rescue Mission, Richmond

Families and adults

Men: **510-215-4868** | Women & Children: **510-215-4860**

Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP), Richmond

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Families, couples, or individuals living in vehicles

925-435-2074

Winter Nights Family Shelter (September - June), Rotating locations

Families with children

925-435-2074

Connecting to Services

Transition Aged Youth (ages 18-25)

Your path to support can start today.

Call 211 to begin exploring housing and support options.

If you are between the ages 18-25 and are experiencing homelessness, there are free services in Contra Costa County that can help you with housing, basic needs and other supports.

Community Colleges

The three community colleges in Contra Costa (Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College and Los Medanos College) have Basic Needs programs to support students with things like food and housing.

- [Contra Costa College](#)
- [Diablo Valley College](#)
- [Los Medanos College](#)

CORE Mobile Outreach – TAY

Specialized team supports Transition Aged Youth living outside by connecting them to services and housing.

Call 211 and tell them you want to connect with the TAY team

CARE Center- TAY Program

Trinity Center in Walnut Creek is a safe and welcoming day center serving individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in Contra Costa County. Our Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) program focuses on supporting young people as they work toward stability and independence. We provide access to essential needs, supportive services, and individualized case management to help youth build a strong foundation for their future.

Who we serve:

We serve homeless TAY (18-24) in need of housing, education, employment, mental health, substance use, and other supportive services.

Help we offer:

- Housing navigation and referrals
- Food, clothing, showers, laundry, and mail services
- Case management and individualized support plans
- Connections to mental health and substance use services
- Workforce Development Program and education support

For additional information, questions, or support, please come in person for an intake at: Trinity Center 1888 Trinity Ave. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or reach out to: Joshlynn Little, Case Manager - TAY Program, joshlynnlittle5@gmail.com | (925) 303-9112

RYSE's Housing Justice Program

This program provides the following:

- direct financial support
- basic needs supports
- intensive case management
- linkages to health, education, and employment/career services and supports
- healing, therapeutic, and community building spaces and programs

We serve young people ages 13-21, primarily in West Contra Costa County, and support young people across the County and region.

For additional information, questions, or support, please call us at our main number at 510-374-3401, or our member line at 510-255-1940.

To learn more about RYSE, visit [our website](#).

School District Homeless Liaisons

Every school district in Contra Costa County has a Homeless Liaison who can help families experiencing homelessness. Liaisons make sure children and youth can stay enrolled in school and receive the support they need to learn.

You can enroll your child in school immediately even without the documents normally required for enrollment, such as:

- Proof of residency
- Immunization or other health records
- School records
- Legal guardianship papers

Your child may also:

- Participate fully in all school activities and programs for which they are eligible
- In some cases, transportation can be arranged to help your child stay at their current school. The liaison will work with you to determine eligibility.
- Continue attending their last school (school of origin) even if you move outside that area
- Automatically qualify for free school meals

To find your school district's liaison and learn more about services, visit [CCCOE Homeless Youth Services](#)

Shelter and Housing

While Transition Aged youth are welcome at any shelter and housing that accepts adults, we have one shelter specifically designed for this age group and a number of housing programs for Transition Aged Youth experiencing literal homelessness, including Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing.

Calli House Shelter, Richmond

510-374-3134

For Housing programs

Call 211 or go to a [CARE Center](#)

Connecting to Services Veterans

Your path to support can start today.

Call 211 to begin exploring housing and support options.

If you are a veteran in Contra Costa, there are free services that can help you with housing, basic needs and other supports.

CORE Mobile Outreach

Outreach teams can support veterans living outside by connecting them to services and housing.

Call 211 and let the call taker know that the person seeking services is a veteran.

Department of Veteran Affairs

Walk-in services are available to Veterans seeking assistance with connection to housing resources on:

Martinez VA Homeless Walk-In Clinic

Mondays from 9am - 12pm

Building 25, 150 Muir Rd., Martinez: Please Check-In @ Bldg. 19 for screening.

Veterans may also call our Homeless Triage Line Monday- Friday during normal business hours to be connected with helpful, local VA homeless program staff: 925-372-2067.

Insight Housing

Roads Home is Insight Housing's largest program that works to help end homelessness among veterans and their families.

The Roads Home program encompasses all our Veteran services, including Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP), the Grant and Per Diem Veterans Transitional Housing (GPD), and Housing &

Urban Development/Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing voucher administration (HUD-VASH).

Services offered

- Outreach
- Temporary financial assistance
- Housing search and placement
- Wraparound case management
- Transitional housing
- Permanent supportive housing
- Health care navigation
- Employment services
- HUD-VASH voucher administration

Contra Costa County: 1-925-957-6042

SHELTER, Inc.

Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program: We offer individualized education, training, and other resources to assist homeless Veterans in achieving their employment goals. For those Veterans struggling with homelessness, we have a housing program that promotes stability and assistance with housing. With the assistance of our Veterans team members, many life sustaining resources are available to those we proudly call Veterans. For more information on this program, email HVRP@shelterinc.org or call or call 925-335-0698

Support Services for Veterans Families: For Veterans who are single, head of a household, or spouse of the head of a household, who are homeless and looking to maintain permanent housing in Contra Costa County, with income less than 50% AMI and capable of sustaining permanent housing after short-term case management and/or financial assistance, email ssvf@shelterinc.org or call 925-335-0698

Shelter

Some shelters in our community have beds set aside specifically for veterans. To find out if there are available beds, all 211 and press option 3 to connect with CORE Mobile outreach. Please let the call taker know that the person seeking shelter is a veteran.

Contra Costa Data Resources

There are a number of different sources for data on homelessness in Contra Costa. Explore below and learn more about homelessness in Contra Costa.

2024 CoC Annual Report

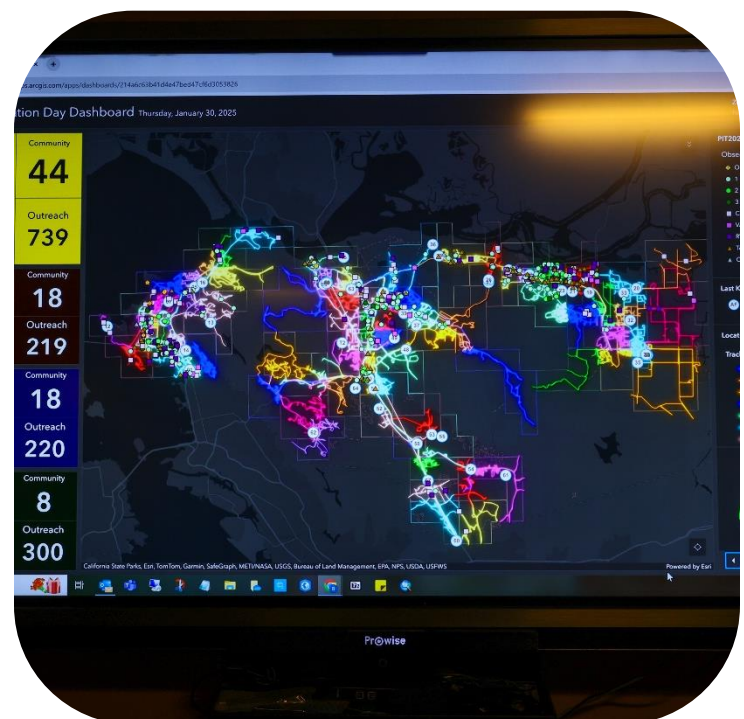
Contra Costa Health: Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) produces an annual report each calendar year for the Council on Homelessness to describe the populations served and service utilization within the homeless Continuum of Care (CoC). Read through this year's report to learn about successes, challenges, and the unique stories of people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County in 2024.

[LINK TO REPORT](#)

2025 Point in Time Count

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual census and survey to identify the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population across the County. This count is required for all recipients of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding. The PIT Count takes place during the last week of January each year.

[2025 Point in Time Count Summary](#)



Affordable Housing Map & Benefits Calculator

The California Affordable Housing Map and Benefits Calculator is a tool that maps California's existing federal- and state-subsidized affordable housing and leverages academic literature to estimate the benefits these affordable homes generate for both residents and surrounding communities—such as higher earnings and improved health for residents, and new jobs and tax revenue for local jurisdictions.

[LAUNCH THE TOOL](#)

Contra Costa Affordable Housing Need Report 2025

The 2025 Affordable Housing Need Report highlights market conditions in Contra Costa County and key indicators of housing need for low-income families, including: levels of housing production, state and federal funding, asking rent trends, and local wages.

[Contra Costa Affordable Housing Need Report 2025](#)

StoryMap

The [Point In Time Count StoryMap](#) is a direct response to the critical questions our stakeholders ask about homeless experience and how to prevent homelessness. It weaves together local, state, and national data with personal stories of people in Contra Costa County with lived experience with homelessness to highlight why Contra Costa County continues to fight the challenging battle of reducing homelessness.



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH COMMITTEE

October 22, 2025 from 2 pm – 4 pm
2400 Bisso Lane, Concord (suite D2)

Register: <https://homebaseccc.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZVZx8BObRIKn46V2R5Ajlw>

Committee Members: Nicole Green, Rina Criswell, Wayne Earl

AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTERS
5	1. Introductions	Jaime Jenett, H3
5	2. Public Comment	All
10	3. Review Materials: Posters	Jaime Jenett, H3
10	4. Review Materials: Video script	Jaime Jenett, H3
20	5. Review Materials: Toolkit a. Toolkit marketing b. Toolkit contents	Jaime Jenett, H3
10	6. Update: BOS Presentation	Nicole Green, COH Chair
20	7. Update: HAM Reception	Jaime Jenett, H3
10	8. Memorial Event: Updates and Next Steps	Wayne Earl, Committee member
5	9. YAB Training update	Caroline Miller, H3 or YAB member
10	10. Marketing	
5	11. Next steps a. Register for Memorial Planning meetings	All

How to Help: Donations

These agencies have specific donation needs right now. Visit our [complete list of agencies seeking financial and supply donations](#).

Brookside Shelter- Richmond

- Men's pants (all sizes)
- Men's shoes
- Men's underwear
- Men's T-shirts.

To donate: Go to Brookside Shelter @ 847 Brookside C, Richmond and ask for Shelter Management when you arrive.

Concord Library- Concord

The Concord Library is collecting donations to create Cold Weather Backpacks for our unhoused and vulnerable community members.

Please consider donating any of the following items to the Concord Library:

- Backpacks (new or gently used)
- Rain ponchos or small compact umbrellas
- Gloves
- Knit hats and scarves
- Foil Blankets (compact or emergency space blankets)
- Hand warmers
- Warm socks
- Snacks (granola bars, trail mix, protein bars)
- Kind notes with encouraging words

Drop-off Information: Donations can be dropped off at the Concord Library (2900 Salvio Street, Concord) during our open hours. Mon & Tues 10-8, Wed & Thurs 10-6, and Fri & Sat 9-5. For more information call the library at 925-646-5455.

Phillip Dorn Medical Respite-Concord

- Croc-style shoes for participants (all sizes)
- Open-toe orthopedic shoes/sandals are also welcome

To donate: Go to the Phillip Dorn Medical Respite Center @ 2047 Arnold Industrial way, Concord. Go to the door to the furthest left on the building and let them know you have donations.



SHARE Community- Antioch

- Men's clothing and shoes (no women's at this time)
- Travel hygiene items
- Clean blankets and sleeping bags
- Tarps and tents

To donate: Drop off on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8am-12pm @ 403 W 6th St, Antioch, CA 94509
925-237-1115| [SHARE Community](#)

SOS Richmond- Richmond

Want to create a survival gear drive with your work, school, church or other social groups? This gear drive helps people survive while living outdoors until they qualify for housing. If folks lose possessions in sweeps, these items can mean the difference between life and death. Survival gear is particularly critical during the rainy season and winter. Here are the most needed items: tents, sleeping bags, blankets, tarps, 5 gallon water containers, lanterns, flashlights and batteries, towels, and warm clothing (jackets, gloves, hats, and socks).

[Survival Gear Drive Flyer](#)

2025 HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH TOOLKIT

510-806-8650 | [SOS Richmond](#)

How to Help: Landlords

Landlords and property managers play a vital role in helping end homelessness in Contra Costa County by providing housing opportunities for people exiting homelessness.

Rent To Someone Exiting Homelessness

- If you have a room, apartment or home to rent, consider working with one of our agencies to fill your vacancy. Tenants may come with extra benefits to landlords, including guaranteed rent, case managers to act as liaisons and extra security deposits.

contracostacoc@cchealth.org | 925-608-6716

Older Adults With Extra Space

- The Home Match program through Front Porch connects community members seeking housing with older adults who have extra space in their homes. Each match is personalized with the process overseen by program staff—at no cost to participants. Home Match benefits everyone. It decreases isolation, provides housing security, and above all, builds community. Home Match is also an opportunity for you to earn additional income and gain more security, and the extra perk is the social connection you'll both make.

HomeMatchContraCosta@frontporch.net |
925-956-7385 | [Home Match – Front Porch](#)



How to Help: Faith Community

Faith partners play a vital role in supporting people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Here are ways congregations can strengthen their impact.

Coordinate Your Efforts

- **Connect with agencies:** [Homeless service agencies in Contra Costa](#) need volunteers and other support.
- **Partner with CORE Mobile Outreach:** Invite CORE staff to join your volunteers during outreach to provide resources or connect people with services.
contracostacoc@cchealth.org | 925-608-6716
- **List your programs on 211:** If your congregation provides meals, materials or other support, ensure your program is listed in the 211 database to ensure people know about your services.
Contact Blanca Gutierrez, 211 Resource Manager, at blancag@crisis-center.org
- **Request a training:** Ask for a *Homeless Services 101* training for your congregants and volunteers. They'll learn about local resources and how to connect people to them.
jaime.jenett@cchealth.org | 925-608-6716

Explore Housing Options

Congregations with property can play a role in creating affordable housing.

- [Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition](#)
- [City of Antioch – Housing & the Faith Community](#)



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Calendar of Events

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Board of Supervisors Presentation 9:30 am Homelessness Awareness Month Reception Noon -1:30 PM	5	6	7	8
9	10 CoC Training: Adulthood and Working With Youth and Young Adults	11	12	13 School-Based Mental Health Collaborative	14 Last Day of SHELTER, Inc. Food Drive	15
16	17	18 IAF Community Health Forum Noon – 1 pm Concord Library Unhoused Resource Fair Noon – 3:00 pm	19	20 WCCUSD Unaccompanied Youth Event	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 FTIO Annual Thanksgiving Dinner plate giveaway	28	29 Last Day SOS Richmond's Survival Gear Drive

2025



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

Homeless Awareness Month Toolkit

This November, join the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness and Contra Costa Health in recognizing Homelessness Awareness Month.

Explore our easy-to-use toolkit to:



LEARN

Learn about homelessness in Contra Costa County



ACT

Act by attending events, volunteering or donating



CELEBRATE

Celebrate the people and projects making a difference

Download the toolkit





November is Homeless Awareness Month

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness and Contra Costa Health are proud to join communities across the county in recognizing this important month.

We use this time to learn, act and celebrate by sharing stories, data and opportunities that deepen understanding, inspire action and honor those working to end homelessness.

This toolkit includes three sections to help get you started:



LEARN

Explore local data, services and videos featuring people with lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa.



ACT

Discover ways to make a difference. Attend an event, volunteer or donate to support local programs and organizations.



CELEBRATE

Recognize the incredible work happening across our community to support people experiencing homelessness.

We hope this toolkit inspires you to learn, get involved and celebrate the progress we're making together.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-4471

Agenda Date: 10/22/2025

Agenda #: 6.

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Update: BOS Presentation

Presenter: Nicole Green, COH Chair

Contact:

Information:

Review slide deck and resolutions to be presented to BOS on 11/4

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):



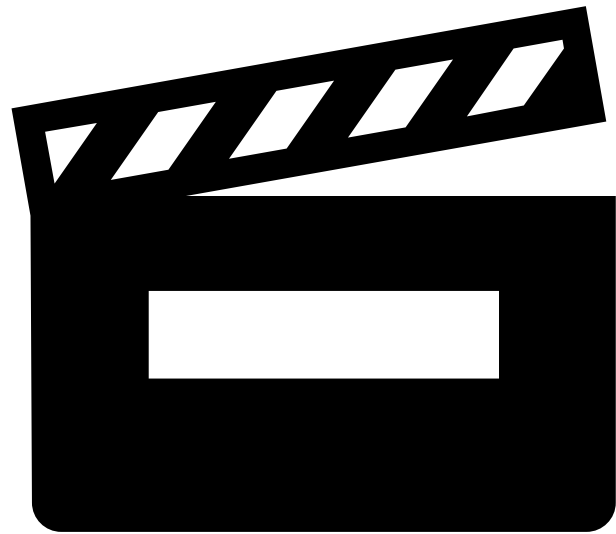
HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH
AND
YOUTH HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH, PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION
(HOPE) MONTH
2025

INTRODUCTIONS

Nicole Green, *Chair & Reentry Representative*

Juno Hedrick, *Vice Chair & Lived Experience Advisor*

Leon Saelee, *Youth Action Board Lead*



HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH VIDEO

HIGHLIGHTS



TOOLKIT



RECOGNITIONS



RESOLUTIONS

TOOLKIT



LEARN



ACT



CELEBRATE

RECOGNITIONS



Outstanding Volunteer (16)



Outstanding Housing Provider (13)



Outstanding Partnership (45)



Phoenix Rising (17)

EVENTS

Honoree Reception

- Tuesday, 11/4 from Noon – 1:30 pm

Youth Action Board Training on Adulthood

- Monday, November 10th, 10 am - Noon

[Register](#)

Homeless Person's Memorial Event

- Friday, 12/19 from 11:00 am – 1 pm
- HYBRID: Antioch

[Register for event](#)
[Submit names to be read](#)

Check Toolkit for more!

RESOLUTIONS

Homelessness Awareness Month and Youth
Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and
Education (HOPE) Month
(November)

Homeless Persons' Memorial Day (December 21st)

HAM RESOLUTION

Reason for ask

- November is nationally designated month
- 40% increase in people accessing homeless services
- 53% increase in Transition Aged Youth (ages 18–24)

Challenges

- Lack of affordable housing and shelter
- Racial inequities
- Criminalization of homelessness

Successes

- 34% increase in temporary and permanent housing beds
- Active Youth Action Board
- Strong network of 50+ partners

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Reason for ask

- December 21st is national Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Issue

- Homelessness increases risk of illness, injury, and premature death
- Coroner reported 76 people experiencing homelessness died in 2024
- Cuts to safety net put more people at risk

Successes

- 33% decrease in deaths from 2023 to 2024.
- Community-led memorial event

THANK YOU!

Resolution Declaring November Homelessness Awareness and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month

WHEREAS, November is recognized nationally as Homelessness Awareness Month, and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month, a time to acknowledge the challenges faced by adults, youth and young adults, and families experiencing homelessness and to mobilize community-wide efforts toward lasting solutions; and

WHEREAS, 14,245 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa County in 2024—an increase of 40% from 2020¹, underscoring systemic housing challenges; and

WHEREAS, homelessness in Contra Costa County is driven primarily by the lack of affordable housing, with 32,296 low-income renter households in Contra Costa County not having access to an affordable home in 2024²; and

WHEREAS, according to *The Opportunity to Change: A Community Needs Assessment for Youth and Young Adult Homelessness*, an estimated 13,506 young people are experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County, driven by factors such as aging out of foster care, family conflict, a lack of affordable housing, and systemic disparities including racism, homophobia, and transphobia³; and

WHEREAS, renters needing to earn \$45.50 per hour—more than 2.5 times the City of Richmond’s minimum wage—to afford the average monthly rent of \$2,366⁴; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 in Contra Costa County, there were only 3,787 temporary and permanent housing beds for persons experiencing homelessness, a stark shortfall compared to the scale of need across our communities⁵; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County’s 34% increase in temporary and permanent housing beds⁶ over the past two years reflects a sustained commitment to expanding shelter and housing solutions; and

WHEREAS, racial disparities persist, with Black/African American/African households and people with Multiple Races were over-represented in the CoC relative to the county population (4x and 3x, respectively) ⁷; and

¹ 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

² [Contra Costa County Housing Need Report 2025 - California Housing Partnership](#)

³ Aronson, M., Giannone, C., Nawabi, S., & Braimah, N. (2024). *The opportunity to change: A community needs assessment for youth and young adult homelessness in Contra Costa County*. Contra Costa Health Services, Health, Housing, and Homeless Services. [638648533798100000](#)

⁴ [Contra Costa County Housing Need Report 2025 - California Housing Partnership](#)

⁵ Contra Costa Health. (2025). *[Contra Costa County 2025 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT]* <https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/32051/638868762849870000>

⁶ 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

⁷ 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

WHEREAS 63% of unsheltered people surveyed as part of Contra Costa’s 2025 Point in Time Count experienced being made to move by city workers or law enforcement within the past year⁸; and

WHEREAS research shows that criminalizing homelessness worsens the crisis and deepens existing racial inequities⁹ and

WHEREAS, since 2020, Contra Costa has seen an 79% increase in households with minor children, a 69% increase in seniors aged 65+, and a 53% increase in Transition Aged Youth (ages 18–24) accessing homeless services¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Continuum of Care unites over 50 organizations, jurisdictions, and individuals committed to preventing and ending homelessness through coordinated housing, health, and support services; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa Continuum of Care is committed to promoting evidence-based practices like Harm Reduction and Housing First to achieve permanent housing outcomes for the most vulnerable in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Action Board, composed of youth and young adults (YYA) with lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County, is actively leading and amplifying the voices of YYA, informing the Contra Costa Continuum of Care, and providing leadership and guidance in collaboration with community stakeholders to end YYA homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Council on Homelessness, staffed by Contra Costa Health, serves as both an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors and the planning entity for the Continuum of Care, welcoming public engagement and collaboration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims November 2025 as Homelessness Awareness Month and Youth Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Month in Contra Costa County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board affirms its commitment to building and sustaining a well-resourced, coordinated, and equity-driven Continuum of Care that meets the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness.

⁸ Contra Costa Health. (2025). [Contra Costa County 2025 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT]
<https://www.cchealth.org/home/showpublisheddocument/32051/638868762849870000>

⁹ DuBois, N., Herbert, C., & Sowards, E. M. (2025, February). *Criminalizing homelessness worsens the crisis: Research shows*. National Alliance to End Homelessness. [CriminalizingWorsensTheCrisis_NAEH_2-4-25.pdf](#)

¹⁰ 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

RESOLUTION NAMING DECEMBER 21, 2025 NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

In recognition of the lives lost and the ongoing crisis of homelessness, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors seeks to honor the memory of those who died without housing and to recommit to lasting solutions that affirm dignity, health, and housing for all.

WHEREAS, December 21, 2025 marks the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, symbolizing the hardships faced by individuals living without shelter; and

WHEREAS, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council have designated December 21, 2025 as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, 14,245 individuals accessed homeless services in Contra Costa County in 2024—an increase of 40% from 2020, underscoring systemic housing challenges¹; and

WHEREAS, homelessness increases risk of illness, injury, and premature death, with non-elderly homeless individuals facing a mortality rate 3.5 times higher than their housed peers—comparable to housed individuals two decades older in age²; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Contra Costa Coroner reported 76 people experiencing homelessness who died during calendar year 2024, a 33% decrease from 2023³; and

WHEREAS, drug and alcohol-related accidental deaths represented the highest cause of mortality in this group, followed by natural causes and other accidents⁴; and

WHEREAS, cuts to Medicaid will disproportionately impact people experiencing homelessness, making it more difficult to access the broad range of care needed to maintain their health, engage in employment, and achieve housing⁵; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County calls on government agencies, faith communities, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, and residents to recognize the urgent need to address homelessness through sustained collaboration, compassion, and advocacy; and

¹ 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

² *Life and Death at the Margins of Society: The Mortality of the U.S. Homeless Population*, Meyer, Wyse, Logani (2023)

³ 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

⁴ 2024 Contra Costa Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data

⁵ Rabell, L. (2025, April). *Homelessness and Medicaid: What's the connection?* National Health Care for the Homeless Council. https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Homelessness-and-Medicaid-Whats-the-Connection_.pdf

WHEREAS, the Council on Homelessness, serving as both an advisory board to the Board of Supervisors and the planning body for the Continuum of Care, coordinates the county's strategy toward ending homelessness and encourages active community participation; and

WHEREAS, the Health, Housing, and Homeless Services Division of Contra Costa Health is committed to making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring through an integrated system of housing and support; and

WHEREAS, a [Homeless Persons' Memorial](#) event will be held on Friday, December 19, 2025 coordinated by Contra Costa Council on Homelessness, NAMI Contra Costa and Safe Organized Spaces Richmond, offering space to honor lives lost; and

WHEREAS, by gathering in remembrance and solidarity, the community can affirm its commitment to meaningful change and honor the humanity of every neighbor lost to homelessness; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors hereby declares December 21, 2025 as **National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day** in Contra Costa County—to honor those who have died without shelter, to encourage collective reflection and engagement, and to strengthen our commitment to housing solutions rooted in dignity, equity, and hope.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-4472

Agenda Date: 10/22/2025

Agenda #: 7.

Advisory Board: Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Subject: Update: HAM Reception

Presenter:

Contact:

Information:

Discuss registration, agenda and food for reception.

Referral History and Update:

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Outstanding Housing Provider Recognitions

As part of Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize those landlords, property management companies, and other housing operators that create permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County through the Outstanding Housing Provider category. Outstanding efforts towards providing permanent housing opportunities for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness can be demonstrated in a number of ways including length of time involved in providing units/rooms; Number of units/rooms; and/or; quality of units/rooms rented Person or company must rent units/rooms in Contra Costa County to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This may include shared housing, sober living environments, recovery housing, board and cares, halfway houses and transitional housing.

Nominees

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Joyce Lao | 10. Ryan Domingue (all |
| 2. Joyce Lao | Oxford House House |
| 3. Joyce Lao | Managers) and |
| 4. Joyce Lao | Rachel Domingue |
| 5. Joyce Lao | 11. Shah (Shahrooz) |
| 6. Joyce Jingjing Lao | Wadpey |
| 7. Jyoti & Sumer Desai | 12. Stephanie Bergin |
| 8. Mei Lei and John | 13. Tiffany Powell |
| Sommer | |
| 9. Robert Linhart | |

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

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: Kevin Keow, Renter

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination:

I have been in this program twice now and I have got to say that programs like this does help out a lot to homeless people. me as for myself it has lifted my spirit and hope up in many ways and I'm a second offender to this program. from the streets that I came from it took me time to adjust my way back to a normal living environment I wasn't used to having a room nor to mention a roof over my head with out no supervision watch. i have to thank God for making this happen and my landlord for given me a second chance to start a new life sober.

There's a big difference from the time that I was homeless I felt like I was worthless and couldn't fit in with society like a normal person could that people wouldn't talk to or approach me and the feeling of being single out because it I was homeless in the streets label as the dirty filthy bad guy straggling around lost in the streets but when I seemed for help I Started to see the light and cleaned myself up ate better, slept better, dressed better and start to self a different person in the mirror and fitted right back into society and a normal person and meet new people and got hired for a job and got my life back on track

I appreciate these programs very much and I hope that they would expand and have more program for us it also help us from staying off the streets. we all have good in us but some time when the tough times come up some tend to fall down and just give up and never get back up again. so I thank u guy so very much and God bless u all in the organization

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: joyce jingjing lao, self

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Since November 2024, Joyce Jingjing Lao, through Nova Vita LLC, has provided a safe and supportive housing environment for nearly 70 individuals seeking stability and change. Over the past 9 months, her program has offered 22 clean, stable, and well-managed rooms to individuals and families facing homelessness in Contra Costa County. While her organization is still less than a year old, Joyce's impact has been substantial. She not only provides physical shelter but also creates a supportive, structured community where people can rebuild their lives. Her emphasis on quality housing, clear rules, and a respectful, person-centered approach ensures that residents feel both supported and accountable. Even during late pregnancy and shortly after giving birth, Joyce continued to personally visit the houses at least three times per week, speaking with residents, listening to their concerns, and offering encouragement.

Joyce's work goes beyond simply providing rooms—she builds a community where residents can experience dignity, accountability, and belonging. She often tells them: "This is my house, but it is your home. I want you to feel at home here. At the same time, because this is my house, everyone needs to follow the rules." She also reminds residents that making mistakes is understandable, as long as they are willing to learn and change. What she encourages them to avoid is repeating the same mistake over and over—"Don't keep falling in the same place," she often tells them. This message has given many residents the courage to keep trying, to take responsibility, and to believe that change is possible. Since November 2024, nearly 70 residents

have lived at Nova Vita homes. Some have moved on to higher levels of care, others have successfully found employment and moved out, and some, after finding work, have chosen to stay because they value the supportive family-like environment. Today, about 30 residents continue to live in Nova Vita housing, actively working on personal change and stability.

Joyce Jingjing Lao demonstrates extraordinary commitment to her residents and to the community. She creates housing that is not just shelter but a true home—a place where individuals can recover, grow, and prepare for long-term stability.

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: Kelly Deegan, Tenant

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Joyce has a special way about her, she not only connects with each of her tenants personally, she provides a safe and secure home for her tenants. By doing so it creates positive foundations for successful futures! I was able to LOVE myself again! There are not enough hours in a day for me now where as before there were too many! Thank you Joyce for providing what I needed to become the woman I so longed to be!

What separates Joyce blouse homes from the rest of Contra Costas program housing is that she genuinely cares about the homeless community

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: Maria V Cortes, Tenant

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

She goes above and beyond to help and make sure people who meet the criteria are able to be helped in her units or houses in a safe manner.

I feel speaking for myself and family that is very grateful for opening her doors to her sober living homes. For being able to feel safe and living clean and sober having a place of my own to utilize and stay positive it's a Blessing

I'm thankful today for making the right choices in life and staying focused and motivated to achieve my goals and dreams. With the Grace of my higher power having a place of my own couldn't do it with a second chance thanks to Joyce Lao

Joyce Lao

Nominated by: Lance Johnson, Tenant

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Joyce is quick to respond to requests and is a pleasure to engage with.

In our household we all highly value Joyce as she is considerate of each of our needs and able to take that information and have us all work together.

I highly recommend Joyce to anyone that is in need of housing placement. Her housing environment is safe, clean and nurturing.

Joyce Jingjing Lao

Nominated by: Wilanda Hughes

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Nova Vista LLC - has provided 14 transitional housing beds and 3 permanent housing for justice-impacted individuals since February 2025, who were facing homelessness. The individual participant values the work of the nominee by having a safe residence to call home.

Nova Vista LLC's commitment to accessibility is one of the cornerstones of our housing programs. Nova Vista has established a network of housing locations throughout Contra Costa and Solano counties, enabling us to offer immediate and same-day placement for those in need. At times, being able to secure transitional housing within 24 hours of release is highly valued by justice-impacted individuals, as it provides a critical bridge to stability and safety.

Clients have expressed a strong sense of security and belonging while residing at Nova Vista LLC.

Jyoti & Sumer Desai

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, Partner

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 3

Reason for nomination:

Jyoti and Sumer Desai, owners of the Executive Inn, have made an extraordinary contribution to ending homelessness in Antioch by offering their property to house unhoused residents through the City's Opportunity Village program. Their current commitment provides temporary housing for 37 individuals and 23 canine companions from the Devpar Encampment for a two-year period.

This marks their second time partnering with the City. Their first effort lasted three years and led to remarkable outcomes—many residents transitioned into permanent housing, employment, and greater stability. The Executive Inn is not only functional but welcoming, with its vibrant bougainvillea and inviting atmosphere offering a true sense of home.

The Desais' sustained generosity and commitment have created a vital bridge from homelessness to hope, making them invaluable partners in the region's housing solutions.

The Executive Inn, through the Opportunity Village program, has transformed the lives of unhoused residents from the Antioch Devpar Encampment by offering safe, dignified temporary housing and a pathway to permanent stability. Residents now have a beautiful space to call home—where they can sleep, shower, and live with their pets—while receiving meals, laundry access, transportation to medical appointments, and critical support services.

Thanks to the generosity of Jyoti and Sumer Desai, owners of the Executive Inn, and the collaboration of partners like the Housing Consortium of the East

Bay (HCEB), Hope Solutions, Loaves and Fishes, White Pony Express, and the CORE Team, residents are connected to case management, rapid rehousing, and daily nourishment. This collective effort has restored hope not only to the individuals served but also to the broader community, who see this as a model of compassion and impact.

The Desais' commitment is deeply valued by service providers, city leaders, and community members alike, who recognize that their work is not just about shelter—it's about dignity, opportunity, and lasting change.

Mei Lei and John Sommer

Nominated by: Brittany Grenier, Work with this provider in the community!

Supervisorial District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

The JMS recovery homes provides our reentry parolees a place to come home. Thy are treated with dignity and respect. It's a beautiful home were the men feel confident .

They understand through there own lived experience what it feels like to come home from being in prison and allow the men to make this place a home, not just a halfway house.

Robert Linhart

Nominated by: Jim Becker, Colleague

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination:

RCF Connects would like to recognize landlord Robert Linhart for his partnership with our Housing First and ERF2 programs. He has provided housing for formerly unhoused residents since 2023. The housing units are of good quality, and he rents one two and three bedroom apartments and single family homes. He currently provides 27 housing units for individuals and families.

Robert Linhart actively works with us to make sure that residents take up key services to help them move forward. He maintains strong communication with us so that we can address issues and celebrate successes. He also participates in our Stand on Your Feet and other events with his residents to help them feel supported.

He continues to add the housing units to the available pool so that more people can be served.

Ryan Domingue (all Oxford House House Managers) and Rachel Domingue

Nominated by: Wilanda Hughes, none

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Oxford House has provided transitional and permanent housing to participants to decrease homelessness affecting participants battling substance abuse through recovery. The last three years we have worked with several Oxford Houses such as - Summer, The Pond, Remedy, and Cinelli providing transitional and permanent housing to about 10-12 participants on average in a calendar year.

The Oxford House program goes beyond simply treating addiction by recognizing that a stable living environment is essential for long-term recovery. Their work to provides a safe, sober, and supportive residential setting to help remove barriers to recovery and provide a foundation in which other issues can be addressed.

By creating an environment where participants can connect with others on a similar journey, they have helped to reduce the isolation and stigma often associated with both homelessness and addiction.

Shah (Shahrooz) Wadpey

Nominated by: Bill Jones, Tenant (Hope Solutions) in master leased PSH units

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Shah Wadpey has master leased units to Hope Solutions' permanent supportive housing programs since 2016. He leases a total of 10 units that house 17 Hope Solutions clients who were chronically homeless and face a range of disabling conditions. Shah is a landlord who provides high quality, well-maintained units to his tenants/subtenants. He also treats Hope Solutions clients and staff with consistent kindness and respect, maintaining a willingness and openness to all clients that is commendable. When he has had work opportunities for which Hope Solutions clients may be eligible, he has also freely offered those opportunities.

Shah has maintained a steady partnership with Hope Solutions through a range of challenges our clients have faced while living in his units. He is consistently willing to roll up his own sleeves to partner with us when maintenance issues arise, and he demonstrates a responsiveness to Hope Solutions clients that shows he understands their challenges while respecting their strengths. Our clients who have had occasion to interact with him have told us they view him as a good and kind person, and they like the units in which they make their homes. For clients in permanent housing situations, being able to live long-term in a quality unit has a direct positive impact on their quality of life and stability.

Stephanie Bergin

Nominated by: Latanya Johnson, Housing provider who has and continues to work with Caminar clients

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination:

Stephanie, a landlord in Contra Costa, has provided housing to 4 families through the county's Bringing Families Home program run by Caminar and is committed to working with the program to house more clients. She also works with the City of Concord Rapid Rehousing program and clients working with GROW Concord.

Tiffany Powell

Nominated by: Tanya Jacobs, Collaborating Agency

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination:

Glo's Independent Living, LLC continues to bridge the gap with the underserved communities who experience minimal supports while in their needs of transitions. They have provided affordable and supportive housing resources to community members to ensure they have a safe and stable housing environment.

Glo's leadership team is passionate, patient and consistent with providing care to their community members. Their residents value their work and supports the efforts to continue to maintain a safe, living environment.

The leadership team is resilient and lived experience of providing care to their community.

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

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

Supervisory 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."

Outstanding Volunteer Recognitions

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize individuals or groups who have enriched the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County through volunteer efforts. Outstanding efforts can be demonstrated by length of involvement, by a strong concentration of service or impact of efforts. The nominee must volunteer in Contra Costa County and the volunteer activity must be without pay

Nominees

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Bay Church Shower Volunteers | 9. Mark Pitzlin |
| 2. Christina Castle-Barber | 10. May Yamamoto |
| 3. Daniel Aderholt Sr. | 11. Moises Riley |
| 4. Daniel Aderholt Sr. | 12. Nichole Gardner |
| 5. Darren Stallcup | 13. Ricka Davis-Sheard |
| 6. Donnie Diego | 14. Ricka Davis-Sheard |
| 7. Facing Homelessness | 15. Teresa Pasquini |
| 8. Jenny Slye | 16. Teri Edlinger |

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

Bay Church Shower Volunteers

Nominated by: Margaret Wessner, I work on the mobile clinic at the Martinez Marina where the shower volunteers come

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Bay Church members volunteering to provide showers in Martinez, Bay Point, Pittsburg, and Antioch

The volunteers from Bay Church bring showers, hot coffee and breakfast, and their human warmth and care to multiple locations (I know them from Martinez). They are super consistent and dependable, and they bring their genuine humanity every week.

In a time where the loudest Christians are preaching hate, and where the majority of Christians are driving past poverty without a second glance, it is so heartening to witness people following the teachings and example of Jesus.

Christina Castle-Barber

Nominated by: Deborah White, Priest

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Christina Castle-Barber is a tireless advocate for people experiencing homelessness. She created the Laundry Love with Grace service, which provides clean laundry and bedding for low or no-income families and individuals. She helped develop Grace's Blessing Box, which offers free food to individuals who need it. Within the last year, this program has grown over 300 percent. Christina has also begun working with other non-profits to establish Laundry Love services in other Contra Costa cities. Christina also coordinates Grace Church Martinez's participation in Winter Nights, which provides shelter and meals for families during the winter months (six years); she assists with the backpack and Spirit of Giving programs at Hope Solutions (six years); and co-chairs the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace (three years). Christina also participates in ministry to Death Row inmates (over 20 years).

It is hard to estimate how many individuals facing homelessness have benefited from Christina's work, but I would guess that her creation of Laundry Love with Grace alone has assisted at least 100 people over the last year. The Grace Thanksgiving Dinner has served over 50 people each year for the last 8 years. Her work with Hope Solutions and Winter Nights benefits at least 75 people each year. Christina's work is not only valued by the individuals who are facing homelessness that it is designed to serve, but by other community and nonprofit agencies as well. Individuals being served by Laundry Love attended our first annual Laundry Love fundraiser at Grace, speaking with love

about their participation in this work. Laundry Love has received grants from the City of Martinez; The Martinez Community Foundation; the Episcopal Impact Fund; and inspired another church in Martinez (First Congregational) and one in Lafayette (St. Anselm's Episcopal) to fundraise for this service. Christina's ministry is particularly beautiful, because it is based on people working together, regardless of their economic circumstances. It is not ministry in which one party gives and the other receives. It is work that respects the dignity and value of everyone who participates and everyone benefits by participating. This is what it means to be a community.

Christina has worked for the county for many years in services to our unhoused neighbors, but everything I have described in this nomination is done as a volunteer outside of her hours for the county.

Daniel Aderholt Sr.

Nominated by: Heather Smith, American River Homeless Crew VP and Secretary

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Daniel Aderholt Sr has been helping our unhoused all over California everyday. He helps Contra Costa County, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, San Joaquin county and sacramento county, Solano, Alameda, Bakersfield etc, with his American River Homeless Crew members with supplies and brand new clothes and food and he practically lives in Contra Costa County antioch and concord area helping our homeless there the most! he's saves 1,000's of peoples lives everyday.

All of the homeless love Daniel Aderholt and he helps them everyday survive living on the streets with food, brand new clothes, supplies. tents, sleeping bags and his church groups housing our homeless off the streets much as they can each month.

Daniel Aderholt was mentally and physically abused by his soon to be ex wife claudia aderholt and he still put his homeless family first . im one of the homeless he saved off the streets and now i help coordinate supplies and cleanups with his American River Homeless Crews.. my name is Heather Smith.

Daniel Aderholt Sr.

Nominated by: Miguel Chapman jr, Homeless volunteer of American River Homeless crew non profit

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

My CEO of American River Homeless crew non profit hardly ever sleeps he's always helping our homeless and when someone calls him needing help? Out the door he goes and he's driving all over California helping us .. I am homeless myself and he's made me inventory manager of our non profits.

He is always willing to come help no matter what time of day or night we call him. This man saves 1,000s of us each year living on the streets from dying

There is no homeless advocate more loving and understanding then Daniel Aderholt.

This man spent 978,790 dollars helping us homeless since he started American River Homeless crew non profit and I know this for a fact by his receipts. This man spends his own money saving our homeless from dying everyday.

There is no one like Daniel Aderholt Sr in this world and we the homeless love him 🙏🏻

Darren Stallcup

Nominated by: Darren Stallcup, I am nominating myself, respectfully.

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Helping the less fortunate as well as advocating for recovery

Hundreds of less fortunate both in Contra Costa County and San Francisco

I would like to nominate myself, Darren Stallcup, for recognition in the Outstanding Volunteer. Over the past several years, I have committed myself to going above and beyond in addressing homelessness and the fentanyl crisis in both Contra Costa County and San Francisco. My work has been driven not by pay or recognition, but by a deep belief that every person deserves dignity, safety, and hope for a better future.

As a volunteer, I have spent countless hours on the streets distributing food, clothing, hygiene kits, blankets, and tents to individuals experiencing homelessness. I have also worked directly in shelters, helping with intake, providing support, and guiding people toward programs that can assist with employment, housing, and rehabilitation. My efforts extend beyond basic aid, I hand out Narcan and fentanyl test strips, educate people on overdose prevention, and encourage those struggling with addiction to take the first steps toward recovery. These efforts are consistent, hands-on, and deeply personal. I do not walk past people in need, I stop, listen, and help. Building relationships with the less fortunate because I know what it's like myself to be homeless as my home burned down and I lost everything and had to rebuild my life. Now I offer hope in the form of both action as well as kind words of

encouragement because if I can do it, anybody can do it. There is hope. There is a way out. Recovery is possible. It's never too late to turn your life around and live the life you always dreamed of. This commitment to treating every unhoused individual with humanity is at the heart of my service.

Beyond volunteering, I have worked tirelessly to build partnerships that amplify impact. By connecting with churches, nonprofits, community advocates, and other local leaders, I have helped coordinate resources and mobilize volunteers in a way that reaches more people than I ever could alone. I have organized fundraising efforts to provide critical supplies, collaborated with faith organizations to expand outreach, and worked with advocacy groups to push for safer, cleaner, and more compassionate approaches to homelessness and the fentanyl epidemic. These partnerships are not just about coordination, they are about uniting different voices, experiences, and strengths to create lasting change in both Contra Costa County and San Francisco.

I believe my efforts as both a volunteer and a partner go above and beyond the ordinary. This work requires consistency, sacrifice, and courage... showing up day after day, even when the problems seem overwhelming. I am proud of the difference I have made, but I also know there is so much more to be done. For these reasons, I respectfully nominate myself, Darren Stallcup, for recognition during Homelessness Awareness Month.

Donnie Diego

Nominated by: Rich Town, friend

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Donnie Diego is more than a leader — he is a voice, an advocate, and a guiding light for those experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Having walked through homelessness himself, Donnie carries a deep understanding of the challenges faced by our most vulnerable neighbors. Today, he turns that lived experience into action, compassion, and change. As Chairman of the Consumer Advisory Board for Healthcare for the Homeless, Donnie has ensured that the perspectives of people with lived experience are not just heard, but centered in countywide decision-making. Under his leadership, the board has strengthened collaboration between providers and the community, making healthcare and housing programs more responsive, humane, and effective. Beyond policy, Donnie’s daily work embodies hope in action. As a Registered Substance Abuse Counselor, Peer Support Specialist, and Discovery House Alumni Association Board Member, he meets people where they are, walking beside them through recovery, mental health challenges, and the difficult path out of homelessness. His trainings in WRAP, CBT, DBT, and crisis intervention equip him with the tools to help individuals heal, while his heart ensures they feel seen, valued, and never alone. Donnie’s impact can be measured not just in programs improved or meetings led, but in lives changed — in the resident who found courage to begin recovery, in the shelter guest who learned new life skills, in the countless people who now have a voice at the table because he insisted they belong there. Quietly but powerfully, Donnie has helped turn hardship into hope, and struggle into

strength. He is a true unspoken hero whose dedication continues to transform the homelessness community of Contra Costa County.

Donnie is also a S.P.I.R.I.T. graduate class of 2020. Having been homeless for the past three years he has thrived during his journey. He is currently at Delta Landing in Pittsburg, CA, for two years he was an outstanding client at Brookside Shelter in Richmond, CA. He volunteered over 85% of his time helping the shelter staff to run the program smoothly and efficiently as possible. He helped with inventory of the facility, he was the liaison between the clients and the staff. He took on the role of welcoming each and every single client that came in and made sure their immediate needs were met, (clothing, hygiene products, shoes, bedding etc.) He was always the first person to offer himself to anyone, whether it be staff or clients, who needed help. He was always being of service and it was obvious that he enjoyed every minute of it. So much so that the management staff at Brookside Shelter elected him Vice-President of the Resident Council. He also co-facilitated the life skills group, led by Pacific Clinics, at the shelter three days a week. His accomplishments in the re-entry and homeless community are many and beyond reproach. He efforts have been recognized by the State Legislature and has been given certificates of recognition twice by the Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, from the 14th District. He was also given the Harriet Tubman Award along with a list of many others. He is certified Opioid Overdose and Rescue Training because he understands that addiction runs rampant in the homeless community. He sits as the Chairman of the Contra Costa County Consumer Advisory Board for Health Care for the Homeless, a role he takes very seriously. So much so that he waived any compensation from the county for his participation and asked that it be put back into the program to make a greater impact in the cause. He has been featured on the front page of the Voice publication also for his role and advocacy in the community. We sincerely believe he is a Hero and the voice of a community that is often unheard and unseen.

Facing Homelessness

Nominated by: Nichole Gardner, Director of Facing Homelessness/ I am nominating the Facing Homelessness Team

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 5

Reason for nomination:

Facing Homelessness Street Outreach Team

The Facing Homelessness Street Outreach team serves hot meals to the unhoused living on the streets of Antioch. Also providing them with basic necessities, harm reduction supplies like naran, celebrate unhoused residents birthdays, holidays, and other special events. This past year the team started a bowling outreach to take unhoused individuals bowling. Their goal is to not only provide food, drinks and supplies but to bring hope to all of those living on the streets of Antioch. They work hard and not only serve the unhoused during their weekly outreach but are heavily involved with advocating for the poor and also attending and assisting during encampment sweeps in the city by being a liason between unhoused residents and city staff and our elected officials.

This is a hard working team who have compassion for the unhoused living on the streets of Antioch and are heavily involved in the community. The entire team should be recognized for their hard work and dedication to Antioch's unhoused communities.

Jenny Slye

Nominated by: Daniel Aderholt Sr, CEO of American River Homeless Crew
501c3

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 3

Reason for nomination:

Jenny Slye has been a devoted member of American River homeless Crew helping our homeless in Antioch California. She's always the first to volunteer to help her CEO Dan Aderholt supply our homeless in Contra Costa County every week for over a year.

Jenny makes people smile and laugh with her funny remarks and cheers those up who needs it the most while she hands out donations to our homeless.. she was homeless herself before.

Jenny Slye has come along ways and doesn't let hard times discourage her from helping those in need.

Mark Pitzlin

Nominated by: Eve Birge, Community partner

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination:

Mark, of Mark's Light Ministries, has been quietly but powerfully serving unhoused individuals in the Contra Costa region for over ten years. What began as a simple act of compassion—Mark and his wife walking through Martinez, offering a single sandwich to a person in need—has grown into a sustained, high-volume outreach delivering hundreds of meals and much more, twice a week, across several cities (Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill). Length of involvement: Approximately ten years. The journey started when Mark's wife was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's; walking together became a time to serve. Over the years, Mark has carried on even as circumstances changed. Concentration of service: Twice weekly distributions, each time producing 300+ meals, going to multiple encampments and locations. No overpass, no group of people seen in need, is overlooked. Mark consistently responds to spontaneous needs ("if someone looks like they need a meal just walking around, his call is 'How about a meal?'"). He also personally addresses urgent medical or crisis situations, stepping in when others would not (for example, when someone was seriously ill and paramedics didn't help, Mark carried him to safety so treatment could be administered). Additional forms of giving: Beyond meals, Mark invests in relationships. He delivers friendship, remembers names, greets people with warmth. He spent years offering free puppet shows to families in community centers, creating laughter and lightheartedness. He does not withhold; every piece of food is made as though he would eat it. He

helps in non-meal ways: retrieving a tow hitch from home to move someone's belongings to prevent their possessions from being lost, for example. Humility & selflessness: Mark's service is not for recognition. He does not push his religious beliefs, though his faith motivates him. Instead, his approach is of listening, caring, meeting practical needs, respecting people's dignity. Impact: Last year, White Pony Express provided Mark with 51,748 pounds of prepared meals, grab-and-go items, fruit, and snacks—and Mark conscientiously distributed this bounty to encampments so it could find its way to unhoused neighbors who would otherwise be without. The scale is massive. For many recipients, these are not occasional meals but a lifeline—the difference between going hungry or having enough or not having someone who will show up and care.

Mark's service makes a difference in many ways: • For the unhoused individuals themselves: o Physical nourishment: Regular, nutritious meals, not just hand-outs. The food is prepared with care. For many, this is the only reliable source of meals during the week. o Stability & predictability: Knowing that twice per week Mark will show up with food, with compassion, bearing both food and friendship creates emotional/psychological relief. It helps reduce anxiety about where the next meal comes from. o Dignity and respect: Mark treats people as equals. His statement, "I will not make anything I would not eat myself; they are not less than me," speaks volumes about how he views those he serves. He preserves dignity through respectful interaction. o Hope & human connection: More than food—Mark provides companionship, listening ear, hugs, remembering names. For people facing isolation, mental illness, or being ignored, this is a healing presence. o

Mark's actions often ripple outward: for example, helping a woman avoid losing all her possessions by tracking down a tow hitch. That stabilizes her situation immediately and prevents additional trauma & loss. • Who values Mark's work: o Recipients themselves: quotes show deep gratitude: "The food is so helpful ... enough for all of us ..." "Without Mark no one would know we exist." These are people who otherwise are marginalized. o

Partner organizations: White Pony Express relies on Mark to distribute

large quantities of meals and items. Without his dedication, reach would be far lower. o Local community: neighbors, volunteers, churches who donate, friends who support his ministry. The Lutheran church and others fund him and help him scale up. They value that Mark is trustworthy, consistent, and generous. o County agencies (indirectly): Mark's kind of work fills a vital gap in food security and emergency response in the unhoused community, complementing what shelters or formal agencies do. His work lessens pressure on public agencies and addresses needs that would otherwise go unmet. • Why it matters: Because many people experiencing homelessness are too often invisible, ignored, or treated as problems to be solved. Mark does not treat them as statistics. He invests time, energy, and compassion. He does what most volunteers will not: go into encampments, walk without reward, stay in relationship. His work is transformative for individuals, offering not just relief but dignity, acknowledgment, and hope.

Mark's service grows out of personal adversity (his wife's Alzheimer's), which gives a deeper sense of sacrifice, perseverance, and humility.

He is deeply relational: hugs, remembering names, greeting all people. These small gestures carry enormous weight among people who often go unnoticed.

He tailors responses to real need, not rigid programs: spontaneous meals, delivering food when someone is hungry just walking by, helping with a tow hitch, responding when paramedics refuse—these are acts beyond protocol.

Mark does not seek recognition; indeed, some of those he helps describe him as “a friend with food and caring.”

May Yamamoto

Nominated by: Joleen Lafayette, Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 5

Reason for nomination:

It is with deep gratitude and admiration that we nominate May Yamamoto for Volunteer of the Year. May is a shining example of what it means to serve with compassion, consistency, and heart. She dedicates the majority of her days to Loaves and Fishes, offering her time, energy, and spirit in countless ways that uplift both our clients and our team. Always wearing a warm, welcoming smile, May brings light and positivity to every space she enters. Her helpful nature, tireless work ethic, and unwavering reliability have made her an essential and deeply valued part of our organization.

One of May's most visible contributions is the LFCC beautiful garden outside our building at 835 Ferry Street, she lovingly manages it daily making sure it is looking good, trimmed, and watered. Through every season, she brings life and color to our space by planting flowers and maintaining a community vegetable garden,, creating a welcoming and peaceful environment for everyone who walks through our doors and by our building. Her attention to detail and pride in her work are evident in every bloom and leaf.

But May's impact doesn't stop there. Each Saturday, she can be found in our dining room helping to prep meals and serve hot food to our clients. Her

kindness, care, and commitment to service are evident in every interaction, making each person feel seen and respected. She brings the same generous spirit to the Martinez Senior Center, where she volunteers when she's not at Loaves and Fishes, continuing her mission to support and care for others in our community.

May's work is not driven by recognition but by a deep and genuine desire to help others. She is giving, dependable, and one of the hardest-working volunteers we've had the privilege to know. Her humility, consistency, and kindness embody the very best of what it means to serve. We are incredibly fortunate to have her as part of our Loaves and Fishes family, and we can think of no one more deserving of the title Volunteer of the Year.

Moises Riley

Nominated by: Moises Riley, Son

Supervisory District of Nominee: I don't know

Reason for nomination:

moises alexander amaya

con la experiencia personal, pude demostrar a la comunidad y a todos los estados de este país que tan necesario y urgente necesitamos cambiar el panorama de todas esas personas que sufren y que sufrieron por un largo periodo la falta de un hogar y lo más importante motiva y consientizar al gobierno y identidades no gubernamentales de tomar nuevos planes de vivienda para poder dar un lugar seguro a nuestros hijos y a la comunidad que pasan por dificultades en la vida cotidiana por lo tanto invito a toda la comunidad que nos unamos a cambiar el futuro de nuestras comunidades que sufren las personas sin hogar y trabajar en equipo para que nuestros condados y los departamentos de servicios sociales y las identidades que apoyan estos recursos puedan tener una mejor visión y apoyar más a esas personas que lo necesitan ser parte de esta dura y fuerte realidad que tuve que vivir me hizo motivarme a que en el futuro podamos dar más apoyo al quien más lo necesita por que todos merecemos un techo y una vivienda justa y segura por que todos somos iguales no importando su raza, cultura, o estado migratorio todos merecemos una mano amiga que brinde seguridad a nuestra comunidad domino a este gran personaje que apesar de las dificultades y retos pudo dar a conocer la realidad que vive las personas que viven en la calle sufriendo junto a ellos pudo lograr mucho mas experiencia y fuerza cuando mas lo necesito no solo es un simple chico es nuestra voz de la comunidad de personas sin hogar

cada experiencia que vivi en la calle me hizo mas fuerte y perseverante en la vida por que nunca deje que los optaculos me derrotaran y orgulloso de mi mismo por que pude aportar un impacto positivo no solo en la comunidad sino aun nivel departamental estatal he internacional en poder consecientizar que tan importante es la inclusion y consientizacion para nuestra comunidad que lo necesita

Nichole Gardner

Nominated by: Tami Weinert, Friend and fellow outreach worker

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 3

Reason for nomination:

Nichole Gardner advocates for our city's unhoused men and women daily. She is involved in going before our mayor and city council, cooking and serving, managing a Facebook page to allow our homeless friends, advocates and those who want to help to stay connected. She travels and goes to encampment sweeps. She advocates for rights for those who are being moved from place to place. She is a friend to our unhoused neighbors and a voice that cries out on their behalf. She has been doing this for about 10 years I believe. Probably longer. I met her many years ago at an event for our unhoused community.

There are tears when someone sees you and sits with you in your hardship. This in Nichole. She hears them in her heart, her actions and in her prayers. I have worked in outreach for any years and I live how she loves people and seeks to serve them in so many different ways. Very inspiring.

She is also a mom and takes care of her boys while serving our community. Nichole is full of empathy and is lionhearted. She is about bringing people together and building this community and making sure our homeless brothers and sisters are seen, represented and loved.

Ricka Davis-Sheard

Nominated by: Ms. Evon Ufland, Friend

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 5

Reason for nomination:

Ms. Ricka of SHARE Community is coming up on 5 years of committed service to the unhoused community. They offer hot showers, clothing and hygiene packets, breakfast, water & coffee.

The work that Ms. Ricka does for the unhoused community is selfless, kind and loving. Offering something so simple as a hot shower makes a world of difference in the lives of the unhoused community she serves. The warm smiles are the rewards for the hardworking, commitment and kind jesters of resources and hope are shared with our Antioch unhoused community.

Ms. Ricka and the SHARE Community are a light and beacon of HOPE during the in between stages of our unhoused community here in East Contra Costa County in the city of Antioch, Ca.

Ricka Davis-Sheard

Nominated by: Marjorie Oliver, Partner in unhoused residents' advocacy

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 3

Reason for nomination:

For the past five years, the volunteers of SHARE Community have faithfully dedicated their time, energy, and compassion to serving unhoused residents of Antioch through our mobile shower program. Their commitment goes far beyond the simple act of providing showers. They have shown up week after week, rain or shine, to create a welcoming environment where dignity and care are restored. These volunteers have concentrated their service on ensuring that community members who are often overlooked have access to basic needs such as food and coffee, clean, hot showers, hygiene kits, laundry vouchers, and fresh clothing. Their impact extends far beyond hygiene. They offer kindness, encouragement, and Radical Hospitality®, reminding every guest that they are seen and valued.

Over the course of five years, their consistent presence has transformed lives by building trust with individuals experiencing homelessness, helping to reduce stigma, and connecting people with additional resources and referrals. Their dedication has been instrumental in making SHARE Community's services sustainable, reliable, and deeply impactful for the City of Antioch and other East County unhoused residents.

n/a

Teresa Pasquini

Nominated by: Lauren Rettagliata, friend

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Teresa Pasquini has been a volunteer for over 25 years for those who are most often homeless or living in situations that are making their lives unbearable. Teresa has helped hundreds of people living on the street find housing and also the needed treatment and care to stay housed. Teresa spent her time focused on advocating for a full continuum of psychiatric care that includes all levels of Housing That Heals. That continuum includes Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs) for those who cannot survive in supported independent living and do not deserve to be housed in a jail pod or a cardboard tent. Teresa is a former Contra Costa County Mental Health Commissioner. She was also a founding member of a Behavioral Health Care Partnership that began in 2009 at Contra Costa Regional Center, the county's public hospital. It was one of the first patient and family partnerships in the nation that focused on Psychiatric units; the forgotten units with forgotten patients. It is this work that taught her the importance of partnering with patients, families, and the staff who serve both. Teresa is on a mission to reform local, state, and federal mental health systems. So that homelessness is not an option when one leaves the hospital or a treatment center. Teresa's decades of lived experience drives her current passion for "Housing That Heals." Teresa has traveled extensively telling her story in a variety of forums, including the Institute of Healthcare Improvement, a Grand Rounds at the University of Michigan with our Chief of Psychiatry, an event at the National Quality Forum with a Contra Costa Sheriff Deputy, and a media event on Capitol Hill in 2015. She was one

of three family members from California who told our stories of failed first care that ended with tragic consequences for all three families. It is hard to capture the depth of despair that her family and so many others have experienced. Her purpose for taking this journey was to start a crucial conversation that would not leave her son uncared for.

Teresa's work has opened the door to housing with treatment for on average a 100 families a year who contact her seeking help so that their loved one does not end up in jail or homeless.

Teresa's work has impacted many of the current laws that now benefit people with a serious mental illness or substance use disorder. Through years of work she has used her influence to help both write and support legislation that helps those who are so seriously ill that they cannot help themselves.

Teri Edlinger

Nominated by: Morgan Richie,

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination:

Teri Edlinger embodies compassion in action. At SOS Richmond, she has become a strong and steady presence in our donation center, ensuring that critical needs are never overlooked. When she learns something is missing — whether it’s a warm coat, a pair of shoes, or basic supplies — Teri doesn’t stop at identifying the gap. She goes out and finds it, making sure our unhoused neighbors have what they need to survive and stabilize. SOS staff member Desiree describes Teri as “the most beautiful soul” and her actions live up to this description. Her generosity is rooted in her own lived experience of love and loss. After her son passed away this year, Teri chose to donate all of his clothing to others in need, transforming personal grief into a source of comfort for the community. She brings that same spirit of compassion to every interaction, showing up with kindness, dedication, and a smile that lifts those around her.

Beyond meeting immediate needs, Teri invests in people’s futures. A former hair stylist herself, she mentors a community member living in his car who aspires to become a barber. With patience and care, she supported his training and development until he could begin building a new career. For many, Teri has become like a loving grandmother — someone who sees their potential, believes in them, and offers unwavering support. Teri’s commitment is quiet but profound. She enriches lives not just by what she gives, but by how she gives: with heart, humility, and deep compassion. SOS Richmond is proud to nominate her for Outstanding Volunteer.

Phoenix Rising Recognitions

This category recognizes individuals with a lived experience of homelessness who have demonstrated outstanding courage, strength and/or resilience through the Phoenix Rising category. The Phoenix is a bird that rises up again and again from the ashes. It embodies courage and resilience through its journey or flight. Nominated people must have a lived experience of homelessness in Contra Costa County and/or have experienced homelessness elsewhere and currently live and/or work in Contra Costa County.

Nominees

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Anastasia Lockwood | 9. Michael Callanan |
| 2. Ashley Ontiveros | 10. Moises Riley |
| 3. Brittany Ferguson | 11. Nicole Rogers |
| 4. Brittany Grenier | 12. Rebecca Sanders |
| 5. Christina Smith | 13. Robin Butler |
| 6. David Nolan | 14. Tami Townsend |
| 7. Donnie Diego | 15. Tammy Stoichich |
| 8. Donnie Diego | 16. Tanya Ruscigno |

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

David Nolan

Nominated by: Morgan Richie,

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination:

David Nolan's journey exemplifies the courage and resilience at the heart of the Phoenix Rising Award. Once a participant in SOS Richmond's Job Readiness Program, David has risen from the challenges of homelessness to step into a role of leadership — inspiring others through both his hard work and his integrity. From the beginning, David's team recognized him as a natural leader. His honesty, work ethic, and reliability quickly set him apart, and his peers came to trust him as someone who would always show up and follow through. David does not shy away from difficult tasks or hard truths — instead, he leans in with determination and clarity. What makes David's leadership unique is the care he shows for others. His coworker Shyloh describes how David consistently looks out for his teammates, whether by making sure a bike wasn't stolen, motivating his crew to clean up entire blocks of trash, or encouraging them to keep pushing forward. David's trustworthiness and compassion have a direct impact not only on his coworkers, but on the community streets where his team works every day. David's story is one of transformation and service. By moving from participant to leader, he has become a living example of what is possible when resilience meets opportunity. His presence encourages others to believe in themselves, to imagine a future beyond survival, and to take pride in contributing to their community. In David, we see the embodiment of the Phoenix: rising again and again, carrying courage, strength, and care into every new chapter. SOS Richmond is proud to nominate him for the Phoenix Rising Award.

Michael Callanan

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Coworker

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination:

Mike started CORE mobile outreach and has stayed all these years because he has a passion for this work.

Mike is my new supervisor and he is calm, understanding, and always in a good mood. He listens to everyone and always is responsive.

Tami Townsend

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Coworker

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination:

Tami demonstrates strength, courage, and resilience every single day. She goes, goes, goes for all clients and her community. She cares about all of the unhoused and goes the extra mile.

Tami is a team player and always gives a helping hand.

Tanya Ruscigno

Nominated by: Brittany Ferguson, Colleague

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 1

Reason for nomination:

Tanya Ruscigno each day demonstrates resilience, she is the true example of a phoenix rising. When she gets knocked down, she gets back up 10x harder. Tanya has lived experience homeless, and in recovery. I admire her strength and passion for helping and serving our community.

Ashley Ontiveros

Nominated by: La Tanya Johnson, Former case manager

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination:

This client was homeless, lost her children to CFS, and separated from all she has knows. During my time with her she graduated from SPIRIT program and Restore. Gained custody of her children moved and maintained permanent housing and received employment as a parent partner

Brittany Grenier

Nominated by: Michele Eklund, Friend/coworker

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination:

She shows up everyday with a positive attitude, she inspires her clients, she doesn't judge people. She helps everyone no matter what.

She's a beautiful soul

Nicole Rogers

Nominated by: Roberto Roman, Co-worker/friend

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination:

Nicole Rogers, a recent addition to the team at the Office for Peer and Family Empowerment (OPFE), knows that stories have beginnings and endings. It has taken some reflection for her to consider how her story began. “I feel like my story begins in a place of strength,” she says, “even though it didn't seem like that in the beginning.” The start of an 18-year process of overcoming mental health and substance use challenges also seemed like a very dark place to Nicole. “But in that dark place,” she says, “there was a glint of light that showed through.” In pursuing that light, she also experienced periods of homelessness and battled suicidal thoughts. The point where change seemed within grasp for Nicole was when she became pregnant. “I knew I had to save myself to save my unborn child,” she says. A devastating reality faced Nicole when, during her pregnancy, her baby’s father died from fentanyl overdose. “It really opened up my eyes, knowing that, as it was with him, it could have been with me, too.” Nicole found a refuge in Restore, a faith-based recovery program that supports women who have graduated from inpatient treatment and have open cases with Children and Family Services. Nicole eventually became a manager, group facilitator, and admin worker there. At Restore, Nicole also learned about the SPIRIT program when, during a presentation by the peer co-instructors, she received encouragement to not only apply for SPIRIT but also look into the Clean Slate program to expunge her record and improve her employment opportunities. She was hesitant at first. “I was so stuck on my past that I didn’t see my future,” she says. “Even though I had shown signs of rehabilitation, I thought that there was no hope for me.” Yet, hope prevailed! Nicole enrolled in SPIRIT and graduated in 2024. Now,

she is the newest SPIRIT Peer Vocational Specialist at OPFE. Her journey has changed her outlook. “There’s always time to rebuild your life, if that’s what you want. Bad moments and bad times don’t have to equal bad life.”

I can personally vouch for Nicole's integrity, perseverance, and dedication to helping others. She has become an instrumental part of the Office for Peer and Family Empowerment team over the last year. Her journey through adversity into victory inspires me immensely. I am grateful to be able to call her my colleague and friend.

Rebecca Sanders

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Supervisor

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 4

Reason for nomination:

Rebecca is an amazing supervisor and she's always available to help whenever assistance is needed. She also goes out in the field and assists coworkers with helping clients.

Rebecca is also always available to talk if a co worker is feeling overwhelmed or down, or needs a listening ear. She is truly an amazing supervisor.

Moises Riley

Nominated by: Moises Amaya, Son

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 5

Reason for nomination:

Apesar de las dificultades que pase y lo duro que fue vivir en la calle me dio el corage y la motivacion de luchar por seguir adelante sino tambien la experiencia y las historias de cada persona que sufre en las calles por falta de un hogar y las causas que por las que estas personas son olvidadas y rechazadas pero mas grande fue mi motivacion al escuchar a cada una de esas personas que me abrieron su corazon para poder darme razones y dificultades pero mas hermoso fue que todas esas personas tenemos suenos metas que por las dificultades de la vida aveces nos toca sufrir estos problemas pero hoy es mas grande la motivacion para que podamos ayudar ala comunidad a cambiar el rumbo de nuestros futuros y que el gobierno brinde y se enfoque en planes de ayuda para los mas necesitados que no pueden alzar su voz

igualdad y inclusion ala comunidades mas vulnerables

Robin Butler

Nominated by: Roxanne M. Perry-White, Care Coordinator at Delta Landing Homeless Shelter

Supervisory District of Nominee: District 5

Reason for nomination:

Robin had been homeless for a number of years. She placed herself of numerous housing authority waitlists; and monitored them closely. She performed all tasks required to be part of the BACS Community Services Organization in a timely fashion

The client never gave up on her search for a forever home. She moved into her home in May 2025.

Donnie Diego

Nominated by: Kevin Johnson, Friend

Supervisory District of Nominee: I don't know

Reason for nomination:

I am thrilled to nominate Donnie Diego for the Phoenix Rising Award, which honors individuals with lived experience of homelessness who exemplify extraordinary courage, strength, and resilience.

Despite his struggles with homelessness, Donnie has not only thrived but has become a beacon of hope and leadership. He is Chairman of the Healthcare for the Homeless Consumer Advisory Board and has driven significant improvements in healthcare access for the homeless community. His dedication to service also shined through his role as Vice President of the Resident Council at Brookside, where he championed his peers and fostered positive change. For two years Donnie volunteered his time and services at the Brookside Shelter where he managed inventory and donations as well as helped shelter staff with daily operations.

Throughout his journey, Donnie continues to thrive amidst the challenges of homelessness. He's trained and certified a Peer Support Specialist by three esteemed agencies: Contra Costa College, CalMHSA the California Mental Health Services Authority, and Medi-Cal. He has also completed courses in interpersonal development and financial management with Pacific Clinics, which led him to co-facilitate the day habilitation program at the shelter. Additionally, he graduated from the Re-Entry Success Center's Alpha Program and received the Harriet Tubman Award from the Remedy Support Group, along with a certificate of recognition from the State Legislature through Assembly member Buffy Wicks and participated in the Contra Costa County Early Engagement Group on substance disorders.

Donnie's journey from homelessness to a pillar of strength and resilience is a testament to his unwavering courage. His dedication to empowering others and continuous pursuit of personal and professional growth make him an ideal candidate for this award. He is an inspiration to us all.

Anastasia Lockwood

Nominated by: Caroline Miller, YAB

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Over the past year, Anastasia has grown into a vital member of the Youth Action Board (YAB). Drawing from their lived experience, they have consistently shown up in the community to advocate for young people and work toward improving the homeless response system—even while still navigating it themselves. Anastasia’s commitment and resilience are evident in the many ways they’ve contributed: participating in the HAM panel, serving on RFP panels and participating in interviews, engaging in trainings, leading outreach efforts, and lending their voice to strategic planning.

Anastasia’s steady presence, thoughtful contributions, and deep compassion for others have left a lasting impact on their peers and the broader community. They embody the spirit of rising above challenges while lifting others alongside them.

Brittany Ferguson

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Co-worker

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Brittany has been very helpful to CORE mobile outreach and she always advocates for the clients. Brittany has lived experience and uses her past struggles to persevere through helping her community.

Brittany from H3 has taught myself so many things and she is always responsive. She truly has a passion for this line of work and she helps build people up.

Christina Smith

Nominated by: Bill Jones, I supervise her Program Director, and I was her mentor when she completed her SPIRIT program internship.

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Christina's story is one of courage, resilience, and strength. She has faced challenges that might have kept others from moving forward, yet she has transformed her lived experiences—emerging as a true survivor—into a powerful source of wisdom and compassion. Today, Christina not only guides her own path with clarity and purpose but also uplifts, supports, and inspires the vulnerable clients she serves in the APS Home Safe program at Hope Solutions. From the beginning, Christina stood out as someone who leads with heart. She understands, on a deeply personal level, just how overwhelming life's hardships can be, and she brings that lived understanding into every interaction. Her clients trust her because she truly gets it. In her presence, they feel seen, respected, and empowered. Partners and colleagues alike recognize her authenticity and empathy, which have built bridges of trust and strengthened our entire program. Christina's leadership is compassionate, but it is also grounded in accountability. She creates spaces where teamwork thrives, where every voice matters, and where people feel both supported and challenged to grow. She demonstrates that empathy and excellence are not opposites—they go hand in hand. Through her example, Christina shows that resilience is not simply about surviving hardship, but about transforming those hardships into a driving force for change, growth, and impact. Her journey, and the way she channels it into her work, embodies the very essence of this award. Christina is a courageous leader, a compassionate provider, and an inspiration to everyone around her. We are

honored to nominate her and to celebrate the remarkable impact she continues to make in the lives of her clients, colleagues, and community.

Donnie Diego

Nominated by: Rich Town, friend

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Donnie is more than a leader — he is a voice, an advocate, and a guiding light for those experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Having walked through homelessness himself, Donnie carries a deep understanding of the challenges faced by our most vulnerable neighbors. Today, he turns that lived experience into action, compassion, and change. As Chairman of the Consumer Advisory Board for Healthcare for the Homeless, Donnie has ensured that the perspectives of people with lived experience are not just heard, but centered in countywide decision-making. Under his leadership, the board has strengthened collaboration between providers and the community, making healthcare and housing programs more responsive, humane, and effective.

Beyond policy, Donnie’s daily work embodies hope in action. As a Registered Substance Abuse Counselor, Peer Support Specialist, and Discovery House Alumni Association Board Member, he meets people where they are, walking beside them through recovery, mental health challenges, and the difficult path out of homelessness. His trainings in WRAP, CBT, DBT, and crisis intervention equip him with the tools to help individuals heal, while his heart ensures they feel seen, valued, and never alone. Donnie’s impact can be measured not just in programs improved or meetings led, but in lives changed — in the resident who found courage to begin recovery, in the shelter guest who learned new life skills, in the countless people who now have a voice at the table because he insisted they belong there.

Quietly but powerfully, Donnie has helped turn hardship into hope, and struggle into strength. He is a true unspoken hero whose dedication continues to transform the homelessness community of Contra Costa County.

Tammy Stoicich

Nominated by: Tanya Ruscigno, Coworker

Supervisory District of Nominee: They serve the entire county

Reason for nomination:

Tammy is a part of the CCH: H3 data team and she assists with a huge part of CCC reports and trains all of CORE mobile outreach. She is very patient with everyone and very professional.

Tammy has lived experience and she is a kind and loving woman. She has a heart for the unhoused.