



**JUNE & JULY  
2017  
UPDATES**



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

## **Housing Advocacy Network**

Visit and sign up with our new [ACTION NETWORK](#) site and use the site's tools to help us to announce the presence of the new Housing Advocacy Network. Smart Solutions to Homelessness belongs to this network along with 35 other community organizations. We are insisting that our local elected officials commit to taking specific steps to address the housing crisis for working families and vulnerable populations this year.

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

More info can also be found at our [website](#).

**What Are Smart**

### **In This Issue**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Homeless Census and Survey Report Presentation Event**

**Thursday, July 13th, 11am**

**St. Stephens Senior Apartments  
(in the back garden)  
2510 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz**

The event, held by the Homeless Action Partnership, the United Way of Santa Cruz County, and Applied Survey Research, will give details of the 2017 Homelessness Census and Survey Report from the Point In Time count and will include a question-and-answer session.

The results will provide the County with information about those experiencing homelessness. The data is important in evaluating our current system of services to determine the best solutions for creating a community where everyone has housing.

**Housing Advocacy Network**

## 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 action.



Learn more at Smart Solutions to Homelessness



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



## Annual Meeting

June 29, 2017



Smart Solutions is helping to build the Housing Advocacy Network. This month, the Network held its annual meeting at Resurrection Church in Aptos with over 20 organizations in attendance.

The Housing Advocacy Network (HAN) is a collection of over 40 organizations in Santa Cruz County dedicated to addressing the housing crisis. Formed to build and mobilize broad support for government policies and community solutions to facilitate the creation and preservation of housing units.

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

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## ACTION ALERT! Housing Advocacy Network

Ask the Planning Commission to strengthen regulations and limit impact of short term vacation rentals on housing.

Click [here](#) to send a message to the City of Santa Cruz Planning Commission through the ACTION NETWORK.

**88 Emails Sent**  
**We need 85 more.**

It is time for the community to encourage the Planning Commission to increase the number of existing units available for housing rentals.

We can't afford to lose local rental housing to tourists as local residents suffer through a terrible housing crisis, and we cannot lose sight of the fact that a lack of available rental housing is an impediment to both preventing and ending homelessness. Smart Solutions is helping to build the Housing Advocacy



Network to generate more housing.

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

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## Letter from Maria Romero:

To all of the Smart Solutions team: thank you. It has been my pleasure to work with you all and make strides to create a more equitable, housed and healthy community. I am so proud of the direction our initiative is moving and you all made that possible. Thank you for your countless hours of volunteering, meeting, and sharing. Every ally we have in this work takes us one step closer to a beautiful thriving community I know we all can see in the future.

I would like to make a few special thank yous. To Don, thank you for keeping us all grounded, clear and focused on our objectives. I have greatly appreciated all your wisdom.

To our Lived Experience Group (LEG), thank you for bringing out my humanity and showing me yours. It has been an absolute treat to get to work with you all. Thank you for challenging Smart Solutions to be the best we can be and keeping us grounded in reality.

I have learned so much in this position and I look forward to taking this knowledge forward in all that I do. I will always stand in solidarity with Smart Solutions and wish you all the best as Smart Solutions moves forward continuing to advocate and educate our community

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## New Staff Member

### Introducing Smart Solution's New Community Organizer, Therese Adams

**Therese Adams** has been promoting generosity through fundraising and advocacy for those experiencing homelessness since 2012. Before becoming the Community Organizer for Smart Solutions, she was the



Development Director for Pajaro Valley Shelter Services (PVSS). Over the years, she has worked for a variety of nonprofits in fund development, communications, advocacy and direct services including the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County.

Since 2014, she has been training with Dr. Monica Sharma in Leadership for Community Transformation to create measurable system change to solve social problems. Originally from Los Angeles, she moved to Santa Cruz County to receive her B.A. from UCSC to study Psychology and Theatre Arts and felt she had found her home.

She is honored to be a part of Smart Solutions and feels that Santa Cruz County has the capacity and creativity to solve the current housing issues. She looks forward to joining the Smart Solutions and the Housing Advocacy Network efforts to ensure every member of our community has housing.

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### In Other News...

Santa Cruz approves 20-solution homeless strategic plan.  
Read more [here](#).