



# FEB. UPDATE

A newsletter for our allies



[Smart Solutions to Homelessness- Become an Ally!](#)

## Community Builders Awards

Join us in recognizing our own Linda Lemaster, Meredy Wells, and Jenny Panetta in the categories of Commitment in Action, Volunteer of the Year, and Advocate of the Year respectively.

Thursday, March 23rd  
11:30am- 1pm  
Cocoanut Grove Bayview Room

[RSVP Today!](#)

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## Housing Advocacy Network Launch!

# HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



The housing affordability and availability crisis will not be addressed without our concerted effort to mobilize the entire county into concrete action. The first step in this mobilization is to announce the presence of the new Housing Advocacy Network - which Smart Solutions to Homelessness belongs to along with 35 other community organizations - and to insist that our local elected officials commit to taking specific steps to address the housing crisis for working families and vulnerable populations this year.

It's time to activate the countywide Network. So we invite you to visit our new [ACTION NETWORK](#) site and use the site's tools to send a message to your local elected officials. It takes just a minute to sign up on the [ACTION NETWORK](#) site and the site makes it very simple to send a message our local officials.

Please take action today. And then stay with us in the months ahead as we advocate for constructive solutions. A positive future for thousands of Santa Cruz County residents depends on you and the other participants in the Network.

In addition, you can follow housing advocacy issues at the Network's [Facebook page](#).



More info can also be found at our website:  
<http://scchousingadvocacynetwork.com/>

## Community Conversations on Homelessness

Attend, share and invite, your friends and neighbors!

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON HOMELESSNESS

at

## GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Fireside Room, 111 Errett Circle, Santa Cruz

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**11 -1 PM      SATURDAY,  
MARCH 18**

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Join neighbors & friends for a  
thought-provoking afternoon.

- Discuss our understandings of the current state of homelessness in Santa Cruz County.
- Talk together with local people experiencing homelessness about their circumstances.
- View a short video featuring Santa Cruz area people experiencing homelessness.
- Consider local initiatives addressing homelessness.
- Think together about ways we can bring light to the situation in our community.

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**SMART SOLUTIONS  
TO HOMELESSNESS**  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



Please share, invite and RSVP to our [Facebook Event!](#)

## What Are Smart Solutions?

1. Evidence-based
2. Produce measurable results
3. Cost effective
4. Benefit the entire community
5. Take a step toward ending homelessness
6. Support the dignity of each individual

**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 build the community will to reduce and ultimately end homelessness in Santa Cruz County through education and collaborative

## In Other News...

The Homeless Services Center is currently working with Applied Survey Research to conduct surveys with individuals experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County. More volunteers are needed in order to complete this project. If you are interested in helping, fill out [this form](#).

Find our more about the Homeless Services Fundraiser [here](#).



Learn more at Smart Solutions to Homelessness

action.



Follow us at Smart Solutions to Homelessness



Like us on Facebook to help us expand our reach



Join us at United Way of Santa Cruz County