



Janus
of Santa Cruz

The Leader In Addiction Treatment

ISSUE #1

JANUS OF SANTA CRUZ
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



November 2025



Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

Welcome to 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, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our staff, donors, and community members who have continued to support us throughout nearly 50 years! Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to keep our programs running smoothly and effectively.

In terms of our recent activities, we'd like everyone to know that we are launching Voices of Janus: A Healing & Recovery Council that centers on addiction, recovery & policy, a multidisciplinary advisory group comprised of voices from the community which seeks to transform lived experience and professional expertise into meaningful action- shaping treatment practices, informing public policy, and reducing the stigma surrounding addiction.

We are also excited to announce that we will be hosting our 50th anniversary event in 2026 - stay tuned for more details and the save the date! This event will be a fun and interactive way to support our cause and to learn more about our needs while also enjoying great food, company, and entertainment. We hope to see you there!

Additionally, we want to remind everyone that our nonprofit relies on the kindness and support of our community members, business partners, donors, and agency and program partners.

Finally, I invite you to a monthly coffee here at Janus, where you can provide input and learn more about my team and the work they are doing here.

*-Amber Williams,
CEO*

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Community
Updates

Upcoming
Events

Stories of Impact

Organization
Updates

Fundraising
Updates

Staff Spotlights



Organization Updates

Janus was recently awarded a Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) facilities grant. This grant will fund the construction of a new 25-bed residential treatment center for women (who can live with their children up to ages 12 on site) in Watsonville, set to open in 2026. The new Janus Women and Families Recovery Center / Centro de Recuperación de Mujeres y Familias will address the significant need for treatment beds, especially for Latinx women in the community.

Additionally, in October of 2025 Janus of Santa Cruz, alongside the County of Santa Cruz, celebrated the ribbon cutting of the LITE House (Learning Independence Through Empowerment). Formerly known as the Gemma House, the LITE House is a transitional housing program for women. Located in Santa Cruz, the new facility can house up to eight women as they navigate reentry into the community. The Gemma house was originally founded under the leadership of Dr. Susan Grenne who served as its Founding Director.



Community Updates

On November 6th Janus of Santa Cruz had the honor of being at the Second Harvest Food Bank's (SHFB's) Holiday Food & Fund Drive kick off at the Community Foundation Santa Cruz County where we heard from wonderful community leaders and local organizations!

Donate now to Janus' team and help SHFB to reach their goal of raising 5.5 million meals to build a thriving community. Every \$1 equals 3 meals. Donations are open until January 15, 2026. Donate here now:

<https://lnkd.in/gcFdv5tg>



6 December 2025

Event News

Downtown Holiday Parade

- Date: 06 December 2025
- Time: 10am-12pm
- Location: Downtown Santa Cruz

Please join Janus of Santa Cruz with our CEO, Amber Williams, and her super-dog Bleu at the parade! If you and/or a furry friend would like to join us, please reach out to volunteers@janussc.org



Staff Profile Highlights



Welcome to the New Development Team

Janus of Santa Cruz County, the leading nonprofit organization providing substance use disorder treatment and behavioral health services, proudly announces the appointment of Angela Chesnut as its new Chief Development Officer.

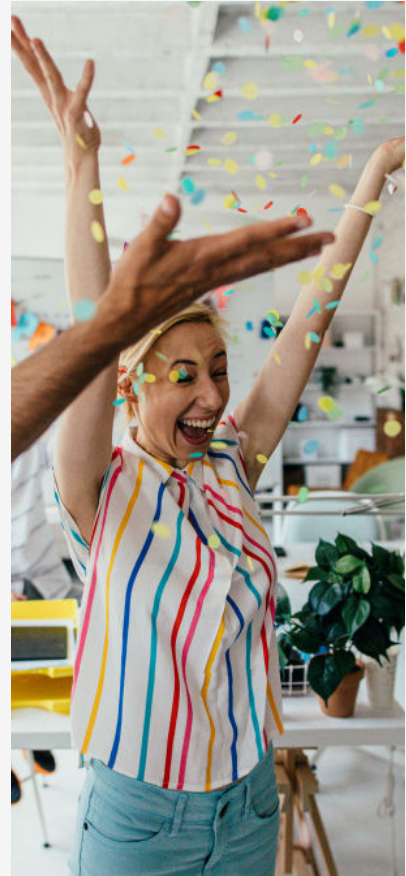
In this role, Chesnut will oversee development, fundraising, and community engagement initiatives to expand resources and partnerships supporting Janus's mission of providing compassionate, evidence-based care to individuals and families on the path to recovery.



Chesnut brings an impressive record of service and innovation to her new role. Most recently, she worked at Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County. Prior to her work in nonprofit development, Chesnut worked in a plethora of sectors including tech, local and federal government, and the private sector as well.

Also, joining our Development Team is Development Associate Alia Elyas who is a Bruin and hails from Monterey. Elyas brings a wealth of experience in public policy and creative digital arts from her days at the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership and the Earth Rights Institute.

We here at Janus are honored to have Chesnut and Elyas join us and can't wait to see all the wonderful contributions they will make.



If you would like to get involved in fundraising and hosting events at Janus of Santa Cruz, please reach out to development team at development@janussc.org

Thank you for all you do & Happy Thanksgiving!
-Janus Team

Donate Today!		831-462-1060
https://janussc.org		200 7th Ave., Suite 150 Santa Cruz, CA 95062
