

**Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board of Contra Costa County**  
**PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS 2023**

**VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL**

*District V – Supervisor Federal Glover*

**Nicole Green**

Nicole Green is an experienced Reentry Transition Specialist who works with the AB109 populations. Through her work with AB109, Nicole works collaboratively with various local health and social departments, and organizations to help individuals in their journey to recover from alcohol and other drugs. In her role as a Vice Chair of the Community Advisory Board (CAB), Nicole advocates for funding to support the various needs in the community. Nicole continues to grow in her career as she improves services for returning citizens with substance use.

**VOLUNTEER GROUP**

*District V – Supervisor Federal Glover*

**Bellos Barber Beauty College**

Bellos Barber Beauty College is a local school of aspiring barbers who receive training to be certified by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology. Bellos contributes to the community by volunteering their time and talents by providing free of cost haircuts to community members in local events aimed at serving those impacted by health disparities. At the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board-led Bay Point Clean Slate Event held in July 2022, Bellos provided at least 30 high quality haircuts, many of whom were to clients in substance use treatment who had attended the event.

**NON-VOLUNTEER INDIVIDUAL**

*District IV – Supervisor Ken Carlson*

**Damon Fischer**

Damon Fischer is the director of residential and detox services at Bi-Bett Programs. Damon works hands-on to help staff and programs with the necessary tools to successfully provide quality services to clients in recovery. As an experienced substance use disorder counselor, Damon is client oriented and community driven. He works at all hours of the day. Damon's colleagues and staff feel motivated by his leadership to provide high-level care in all the programs in Contra Costa County.

**NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP**

*District IV – Supervisor Ken Carlson*

**Diablo Valley Ranch**

Diablo Valley Ranch (DVR), a Substance Use Residential program, is best represented by Jason Ament and Sean Abeyta who are substance use counselors. Both Jason and Sean are DVR graduates and have firsthand experience. They are also examples in their roles of giving back to the substance use community. Often times, they work as a team to facilitate interventions to retain clients in treatment. Their work and partnership contributes to the overall success of DVR.

**NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP**

*District IV - Supervisor Ken Carlson*

**Derrick Kirk and Nicole Square (CourAGE)**

Derrick Kirk and Nicole Square are Youth Development Specialists staff of the Contra Costa County Office of Education. They both help run CourAGE a youth-led advocacy coalition. Derrick and Nicole provide youth participants in grades 8-12 the skills, support, and confidence to mobilize youth and communities to address substance use related issues. CourAGE develops creative materials such as PSAs to inform youth and communities about substance use through proclamations at the local level and education. Derrick and Nicole work well as a team to empower the youth and make a difference.

**NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP**

*District IV – Supervisor Ken Carlson*

**LGBTQ Minus Tobacco**

LGBTQ Minus Tobacco works specifically with LGBTQ+ youth, adults, and communities throughout the Bay Area to prevent tobacco and substance use. LGBTQ Minus Tobacco focuses on youth in Concord who may have a higher exposure to cheap tobacco products, specifically to LGBTQ youth. LGBTQ Minus Tobacco fights the tobacco industry through advocacy efforts in collaboration with local community partners to raise awareness and education of policies to vulnerable individuals and communities to advocate and mobilize for a safer community and equity amongst LGBTQ youth and adults. There is a strong correlation between tobacco and cannabis vaping, specially among LGTBQ youth.

**NON-VOLUNTEER GROUP**

*District I – Supervisor John Gioia*

**House of Loving Hands**

Deneshia Clemons is the founder of House of Loving Hands, which is an organization that helps victims of domestic violence where very frequently substance use is involved. House of Loving Hands is an advocate of victims, specifically women and children by providing various services such as safe housing whether that is in an emergency, short-term, or long-term capacity. Deneshia is an ally who helps link community members to the appropriate services they need, including substance use services.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP INDIVIDUAL**

*District V – Supervisor Federal Glover*

**Patricia Britton**

Patricia Britton is a youth leader who is involved in various youth-led organizations such as the Pittsburg Y.A.C.H.T. (Youth Advocating Change Halting Tobacco) Club and the Pride & Purpose Project, where she currently serves as the president. Patricia has learned substance use policy advocacy prevention strategies specifically to address underage tobacco use, vaping, and cannabis use. Patricia is a leader to her peers through active involvement in the community, participating in educational campaigns, attending events and local city council meetings. She is currently working with the City of Pittsburg to bring the Social Host Ordinance to the City. Patricia is an accomplished leader who has been accepted into U.C. Berkeley for Fall 2023.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP**

*District III – Supervisor Diane Burgis*

**Elevate Youth**

Elevate Youth is a peer-to-peer model program that focuses on youth development by equipping high schoolers with leadership skills to mentor middle schoolers on Underage Cannabis Use and prevention education. The youth mentors have made a successful impact on their mentees by raising awareness about the harmful hard facts of cannabis use during adolescence. In addition, the youth have educated the community through parent education nights and attendance at local City Council meetings to learn about the impact of policy on the cannabis retail environment and the community.

**POSTHUMOUS RECOGNITION AWARD**

*District IV – Supervisor Ken Carlson*

**Toni Brock**

Toni Brock was a community member who provided safe housing for individuals with substance use. Toni assisted in ensuring that individuals had the necessary support to successfully continue their recovery journey. She helped with providing transportation resources and insurance assistance so that individuals were able to attend meetings, interviews, and medical appointments. Having lived experience, Toni helped guide many individuals who were at the beginning of their substance use recovery.