

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

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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 a 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.

