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**Community Housing and Connection Benefit Event
slated for Nov. 29, cosponsored by Santa Cruz County
Housing for Health Partnership and 1440 Foundation**

Noted author and local experts to discuss connections between community members and those experiencing homelessness, with proceeds to benefit Community Action Board, Housing Matters and Miracle Messages

Oct. 26, 2023 (Santa Cruz, CA) – The Santa Cruz County Housing for Health Partnership and 1440 Foundation are pleased to present “Community Connections: Key to Resolving Homelessness,” a dinner benefit and panel discussion to be held Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m. at 1440 Multiversity in Scotts Valley.

The ticketed event features keynote speaker Kevin Adler, author and founder of Miracle Messages, who will discuss his new book, *When We Walk By*, and the crucial role of connections between those experiencing homelessness and their community members.

The event is co-sponsored by 1440 Foundation and the Santa Cruz County Housing for Health Partnership, with proceeds benefitting nonprofits focused on providing resources and services for those experiencing homelessness in Santa Cruz County and nationally, including the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc., Housing Matters and Miracle Messages.

The event will also launch a new partnership between Housing Matters, Community Action Board and Miracle Messages that is focused on bringing Miracle Messages services to Santa Cruz County, directly supporting people experiencing homelessness. More information about this important new partnership will be shared at the event.

Tickets are \$85 and include a free copy of *When We Walk By*. One hundred percent of ticket sales will benefit people experiencing homelessness and will be split evenly among the beneficiaries. Please RSVP by Nov. 22, 2023. Limited tickets are available.

[Get tickets here.](#)

“I am looking forward to exploring how we can work together to connect with our unhoused neighbors in Santa Cruz County,” said Adler. “Each of us plays a role in ending homelessness. Through a combination of alienation, social exclusion and learned

assumptions about who becomes homeless and why, many of us unwittingly choose not to see or engage with our unhoused neighbors. It's time to change this perception."

The event includes dinner, a housing-focused Q&A and panel discussion, and a book signing. Panelists include Kevin Adler; Tom Stagg, Chief Initiatives Officer at Housing Matters; Paz Padilla, Director of Programs and Impact for the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. and Dr. Robert Ratner, Director of the Housing for Health Division of the County of Santa Cruz. Scott Kriens, 1440 Foundation co-creator, will serve as moderator.

"We are excited to bring together Kevin Adler and local experts on housing and homelessness resources at this event," said Dr. Robert Ratner, Director of the Housing for Health Division of the County of Santa Cruz. "Resolving homelessness in Santa Cruz County relies on our community working together. It is significant that all proceeds from this event go directly to three non-profits who are working to provide crucial services, resources and connections to those experiencing homelessness."

ABOUT THE BENEFITTING NONPROFITS

Miracle Messages helps people experiencing homelessness rebuild their social support systems and financial security, primarily through family reunifications, a phone buddy program and basic income pilots.

Housing Matters partners with individuals and families to create pathways out of their homelessness and into permanent housing. They provide resources and services to over 2,800 people in Santa Cruz County a year.

Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB) partners with the community to eliminate poverty and create social change through advocacy and essential services throughout Santa Cruz County, including Watsonville and the unincorporated South County area. They serve over 11,000 individuals annually through services including keeping individuals and families housed or rehoused, providing immigrants with immigration legal services, advocacy and access to health and benefits information, and job readiness, placement and matching services for youth and adults.

Established in 2011, **1440 Foundation**, named for the number of minutes in a day, is a private foundation based in Scotts Valley, California. The foundation makes grants to nonprofit, 501c3 organizations in the fields of cancer collaboration, inner wellbeing, and community building, with the goal of creating hope for living well.

The **Housing for Health Partnership** is a collaboration of the County and each city within Santa Cruz County, along with housing and 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. Visit the Housing for Health Partnership online, on Facebook or on Instagram.