

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2024 Recognitions for “Outstanding Partnership”

The Outstanding Partnership category is designed to recognize partnerships that support people experiencing homelessness. Partnerships can be with/between government agencies, nonprofits/CBOs, advocacy groups, faith organizations, individuals (including those who have experienced 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. Loaves and Fishes/BACS Delta Landing Partnership
2. Loaves and Fishes/Trinity Center Partnership #1
3. Loaves and Fishes/Trinity Center Partnership #2
4. Community Villages Partners
5. Housing First Collaborative
6. Clean Start Partners
7. El Portal Place Partners
8. SHARE Community Partnership
9. Contra Costa Crisis Center Partners
10. CEP/BARM Partnership

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

Loaves and Fishes/BACS Delta Landing Partnership

Nominated by: Janette Kennedy, Loaves and Fishes

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa (LFCC) and Bay Area Community Services (BACS)

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa (LFCC) and Bay Area Community Services (BACS) partner together at Delta Landing to make sure people who have experienced homelessness and are now housed in the shelter at Delta Landing receive a hot and nutritious meal and groceries Monday through Friday. BACS provides wrap around services and LFCC provides hot and nutritious meals to people who have experienced homelessness but who are now staying at the shelter.

Supervisorial 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)

Loaves and Fishes/Trinity Center Partnership

Nominated by: Janette Kennedy, Loaves and Fishes

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

Trinity Center (TC) and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa (LFCC).

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

TC and LFCC provide much needed services to people experiencing homelessness. LFCC runs the dining room at TC and provides a hot and nutritious meal to TC members. TC offers much needed services such as showers, laundry, mail box and more. People experiencing homelessness needing essential services, including a hot and nutritious meal, can come to TC and receive those services due to the partnership between TC and LFCC.

In addition to the daily services TC and LFCC provide, during the winter months, LFCC hosts one of its 12-week free culinary arts training programs at TC for 6-10 students (also members of TC). The students learn the basic skills to have a job in the culinary industry, plus the food they prepare is also served to the Winter Evening Program guests (winter shelter at Armory) that TC hosts.

Supervisorial District where project takes place: District 2 (San Ramon, Danville, Alamo, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Canyon, Rossmoor, Parkmead, Saranap and a portion of Walnut Creek))

Trinity Center/Loaves and Fishes Partnership

Nominated by: Pamela McGrath, Trinity Center

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

Trinity Center (TC) and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa (LFCC).

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Together we provide a safe, welcoming space at Trinity Center with nutritious meals provided by Loaves and Fishes. Meal time offers a real sense of community where hope flourishes and doorways to opportunity can lead to wellness, employment, and housing.

Our four year partnership has provided for essential human needs on a daily basis. Throughout our partnership, we have collaborated on new ventures and community outreach efforts and we have supported each other's organizations in many ways.

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

Community Villages Partners

Nominated by: Tanya Jacobs, Community Villages

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

Community Villages, GLO's Independent Living LLC, Contra Costa Youth Services Bureau and Greenwood High school in Richmond.

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Community Villages supports individuals experiencing homelessness by providing resources and linkage to basic essentials such as food, resources to other agencies or housing partners, and facilitates wellness checks. Community Villages partners with organizations such as GLO's Independent Living, LLC to increase housing access to individuals that are unhoused, without barriers. Those individuals that we encounter who are ready for housing are assessed and their needs assessment determines where and how they can be supported with housing. In addition, Community Villages collaborates with Contra Costa Youth Services Bureau to increase resources for youth that are unhoused. They also partner with Greenwood High school in Richmond who provide resources to youth that are in transition and need supports. This partnership helps secure individuals with resources and being an ally to help advocate with other communities. Community Villages empowers community connections and relationship building.

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)

Housing First Collaborative

Nominated by: James Becker, Richmond Community Foundation

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

The partners are Richmond Community Foundation, City of Richmond, SOS Richmond, Labor of Love, Catholic Charities of the East Bay, Motel 6, Extended Stay America and CORE. People with lived experience have been hired to help lead this work and engage with the partners daily on specific issues and monthly as a full group to provide feedback on what is working.

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The partnership provides immediate housing in area motels and hotels for those leaving the homeless encampments who are ready for housing, providing wrap around services. The partners then work with the people to develop a housing plan and secure long-term housing. Once the person is in long-term housing, wrap around services are continued and rent is paid for up to 12 months. The goal is to help the person secure employment and other income so that the person can assume the rent after 12 months.

Supervisorial 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)

Clean Start Partnership

Nominated by: Daniel Gordon, City of Martinez

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

The Bay Church, the City of Martinez, and Contra Costa Health

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Clean Start is a homeless outreach program that provides mobile shower facilities, laundry services, and toiletries for people experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. The partnership supports people facing homelessness by providing them with weekly opportunities to access sanitation facilities, receive hygiene supplies, get a haircut, and to have clothes laundered. Navigation and healthcare services are also provided through Contra Costa Health programs.

The program operates weekly in three locations: Bay Point, Martinez, and Pittsburg. In 2023, the program provided 3,499 showers between the three locations it serves in Contra Costa County. It served 559 individuals experiencing homelessness, and one-quarter of guests returned six or more times a year.

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El Portal Place Collaboration

Nominated by: Cheryl Leonor, Contra Costa Health: H3

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

Contra Costa Health, Contra Costa Public Works, Housing Authority of Contra Costa County (HACCC), Overaa, and Hope Solutions

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

The El Portal Place Collaboration, including Contra Costa Health, Public Works, Housing Authority of Contra Costa County (HACCC), Overaa, and Hope Solutions, led to the second Homekey facility opening in Contra Costa County since 2022. This partnership was instrumental in transforming the El Portal Place property from a vacant office building to a 54 units of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless, high utilizers of services in Contra Costa County. This team of professionals has consistently demonstrated their commitment to serving some of the county's most vulnerable population. El Portal Place demonstrates that through collaboration and innovation, we can bring about lasting change and impactful solutions to homelessness in our community. This successful collaboration is truly deserving of being recognized for their exceptional contributions and positive impact to support Contra Costa County's homeless population.

Each Agency has acted in concert to share resources and their expertise to bring El Portal Place into fruition:

- *Overaa built El Portal Place in 1970 and later renovated the 27,000 SF building to offer residents approximately 300 square feet each, with ADA-adaptable bathrooms and kitchenettes.*
- *CCH spearheaded the project by initiating the Homekey application and bringing the agencies together to coordinate efforts.*
- *HACCC sought and was awarded 41 Housing Stability Vouchers through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Twenty-five of these vouchers will support households living at El Portal Place and offer long term financial stability to the project with these vouchers. HACCC has been working tirelessly with CCH to review housing applications for residents referred to units at El Portal Place.*
- *Hope Solutions is partnering with CCH to provide person centered, trauma informed Property Management and Supportive Services to people experiencing homeless in Contra Costa County.*
- *Public Works assisted CCH with the purchase the property and will continue to support Hope Solutions in maintaining facilities at El Portal Place.*

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)

SHARE Community Partnership

Nominated by: Ricka Davis-Sheard, SHARE Community and Joleen Lafayette, Loaves & Fishes

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

SHARE Community, Contra Costa Healthcare for the Homeless, and Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

SHARE Community provides mobile showers for those experiencing homelessness, Loaves and Fishes provides over 100 meals/week during the shower services times and Healthcare for the Homeless provides medical services for those who are unhoused, once a week during shower services. Providing both food and medical services alongside mobile showers for the unhoused significantly enhances the effectiveness of outreach programs. Mobile showers alone help restore a sense of dignity by offering individuals a chance to care for their personal hygiene. However, combining this with food services ensures that individuals are not only clean but also nourished, which is essential for physical well-being and mental clarity.

Medical services are equally critical, as many individuals who are experiencing homelessness face untreated health issues—both physical and mental—due to limited access to healthcare. Offering medical care on-site allows for immediate treatment of injuries, infections, or chronic conditions that might otherwise worsen. It also provides a gateway for preventive care, vaccinations, and mental health support, which are often overlooked in traditional homeless services.

By integrating these services, mobile shower programs create a holistic support system. Individuals are more likely to engage with these services when they are all available in one location, fostering trust and encouraging them to seek additional help. This approach not only meets their immediate needs but also promotes long-term recovery, stability, and overall well-being.

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

Contra Costa Crisis Center Partners

Nominated by: Elaine Schroth, Contra Costa Crisis Center

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

At the heart of our work is a county collaboration that brings together dedicated partners to support those experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. The Contra Costa Crisis Center serves as a vital 24/7 access point for the Contra Costa homeless Continuum of Care, providing prevention and diversion counseling, as well as referral services through the county's Coordinated Entry (CE) System. By calling or texting 211, individuals in need can access homeless shelters and connect with CORE, the county's homeless outreach team—services that are entirely free to the caller. This partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in multiple ways. Our compassionate team of 40 trained staff and 40 award-winning volunteers, many who have themselves faced hardship and are part of the local community, understand firsthand the struggles our callers endure. Last year alone, we received over 70,000 calls through the 988 crisis lifelines and the 211 information & referral helpline. These calls weren't just statistics; they were a testament to the courage and resilience of our community's most vulnerable. Through these calls, we were able to guide individuals and families toward basic necessities such as food, shelter, mental health services, and healthcare. The top concerns voiced—homeless services, housing and rent assistance, food security, and mental health—reflect the urgent needs we address every day. By working hand in hand with those who have lived through homelessness, we ensure that our services remain relevant, compassionate, and effective in helping people reclaim their dignity and stability.

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

To support people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County, our partnership offers a lifeline—accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week—through the 2-1-1 helpline or by texting "HOPE" to 20121. This essential service ensures that individuals and families on the brink of losing their homes receive compassionate and immediate support. Our dedicated call and text specialists, trained in homelessness prevention and diversion counseling, listen carefully to each person's story and provide tailored guidance to help them navigate the complex challenges they face. From the first call, our Crisis Center counselors work hand in hand with those in need, conducting thoughtful intakes, tracking their journey toward stability, and following up with exit interviews to ensure long-term success. We are committed to not just providing information but being a steady, supportive presence, offering a path to hope and secure housing when it's

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



needed most. Through this partnership, we strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those facing homelessness, with every interaction focused on preventing loss and promoting dignity.

Since 1963, the Contra Costa Crisis Center has been a beacon of hope for those in need, offering free, 24/7 support to anyone facing crisis. As a nonprofit deeply rooted in the community, our mission is simple yet profound: to keep people safe, to guide them through their most challenging times, and to connect them with services that are not only practical but also culturally relevant. We are here for individuals and families facing homelessness, ensuring they know they are not alone.

What sets us apart is the unwavering dedication of our staff and volunteers. Every day, they pour their hearts into this work, offering life-saving support with compassion, empathy, and understanding. They meet people in their darkest moments, providing a lifeline when hope seems lost. We are incredibly proud of the teamwork and resilience of our team, who tirelessly pursue solutions, knowing that each small act of kindness has the power to transform lives.

The Contra Costa Crisis Center is not just a service provider; it is a community of people committed to lifting others up, one conversation at a time. We are honored to continue this work and look forward to the opportunity to expand our impact with your support.

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

CEP/BARM Partnership

Nominated by: Beth Miller, CEP staff member and Children's Learning Center Volunteer

Please describe the key partners and if/how the partnership engages people with lived experience of homelessness in the work.

Community Education Partnerships (CEP) and the Bay Area Rescue Mission (BARM). The Bay Area Rescue Mission runs an emergency shelter and transitional program that serves unstably housed adults and children. Community Education Partnerships runs an onsite Children's Learning Center that provides academic support, enrichment, and one-on-one tutoring to all children onsite.

Please describe how the partnership supports people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County.

Through our partnership, CEP and BARM are able to provide support for families experiencing homelessness. BARM provides shelter, food, and some wrap-around support services. CEP focuses on the child's needs, including school enrollment, transportation to school, ensuring educational rights are respected, offering after-school and school break programming that is academically rigorous and includes child-directed enrichment, one-on-one tutoring, and school supplies, books, and backpacks. CEP's one-on-one tutoring and school supply program continues with families after being stably housed.

CEP and BARM have partnered together to ensure families experiencing homelessness are supported and know that their children will be set up for academic success.

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