



Here's what has happened in February and what's to come!

Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the Janus of Santa Cruz newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments of our mission to make a positive impact in our community.

A few weeks ago, Janus had the honor of joining our community and participated in the MLK People's March for the Dream Parade hosted by the Santa Cruz Chapter of the NAACP. Following the parade, we sorted food at the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Additionally, last month we received a tremendous amount of support for featuring Justin Ravanelli's personal journey. We, here, at Janus were honored to feature Ravanelli and we can't wait to share more stories of sobriety and hope in the future. If you'd like to share your own story please contact news@janussc.org

To honor the season of love, in this edition of our newsletter we are featuring our Sr. Director of Facilities for the past 31 years, Tony Farrell's story. Farrell recounts the beautiful love story of how he and his wife, Cindi met. We hope that this story strikes a chord with all our readers.

Next month, we're honoring Women's Empowerment Month — a chance to recognize the remarkable women who represent 74% of our Janus workforce and whose contributions shape our organization every day!

Thank you for always believing in us and enjoy this month's newsletter!

-Development Team
♡♡

CEO's Corner

Janus of Santa Cruz has an exciting year ahead, register today to the Janus of Santa Cruz Newsletter and stay up to date on all the latest at Janus! Scan the QR code and register today!





Organization Updates

In November of 2024, Janus of Santa Cruz's Sobering Center was highlighted in the California Health Care Foundation's article "***Santa Cruz Sobering Center Benefits Patients and County Justice System***". This article discussed how with the operation of the Sobering Center adjacent to the county jail has made a profound difference in the county.

To read the article scan the QR code or visit <https://www.chcf.org>



Community Updates

The World Has Heart Workshop was a huge success! Thank you to Monika Modest for leading it, and all the community members who attended!

Overall, we were able to exceed our goal and raised over 5,000 meals for Second Harvest Food Bank's Holiday Food & Fund Drive! Thank you to all who donated, we are eternally grateful!

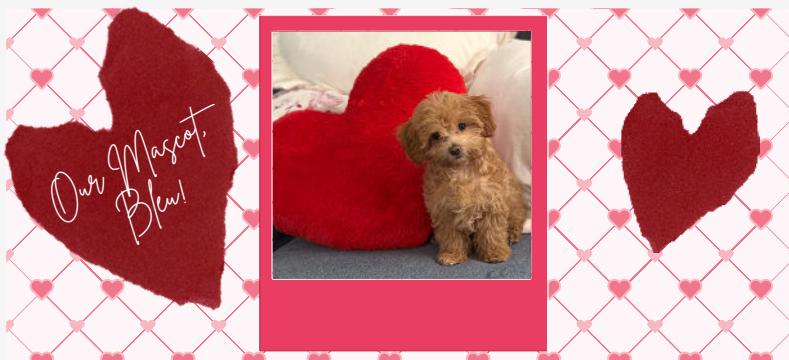


Janus Guardians

Volunteer Now!

Janus of Santa Cruz is expanding and we're looking for dedicated volunteers to join us in doing so. Volunteer opportunities include supporting the upcoming 50th anniversary gala, participating in community facing events, administrative duties, and much more! Scan the QR code to sign up to become a Janus Guardian today!





A Note from Our CEO Amber Williams

Tony's story is one that stays with you — a reminder of the hope, resilience, and love that grows from recovery.

Watching his journey unfold over the years has been a privilege, and seeing him build a life grounded in integrity, service, and deep devotion has touched so many of us here at Janus.

One of my favorite memories is the day Tony and his wife Cindi had their wedding reception in my backyard on the west side of Santa Cruz. It wasn't just a wedding reception; it was a celebration of everything recovery makes possible — second chances, renewed purpose, and the kind of love that shows up with courage and commitment. Their story continues to inspire our staff, our clients, and our entire community.

On this Valentine's Day, Bleu and I want to send you a heartfelt message of love and appreciation.

Stories like Tony's remind us that healing is real, that connection matters, and that the work we do at Janus changes lives in ways that ripple outward for decades.

To Tony and his wife Cindi — thank you for letting us be part of your journey. And to everyone walking the path of recovery — may you feel the love, support, and possibility that surrounds you each and every day

-Amber Williams,
CEO
xoxo ♡ ♡



A Love Letter?

Want to spread a little love this Valentine's season? Show Janus of Santa Cruz some love by writing us a "Love Letter" in the form of a Yelp review! Your words can help others find support, hope, and a path toward recovery—opening the door to more love, connection, and brighter futures. Scan the QR code above to share your experience and make a meaningful impact.



A Janus of Santa Cruz Love Story

My name is Tony. I have been working for Janus of Santa Cruz since February 1997. I got sober in March of 1995. Since this is the month of Valentine's Day, I want to share my love story. First, let me say that I am a Janus alumnus. The staff at Janus helped save my life from utter destruction, which I seemed hell-bent on achieving. In my first 30 days of treatment, I learned how to stay sober one day at a time for the rest of my life. What I learned was mine to practice every day moving forward. Becoming a member of the 12-step community was — and still is — vital for me. As I accumulated clean time, I became the man I had always wanted to be: responsible, committed, and a man with integrity.

At 12 years sober, the Janus Perinatal Program moved to a new location. It was my responsibility to help facilitate the move and clean out the previous building. I contracted with a carpet-cleaning company to have all the carpets done. Two people showed up, and I was there to oversee the job.

During a break, I struck up a conversation with one of the workers. She was a high-energy, hardworking Italian woman — and very attractive. We talked about both being from the East Coast and how we had ended up living on the West Coast. Wanting to get to know her better, I asked if she was in recovery.

She said yes, that she had just a few days sober. She also told me she was staying in the back of the carpet-cleaning truck so she wouldn't return to old places where drugs were available.

I told her that living in the back of a pickup truck was not okay and offered her the spare room at my place. I asked her out for coffee and learned she had to go to court for a charge that would most likely land her in a treatment program. She stayed at my place for a couple of days and later called me after her Prop 36 caseworker offered her Janus as a program.

A few days later, she entered treatment at Janus. Being the responsible man I had become, I knew I needed to back off any ideas of a relationship and let her have her own experience in recovery. She had the "magic" happen for her in treatment, as so many do at Janus, and she moved into the on-site SLE for the next nine months. We talked when we could, and she told me she wanted to go to Florida, where her children and grandchildren lived. She ached to be with them. I didn't want her to go, but there was no changing her mind. She moved to Florida, and I buried myself in work. After some time, I realized I had let the woman I wanted in my life move 3,000 miles away. I called her, and we began talking on the phone and through Skype.



I realized I wanted to be with her always. She told me her children and their families had plans to move out of state (which ultimately didn't happen). I knew this was my chance to get her back.

I told her I was coming to Florida to visit on my birthday — but she didn't know I planned to ask her to marry me. I asked my supervisor for permission to date a former client (which was approved), and off I went to Florida to propose to the love of my life. She said yes! I then visited every member of her family — her children, sister, mother, and father — and asked each for permission to marry her. They all gave their blessing, though her mother was upset that I was taking her back to California after she had only recently returned to Florida. I promised I would bring her back often.

We have now been together for 18 years. We worked hard and saved enough to buy a home in Florida, and she now lives there near her children and grandchildren, making our house a home. I continue to work at Janus and travel to Florida every few months. Our dreams are becoming reality because we got — and stayed — sober. And all of that began for each of us at Janus of Santa Cruz. Our gratitude for the staff who were here then and supported us is immense. One day at a time, our lives have become what we once only dreamed of.

Thank you for reading!- Janus Team ♡♡



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