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## Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Uplifts Perseverance and Hopes of People Experiencing Homelessness at Summer Solstice Event

**ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA** - The Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Consumer/Community Advisory Board (CCAB), Alameda Health System Foundation, along with partners and communities across the county will gather on June 18th, in Berkeley for the annual *Summer Solstice Celebration of the Strength and Resilience of People Experiencing Homelessness*.

"People without homes face many systemic barriers, from the high cost of housing to low wages and inadequate public assistance programs, all complicated by poor health, high risks and poverty," said CCAB Board Member Bennie Whitfield. "Yet people surmount these incredible hurdles and reclaim stable, healthy, and productive lives. The Summer Solstice, a day filled with light, is a fitting time to honor their accomplishments and to draw inspiration from them as we continue in the struggle for justice".

Community members experiencing homelessness and their allies are invited to attend and enjoy a free catered lunch with music, raffle, prizes, gifts, and remarks from people who have overcome incredible challenges to gain stability, create community, and inspire others around them.

Services providers, cities, advocates, and peers can nominate individuals demonstrating perseverance and hope as **Resilience and Determination Heroes (RAD Heroes)** via <u>this</u> <u>link</u> by Friday June 6, 2025. RAD Heroes will receive gifts and prizes during an awards ceremony at the event.

"The Summer Solstice Celebration is an important community event because it allows us to intentionally shift the narrative around homelessness," said Lucy Kasdin, director of Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless. "By highlighting the triumphs of individuals who have navigated profound challenges, we not only celebrate their incredible resilience but also illuminate the pathways to stability and inspire a deeper understanding of the human spirit at the heart of our work."

The Summer Solstice Celebration will be held on Wednesday June 18, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. -1:30 p.m. at the Hope Center on 2012 Berkeley Way, Berkeley.

Officials from Alameda County Health's Housing and Homelessness Services (ACH&H), Alameda Health System's Homeless Health Center, the Alameda Health System



Foundation, and many other service providers will join the event.

For more information, email ACHCH at <u>achch@acgov.org</u> or call 510-891-8950. For press inquiries, email <u>ACHealth-PIO@acgov.org</u>.

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## About Alameda County Health

Alameda County Health is the local government agency that promotes and protects the health and well-being of all who live, work, learn, and play in the Alameda County. Across our Environmental Health, Behavioral Health, and Public Health departments, and major programs covering emergency response, access to care, and homelessness services, we coordinate and partner with community organizations support a robust safety net, build resilient communities, and improve health for all. We focus on health equity through programs and systemic change to reduce disparities for the people and communities we serve.