

30-Year History of Homelessness in Santa Cruz County: Strategic Planning to End Homelessness, March 2013-March 2014



Smart Solutions to Homelessness-Become an Ally!

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Jessica Wolf Moves On

What Are Smart Solutions?

Evidence-based

Produce measurable results

Cost effective

Benefit the entire community

Take a step toward ending homelessness

Support the dignity of each individual

TWO HOMELESS PUBLIC FORUMS - PUBLIC INPUT TO THE COUNTYWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN!



December 2nd and 4th Santa Cruz County residents will have the opportunity to hear and respond to draft recommendations for how our county can best address homelessness.

These recommendations have been developed over the last nine months as part of a broadly inclusive strategic planning process, one that will result in a new plan in March, 2015. Join us on either day and bring a friend!

Tuesday, Dec. 2nd 5:30-8:00PM in Watsonville
First Christian Church: 15 Madison Street

Thursday, Dec. 4th, 5:30-8:00PM in Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz Veterans Memorial Building: 846 Front Street

Light refreshments provided.

Select **three** discussion groups you would like to join:



Be sure to proudly wear your Support Button at the upcoming Public Forums on December 2nd and 4th!



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY (180/2020) CHOSEN FOR ZERO: 2016

The 180/2020 initiative in Santa Cruz County has been selected, along with 68 other U.S. communities, to participate in Zero: 2016, a national campaign to end veteran and chronic homelessness in the next two years.

[More...](#)

[Link to Zero: 2016 Announcement](#)

1. Veterans
2. Youth and Young Adult
3. Families
4. Adults (including chronically homeless and seniors) who are currently unsheltered or at risk of homelessness;
5. Strengthen Pajaro Valley's service network
6. Long-term solutions for Safety and Immediate Needs

Input from the public will be considered as the final plan is developed, a plan that will then be used to guide the community's work to address homelessness for the next decade.

Hosted by the United Way of Santa Cruz County, Smart Solutions to Homelessness and the Homeless Action Partnership. Questions? Contact [Jessica Wolf](#) or call 831-465-2203

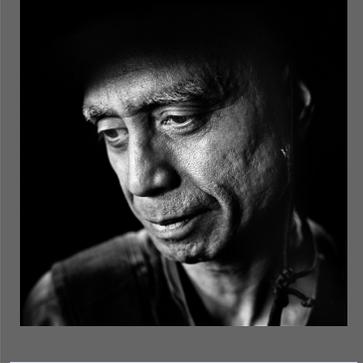
[Click Here for Flyer](#)



Local Jurisdictions Join the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness

By Zach Friend, Karina Cervantez, Don Lane and Phil Kramer, Special to the Sentinel, Posted 11-21-14

In the past few years, Santa Cruz County has made great strides toward reducing homelessness, and in just the past few weeks - with a countywide pledge and a new initiative - our community has made an even deeper commitment toward ending veteran and chronic homelessness.



Santa Cruz County's homeless situation mirrors San Francisco's crisis in many ways. Learn more about the lack of affordable housing in San Francisco, and some of its causes, and its impacts on residents.

[Inside San Francisco's Housing Crisis](#)

Our VISION is a Santa Cruz County in which every community member has some form of safe shelter, and where homelessness is a rare occurrence.

Our MISSION is to improve the way Santa Cruz County works collaboratively to reduce and ultimately end homelessness.

The Smart Solutions Lived Experience Group:
Amplifying the Voices of those With Experience of Homelessness

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and city council of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Scotts Valley and Capitola all signed on to the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, a program developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the National League of Cities, and championed by first lady Michelle Obama.

The Mayors Challenge seeks to bolster state and federal government efforts with local government commitment to end veteran homelessness by 2015. Santa Cruz County joins more than 200 communities across the country leading the way toward ending veteran homelessness, with the distinction of being the first county in California to take the pledge.

[More...](#)

[>> Mayors Challenge](#)

Farewell from Smart Solutions Staffer Jessica Wolf



November 24th, 2014

In March 2013 I joined the United Way Community Organizing Team as part-time staff to the Smart Solutions initiative, and in March of this year I took on the coordinator role for the Countywide Strategic Planning Process to End Homelessness.

I have immensely enjoyed my time working with all the amazing individuals and community partners in this county with whom I have had the privilege to work. Their thoughtful collaboration, diligence and shared vision is beginning to effectively address the crisis of homelessness, and I could not imagine finding more meaningful work.

It is therefore with some measure of sadness that I turn



Linda Lemaster



Annett March



Janice Kern

my focus toward new opportunities, and to finding a livelihood that better supports my continued health and well-being *as well as* reflecting my strong commitment to a vibrant and socially just community. I look forward to assisting this important work in some way on a volunteer basis in 2015.

Thanks to all of you for the contributions you have made, and continue to make, in service of providing shelter and safety for all. I hope you will continue to support the individuals and organizations, agencies and jurisdictions that are spearheading these efforts locally and working so hard on behalf of all of us; they will succeed only if we as a community back them.

Thank you all for your support of smart solutions to homelessness, and for the opportunity to serve. I will be seeing you around!

In Gratitude,

Jessica Wolf



Join us at United Way of Santa Cruz County



Join us at Smart Solutions

