



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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21st ANNUAL HOMELESS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Housing Matters, the Santa Cruz County Homeless Persons Health Project and Encompass Community Services' River Street Shelter invite the public to share to the 21st annual Homeless Memorial services.

For more than two decades, the event has honored homeless community members who have passed over the last year, and is held in conjunction with Homeless Persons Memorial Day, an annual nationwide event held across the U.S. The 2019 event features a reading of the names of dozens of persons, homeless and formerly homeless, who died in the past year. Friends and family of those who have passed are invited to speak at the event.

The event will be held in the clubhouse at Harvey West Park, followed by a walk to the site of a permanent homeless memorial in historic Evergreen Cemetery. Funding opportunities to support the memorial will be announced at the event.

Last year, a total of 58 homeless persons died on the streets of Santa Cruz County – more than one per week. People experiencing homelessness have much shorter life expectancies and are more likely to suffer violence, chronic disease and behavioral health issues.

WHAT: 21st Annual Homeless Memorial

WHERE: Harvey West Park Clubhouse, 326 Evergreen St., Santa Cruz

WHEN: December 19, 10:00 am

About the Homeless Action Partnership

The Homeless Action Partnership is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with local homelessness 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 HAP.

