



## Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

### Homelessness Awareness Month 2023 Recognitions for “Outstanding Volunteer”

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness wants to recognize individuals or groups who have enriched the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County through volunteer efforts. Outstanding efforts can be demonstrated by length of involvement, by a strong concentration of service or impact of efforts.

#### Nominees

- Amanda Jenkins
- Ann Lawrence
- Betty Blackmore -  
Gee
- Contra Costa Medical  
Reserve Corps
- Daniel Aderholt
- Kelly Fossan-  
McKinkley
- Logan Campbell
- Nichole Gardner

*The following pages contain descriptions of each nominee as provided by the person (s) who nominated them.*

# Amanda Jenkins

**Nominated by:** Nicole Moses, Friend, bussiness partner

**Supervisory District:** District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

**Nominee's service:** Amanda has been volunteering her time to help the homeless in her community for the last 8yrs. She started a Safe park called the Castro encampment which she managed solely for 2yrs and now she continues to serve on there board as well as be an advocate for the residents also she continues to advocate act as as a liaison between the city and the residents. She also volunteers with Faith and action east bay

Alot of the homeless population do not trust city officials and case workers due to there always feeling there being lied to so Amanda has helped to restore trust in many people and helped so many people with attaining placement. The city as well as the residents appreciate her work and she continues her work not for money but for the satisfaction of seeing what a difference it is making in so many peoples lives.

# Ann Lawrence

**Nominated by:** Carmella Kowall, Friend and co-worker

**Supervisory District:** District 2 ( San Ramon, Danville, Alamo, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Canyon, Rossmoor, Parkmead, Saranap and a portion of Walnut Creek))

**Nominee's service:** Ann Lawrence has been volunteering with Winter Nights for more than 10 years. Ann began as a co-hosting church volunteer. Ann's passion and skills didn't keep her in that one position for very long. She has been the lead coordinator for many years. In about 2017, she came up with the idea of the One Winter Night fundraiser. She calculated what it cost us to keep the family shelter open for one night and solicited donations on that basis. It was a great success. Ann was the powerhouse behind filing the paperwork for Winter Nights (toward the end of our 16th season) to become Winter Nights Family Shelter, Inc. – an independent 501C3. She has decorated for dinner, decorated for parties, and decorated for luncheons. She has washed linens, crocheted hats, transported, donated, organized, led teams, led meetings. Ann cooked for, cleaned up after, read books too and played with the children. Ann has written letters, written thank-you cards and written emails. Ann is one of our original Board of Directors and is now Board Treasurer. Ann has written numerous successful grant requests. She has worked on fundraising, our website, and our incorporation. There really isn't much Ann hasn't worked on.

Ann has worked with our clients for many years, both at the shelter and behind the scenes. She works tirelessly for the homeless, and for our programs...somedays working more hours than our staff. She is passionate and driven to helping the homeless in our county. Ann wears so many hats in our organization that it would take 10 people to do all the things she does as a volunteer. We are forever grateful for all she does for Winter Nights and for our clients.

Ann bakes a fabulous tomato pie, is an incredible gardener, and, you can't have her.

# Betty Blackmore-Gee

**Nominated by:** Margaret White, Co worker

**Supervisory District:** They serve the entire county

**Nominee's service:** Ms. Betty Blackmore Gee has been working with EAHCOM on the Nephew Project for 4 years. She interviews potential homeless individual and refer them to receive housing assistance through the project. After they are housed, Betty uses her own time and monies to take them to get identification if needed and to get a resume prepared so they can be job ready. She keeps in contact with them and is the agency's eyes and ears to know what is needed by the client. She is our continual means of contact with every client we have been able to get off the streets and housed. We have other that provide the emotion support but Betty brings the family aspect to what we do. Whether female or male, Betty is seen as the auntie of the agency.

Having Betty is the first line of contact brings in a more family aspect to our approach. Client know we are an agency but they always feel that they can share how they feel with Betty. It gives more insight to those who work with the emotional support of our clients. We know the clients value her but all of us who work with her know that we could not do this project without her valuable input.



# Contra Costa Medical Reserve Corps

**Nominated by:** Caroline Miller, H3 Staff

**Supervisory District:** They serve the entire county

**Nominee's service:** Volunteers from the Contra Costa Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) supported donation and supply management for H3's CORE team during the January storms (January 11-19). With the MRC support, the CORE team was able to focus their outreach efforts and immediately provide emergency and basic needs supplies to over 600 people experiencing homelessness.

Emergency supplies coordinated with volunteers from MRC included: 600 sleeping bags and 250 food/basic needs bags.

MRC Volunteers included: Kandy Heinen, Jack Peabody, Kay Ramsdell, Mary Schreiber, and Karen Simpson.

CCH Staff (that coordinates MRC): Theresa Dade-Boone and Daniella Poy Wing

# Daniel Aderholt

**Nominated by:** Claudia Aderholt, wife

**Supervisory District:** They serve the entire county

**Nominee's service:** Daniel Aderholt has been saving our homeless lives every day all over California including Antioch, Concord, Martinez, Oakland, Richmond, El Sobrante, Hayward, Pleasanton, Livermore.. he provides tents , sleeping bags, brand new clothes, hot food and supplies to survive living on the streets for the past 43 years almost everyday.

My husband Daniel Aderholt has saved 1,000's of our homeless lives and has shown our American River Homeless Crew members & our homeless population the true meaning of unity & compassion for each other in being a family and helping each other ! Most importantly he has dedicated his life in saving our homeless & their pets lives.

My Husband was honored winning Contra Costa County award last year.. but he deserves so much more for his volunteer service helping his fellow homeless people and saving 1,000's of our homeless lives each year from dying.. This man loves his American River Homeless Crew members and our homeless population more then anyone i know.. He has been working 7 days a week saving our homeless for 43 years in Contra Costa County... since he was homeless himself in his youth.

# Kelly Fossan-McKinkley

**Nominated by:** Amelia Juner, Volunteer/friend

**Supervisory District:** District 4 (Clayton, Concord, Pleasant Hill, part of Walnut Creek, and the unincorporated Contra Costa Centre)

**Nominee's service:** She has formed an amazing group of volunteers who help homeless in Concord on a daily basis with basic necessities (food, hydration, hygiene, etc) and fills in any gaps left by existing agencies based in the clients' needs. Her efforts started approximately a year ago from just herself and have grown into an official non-profit organization with 40+ volunteers. She has helped homeless individuals get into rehab, housing, reconnect with family, get through the day with food, helped homeless pets, provided weekly showers, plus many other life-changing services.

The difference that Kelly's work makes for people facing homelessness is that she will help anyone in need without judgement. She listens to the needs of each individual and does her absolute best to meet them. Whether that's providing a shower chair or transportation to county services. The homeless individuals were helped in many different ways. She meets each at their level of need and helps. The homeless value the work of this individual because her work bridges a gap between existing services and being able to access them. A great number of homeless have benefitted from her efforts. They have been able to better their lives because of Kelly's efforts.

Kelly has put together a great group of individual volunteers who do all they can on a daily basis to give each homeless individual what can specifically and personally help them get to where they want to be in life. In a kind, non-judgemental manner, allowing the homeless individuals to start loving themselves enough to provide for themselves what they can.

# Logan Campbell

**Nominated by:** Jay Howard, He's one of my constituents

**Supervisory District:** District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

**Nominee's service:** From 8/22 to 1/23, Logan Campbell served on the ad hoc subcommittee for the unhoused in the city of Martinez. Upon learning of the Homeless Action Coalition's imminent plans to discontinue services at Camp Hope (an encampment of unhoused individuals located at the outdoor amphitheater at the City's Waterfront) Logan Campbell got a team of drug and alcohol addiction service providers, along with mental health services volunteers to help facilitate onsite assessment of Camp Hope to determine how to support those remaining and identify available shelter or housing.

Without daily supervision and supportive services, these individuals would not have been properly housed or directed to treatment / mental health services before the planned closure date of 11/23/22.

When the residents of Camp Hope were informed that the Homeless Action Coalition would no longer be present at the camp, morale quickly began to deteriorate.

Logan's efforts in coordinating and getting the volunteers along with food delivery ensured that the camp's morale stayed positive and prevented panic among its residents.



# Nichole Gardner

**Nominated by:** Tami Weinert, Fellow homeless advocate

**Supervisory District:** District 3 (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay and Knightsen, as well as the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley)

**Nominee's service:** I am nominating Nichole Gardner. She heads up an outreach here in Antioch. She brings food, supplies, friendship, connections to resources. She leads a team of volunteers who are active all year connecting with and loving our cities homeless neighbors. She is a fierce advocate on the streets as well as at city council meetings. She has helped our homeless population vote, fed them, mourned with them, celebrated their victories whether that be standing up under the battle with addiction, improving mental health, finding housing, representing with APD as encampment are torn down and belongings are lost, making sure that they have a voice. She began a Facebook page called Facing homelessness in Antioch and there our homeless friends and the people who want to come alongside have a place to meet. She is tenacious and passionate about our most underrepresented neighbors. Thank you for considering her. She is fierce, loving and undeterred.

Our entire homeless community. Her heart touches anyone who needs to be seen and who needs compassion. One woman who immediately comes to mind is Kim. She is a middle aged, dear lovely woman who found herself homeless and is someone who I have reached out to as well. Nichole rallied for her and because of that love, and deep care Kim is now housed. I gas over the moon when I heard. There are more stories that I am sure she would love to share with you.

## Nichole Gardner

**Nominated by:** Deborah Temple, Supporter

**Supervisory District:** District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

**Nominee's service:** Nichole Gardner for the past 8 years has been a force to be reckoned with in her work in supporting the homeless in Antioch. Nichole worked with the city of Antioch to provide its homeless the first transitional housing for homeless project as she advocating for safe parking and bathrooms for the homeless. She's collaborated and organized the community to supply donations to the unhoused, In addition she cooks or provides a hot meals every Wednesday where she distributes clothing and other necessities (blankets, socks, underwear, jackets, pants, tents and anything can support or serve). She provides harm reduction supplies such as narcan as well as fire safety and safety kits. She has created real relationships with people celebrating holidays and birthdays and organizing vigils for unhoused friends who pass away on the streets. Nichole supports the whole human being advocating for housing and mental health while holding community raffles to support folks with gas and grocery gift cards.

Nichole has been instrumental in the work done in Antioch regarding the homeless. She is loved by the homeless community in Antioch because she sees them and fights for them. The city, the homeless and the people who care about the homeless value Nichole Gardner because she is not just talk but she is show up.

Nichole Gardner is worthy and deserving of recognition