

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2025 Recognitions for “Outstanding Volunteer”

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 | 10. Moises Riley |
| 2. Christina Castle-Barber | 11. Mrs. Ricka Davis-Sheard |
| 3. Daniel Aderholt Sr. | 12. Nichole Gardner |
| 4. Daniel Aderholt Sr. | 13. Nichole Gardner |
| 5. Darren Stallcup | 14. Teresa Pasquini |
| 6. Jenny Slye | 15. Teri Edlinger |
| 7. Mark Pitzlin | 16. Ricka Davis-Sheard |
| 8. May Yamamoto | 17. Donnie Diego |
| 9. May Yamamoto | |

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Bay Church Shower Volunteers

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

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Christina Castle-Barber

Nominated by: Deborah White, Priest

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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).

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Daniel Aderholt Sr.

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

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Daniel Aderholt Sr.

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

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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 🙏

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Darren Stallcup

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

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Helping the less fortunate as well as advocating for recovery

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county



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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Jenny Slye

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

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Mark Pitzlin

Nominated by: Eve Birge, Community partner

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)



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.”

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

May Yamamoto

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

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

See below, Over 5 years

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Nomination from Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa

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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

May Yamamoto

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

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Volunteer of Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa May Yamamoto

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Moises Riley

Nominated by: Moises Riley, Son

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

moises alexander amaya

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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

Supervisory District where project takes place: I don't know

Mrs. Ricka Davis-Sheard

Nominated by: Ms. Evon Ufland, Friend

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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 difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Nichole Gardner

Nominated by: Tami Weinert, Friend and fellow outreach worker

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)



Nichole Gardner

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

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

Facing Homelessness Street Outreach Team

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

Teresa Pasquini

Nominated by: Lauren Rettagliata, friend

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

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.

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county

Teri Edlinger

Nominated by: Morgan Richie,

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

Ricka Davis-Sheard

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

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

n/a

Supervisory District where project takes place: District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

Donnie Diego

Nominated by: Rich Town, friend

Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:

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.

The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:

Supervisory District where project takes place: They serve the entire county