

# Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

PROCLAIMING MARCH 2025 AS  
NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKER MONTH IN THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz is proud to employ 138 social workers throughout several County departments, all who provide a range of invaluable social work services to vulnerable and valuable members of our community across various ages, backgrounds, income levels and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the County's social workers have persevered through years of education and training to gain the skills and expertise necessary to put the needs of their clients above all, transforming their compassionate care for others into action that brings positive results to the people they serve; and

WHEREAS, social workers follow a code of ethics to enhance human well-being and to meet the basic human needs of the people, families, and communities they serve, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of those who are most vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty; and

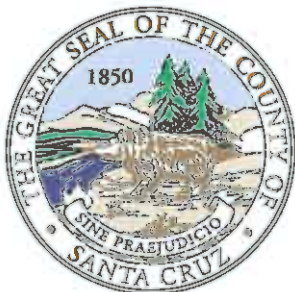
WHEREAS, through their dedication and expertise, the social work staff who specialize in protecting our county's vulnerable older and disabled adults, who keep them safe in their homes, and who assist in the process of a conservatorship, play a vital role ensuring the safety, dignity, and independence of their clients—preventing abuse, neglect, and exploitation, while collaborating with families, caregivers, and agencies to enhance the quality of life of our older and disabled adult population; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated social workers who serve vulnerable children in Santa Cruz County ensure vital protections are in place for children at risk of, or who are experiencing, neglect, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, focusing on the safety of each child served while supporting parents to strengthen their families, providing out of home placement and permanency planning when necessary, and by providing case management to families receiving County administered benefits and services who risk entering the child welfare system without interventions; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary work of our social work staff who specifically serve those individuals and families in our region experiencing homelessness provide a myriad of housing navigation and support services utilizing a strengths-based care and rapid-rehousing model, to help the people they serve locate viable housing options, receive interim shelter, access food and obtain other critical services, all toward enabling people to attain housing and remain housed; and

WHEREAS, through their compassionate, creative, client-centered work, the social workers who offer holistic defense support to the justice-impacted clients in their care, provide tireless social work support and advocacy to individuals facing criminal legal system involvement and offer real solutions to the root causes of system involvement for the people they serve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby proclaim March 2025 to be National Social Worker Month in the County of Santa Cruz and call on county residents to join me in recognizing the important work of our County's social workers, honoring them for their professionalism, dedication, and the invaluable contributions they make to our communities.



  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

February 18, 2025

Date