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ANNUAL HOMELESSNESS MEMORIAL TO BE HELD DEC. 21

Members of the public are invited to the 25th annual Homeless Memorial Service, to be held on Tuesday, December 21st from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. This year, the event will be held at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church St., Santa Cruz.

Held each year in conjunction with the National Homeless Persons Memorial Day, the event will honor homeless community members who passed away in 2023. The event is presented by Santa Cruz County Homeless Persons Health Project, Housing Matters, and Wings, a local non-profit agency.

Through November, 105 persons experiencing homelessness died on the streets of Santa Cruz County, one nearly every three days. While the figure is likely to increase by the new year, it is already the highest number of recorded deaths in any given year.

People experiencing homelessness are more likely to experience violence and illness and have much shorter life expectancies than those with housing. A recent study by the National Bureau of Economic Research showed non-elderly homeless persons are 3.5 times more likely to die as their housed counterparts. In Santa Cruz County, the rate is nearly six times higher for those 40 years old and younger.

Attendance is free. For planning purposes, attendees are requested to register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2023-Memorial>, but registration is not necessary to attend.

Parking is available in downtown lots near the Civic Auditorium.

WHAT: 25th Annual Homeless Memorial

WHERE: Civic Auditorium, 307 Church Street

WHEN: December 21st, 10:00 am-11:30 am

About the Homeless for Health Partnership

The Housing For Health Partnership is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homeless service providers. It acts as the federally-designated continuum of care for Santa Cruz County and helps allocate State and Federal funding to address homelessness. The County of Santa Cruz serves as lead agency for the H4HP.