



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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26th ANNUAL HOMELESS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Members of the public are invited to share in the [26th annual Homeless Memorial Service](#), to be held on Friday, December 20th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This year, the event will be held at the Portuguese Hall of Santa Cruz, near Harvey West Park at 216 Evergreen Street.

Held in conjunction with the National Homeless Persons Memorial Day each year for more than two decades, the event honors homeless community members who passed away in 2024. The event is presented by Santa Cruz County Homeless Persons' Health Project, Housing Matters, and Wings, a local non-profit agency.

Through November 30th, 74 persons experiencing homelessness have died this year, either on the streets, in local hospitals, or care facilities. While this number may increase by the time the memorial is held, it currently represents a 39% drop from last year's total of 121 deaths. People experiencing homelessness have much shorter life expectancies and are more likely to suffer violence, trauma, and other health issues.

Parking is available on-site.

WHAT: 26th Annual Homeless Memorial

WHERE: Portuguese Hall of Santa Cruz, 216 Evergreen Street

WHEN: Friday, December 20th, 10– 11:30 a.m.

ABOUT THE HOUSING FOR HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

The Housing for Health 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 H4H Partnership.

For more information, visit our [website](#), [FaceBook page](#), and [Instagram account](#).