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Soupline fundraiser invites Santa Cruz community to help homeless

Homeless Services Center celebrates 20 years of dinner event



Santa Cruz Council Business Council Executive Director Robert Singleton, County Supervisor John Leopold and Workforce Development Board's Andy Stone were celebrity ladlers at last year's Soupline event. (Contributed: Homeless Services Center)

SANTA CRUZ– Soup's on for the Santa Cruz community this week

The 20th annual Homeless Services Center's dinner fundraiser Soupline is from 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday at the Cocoanut Grove, 400 Beach St.

Soupline supports the center in ending homelessness across the county. The event will feature soups from more than 30 local restaurants dished out by local celebrities. These restaurants [include](#) Areperia 831, Cafe Sparrow, The Buttery, Lupolo and more. Among the soup varieties are vegetable soup, Chicken Florentine and tortilla soup.

Salads, artisan breads and desserts will also be served. There will be a no-host wine bar.

Guest ladlers are County Supervisor John Leopold, County District Attorney Jeff Rosell, Santa Cruz Derby Girls and [more](#).

"This event has come a long way over the years and means so much to Homeless Services Center, both in terms of fundraising and for bringing the community together to support our most vulnerable unhoused individuals, families, and Veterans," said Phil Kramer, executive director of the Homeless Services Center, in a prepared statement.

He said when the event first started, 10-15 Santa Cruz restaurants gave the center a big pot of soup for a benefit dinner. Now there are up to 35 soups prepared.

Nearly 400 people attended last year's event. He said more than \$50,000 was raised and the center is on track to increase that number this year.

Jonathan Glass, new owner of Ristorante Avanti, said the chef will prepare a soup with market veggies, cannellini beans and whatever he finds at the Farmer's Market the day before. He said the chefs were asked to prepare three gallons of soup.



Nearly 400 people attended the 2018 Soupline event at the Coconut Grove.
(Contributed — Homeless Services Center)

Zach Davis, co-owner of The Picnic Basket, said the restaurant is donating a miso mushroom soup. He said it is the restaurant's fourth or fifth year participating.

Cafe Sparrow's Sous Chef Ruben Ponce will prepare 4-5 gallons of vegan potato and green chile soup, according to Executive Chef and Owner Bob Montague. He said Cafe Sparrow has participated every year since it was first asked to by Rowland Rebele, whom the center's Rebele Family Shelter is named after.

People can also support the event through donations and volunteering.

Kramer said the Homeless Services Center will receive a proclamation from Assemblyman Mark Stone to commemorate the anniversary.

Tickets are \$50. They are available on [Eventbrite](#) or at the door. Children 12 years and younger are free with a ticketed adult. Information: visit [soupline.org](#) or call 831-226-2512.

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