



Here's what has happened in December and what's to come in the New Year!

Welcome to this holiday edition of our Janus of Santa Cruz newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission to make a positive impact in our community.

Firstly, as a reminder Janus will be closed December 25th and January 1st for the holiday season, otherwise Janus will continue to operate under its normal business hours.

Additionally, we are excited to share that on December 6th Janus of Santa Cruz was honored to participate in the 2025 Downtown Santa Cruz Holiday Parade for the first time in Janus history! We were incredibly grateful for all the volunteers, staff, residents, and furry friends who attended. We are also excited to announce that we will be participating in the upcoming 2026 MLK People's March for the Dream Parade hosted by the Santa Cruz Chapter of the NAACP. The parade will be on

Monday, January 19th at 10 am in downtown Santa Cruz at Pacific Avenue and Cathcart. Please come join us!

We will also honor Dr. King's legacy through service and volunteerism following the parade by volunteering at the Second Harvest Food Bank located at 800 Ohlone Parkway in Watsonville, CA 95076 from 12:45 PM to 3 pm.

If you would like to join us for either event and/or volunteer for future events like this one, please reach out to **volunteers@janussc.org**

Finally, we want to announce that you can subscribe to our monthly newsletter by contacting **news@janussc.org**

Thank you and enjoy this month's newsletter!

-Development Team

Donate This Holiday Season!

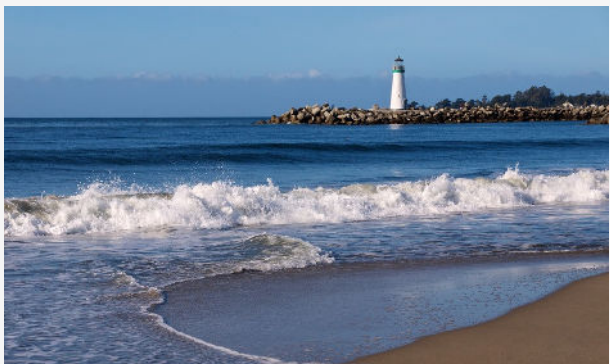


This holiday season help us help others by donating to Janus of Santa Cruz. Your donation will directly support our hope-inspiring and successful SUD treatment services and programs, which support over 2,500 community members and their families annually.

Donate now at
<https://janussc.org/donate>

Or scan the QR
Code





Organization Updates

In January of 2026 Janus will be launching a community-based advisory council. This council is a multidisciplinary volunteer advisory group which seeks to transform lived experience and professional expertise into meaningful action-shaping treatment practices, informing public policy, creating workforce development opportunities, and reducing the stigma surrounding substance use disorders. Stay tuned for more information!

Additionally, in May of 2025, our very own CEO Amber Williams was named a 2025 Steinberg Institute Champion. This prestigious title is awarded to only exceptional Californians whose visionary leadership and tireless dedication are transforming the state's behavioral health landscape. Williams also received the Richard Van Horn Award, an honor established in memory of the late Richard Van Horn — one of California's most respected mental health advocates.



Community Updates

Help us get to 100% of our fundraising goal for the Second Harvest Food Bank's Holiday Food & Fund Drive! The food drive ends January 16th, so join us in making a difference in the lives of members of our community. Donate now!



14 January 2025

Event News

The World Has Heart Workshop

Join us in raising funds for the Santa Cruz County Second Harvest Food Bank, by attending our heart glazing workshop. Get ready to discover your inner artist and make a difference in our community! Spaces are limited so sign up now! Here are the details:

- Date: 14 Jan 2026
- Time: 5:00 – 7:00pm
- Location: Janus of Santa Cruz, 200 7th Ave, Suite 150
- RSVP to Angela by contacting:
phone: **408-712-0193** or
email: **achesnut@janussc.org**



A Letter from Our CEO, Amber Williams

Dear Janus Family,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible strength, resilience, and compassion that define our Janus family. The holidays can be a time of joy, but they can also bring challenges—especially for those walking the courageous path of recovery.

At Janus, we believe that healing is not a solitary journey. It is built on connection, understanding, and the unwavering support of a community that cares deeply. This year, I have witnessed countless acts of kindness: staff going the extra mile, peers lifting one another up, and families rediscovering hope. These moments remind me that recovery is not only possible—it is thriving here.

The holidays are a time to celebrate progress, no matter how small, and to honor the courage it takes to keep moving forward. Whether you are just beginning your journey or have been walking it for years, please know that you are not alone. You are part of a community that believes in you, stands beside you, and celebrates every step you take.

One of my favorite traditions is sharing a family recipe. Food has a way of connecting us and reminding us of love.

Here's a simple gift from my family to yours:

MAMA'S CHICKEN DUMPLING SOUP

- *Sauté onion, carrot, celery, and garlic in butter.*
- *Add organic chicken bone broth, shredded chicken, herbs, salt, and pepper. Simmer.*
- *For dumplings, mix 2 cups flour, 1 tbsp baking powder, 1 tsp salt*
- *Stir in 1 cup milk + 2 tbsp melted butter and drop spoonfuls into the soup.*
- *Cover and steam for 15 minutes with no peeking. Serve hot, with love.*

On behalf of everyone at Janus, I wish you peace, joy, and renewed strength this holiday season. May the coming year bring healing, hope, and the knowledge that brighter days are ahead.

With gratitude and heartfelt wishes,

*-Amber Williams,
CEO*



Staff Spotlight: Lynda Tran

We're excited to spotlight someone whose dedication, compassion, and versatility make a meaningful impact across Janus and far beyond—Lynda Tran.

Lynda's commitment to community care runs deep. Once or twice a month, she volunteers her time at a local dental clinic serving lower-income patients. She especially values the chance to support individuals who are also Janus clients, extending her care for the community in a hands-on, personal way that goes beyond her day-to-day role.

Her passion for public health and education also shines through in her service on the Dental Advisory Board for SafeRx, where she helps advance safe prescribing practices and supports substance use disorder education within the dental profession. In addition, Lynda contributes her leadership and insight as a member of the

O'Neill Sea Odyssey Board of Directors, helping guide strategic planning to expand access for underserved youth and strengthen their connection to the ocean and our environment. Lynda's supervisor shared this reflection:

"Lynda's transition from pulling teeth as a former dentist to building out our procurement department is remarkable. She's detail-oriented, a great listener, and really knows how to create processes that help teams work better together. She's a true pleasure to work with, and I'm excited to see the continued improvements she'll bring as she helps us grow." - Chanel Meininger

We're grateful to have Lynda as part of the Janus team—someone who brings heart, skill, and purpose to everything she does. Congratulations, Lynda, and thank you for the many ways you help strengthen both our organization and our community.

Happy Holidays! - Janus Team

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