Dear community members, friends and partners,

This month was chock full of celebrations, including birthdays, holidays and recognition. June is known for PRIDE month, a time dedicated to focusing on inclusivity, diversity and respect for those who identify with and support the LGBTQ+ community.
LGBTQIA+ community to take pride in who they are and who they love.

This year, Community Through Hope celebrated in house with another beautiful work of art created by staff member and floral artist Paul Lopez. Sheltered or unsheltered, we all deserve to feel pride and be celebrated. That said, we recognize that what we’re able to accomplish at CTH in the housing, food insecurity and anti-criminalization space wouldn’t be possible without the dedicated work of those in the LGBTQIA+ community both past and present. We stand with you, are inspired by your legacy, enriched by your contributions and encouraged by your tenacity to fight for equity.

Yours in Service,
Rosy Vasquez
CEO/President
Earlier this month, Community Through Hope's Executive Director Sebastian Martinez was highlighted in an article published by Feeding San Diego. As a LGBTQAI+ leader in the nonprofit space serving the unsheltered and food insecure populations in the South Bay, Sebastian knows first-hand the challenges and importance of serving this community.

..."What I find difficult about seeing LGBTQ+ folks unsheltered [their identity] is often directly the reason they’re unsheltered,” he said. “It’s not these other factors coming together. It’s this one specific factor.”

Roughly 22 percent of LGBTQAI+ adults live in poverty and food insecurity, according to Feeding America. As a nonprofit organization that serves this
Also known as Freedom Day, Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and freedom for African Americans. In recognition of this holiday, Community Through Hope was closed on Monday, June 19th and we also held a lunch celebration the Friday before where we gathered to acknowledge its meaning. Our small but mighty TEAM CTH is comprised of a diverse group of individuals, including four who identify as African American.

Our Director of Programs Deion Williams is actually responsible for the reason behind why our organization celebrates Juneteenth in the first place.

"Juneteenth is an important event for us to celebrate because I feel like a lot of African American people in my generation weren’t as connected to their blackness,” he said. “The Black Lives Matter movement opened a door and gave that self-representation a lot more meaning. Today we are much more rooted in and connected with our Black culture.”

Community through Hope has cultivated an environment where people of all races, genders, cultures and creeds are welcome. In fact, it’s one of the best
Last month an important contributing Community Through Hope advocate, James R. Murphy, passed away. Known to those close to him as “Murph,” Jim was an essential part of the CTH family since we first began the important charge to serve unsheltered homeless individuals, couples and families. Jim is credited with finding our space at 465 C Street and building it out to the place of hope is today for more than 1,500 unsheltered clients throughout the South Bay.

Jim was a volunteer since our inception in 2018 and stayed on for two years as the facilities manager. He was known for educating others through the art of storytelling, believed in strength in numbers and championed our cause to honor equity and offer hope to unsheltered demographic we serve.
In recognition of Jim’s contributions to the community, we established the James R. Murphy Excellence awards, presented every October to those dedicated to lifting up others. We will always remember Jim’s huge heart, selfless community service and exceptional mentorship. We will miss him immensely but find comfort knowing he is now resting in power and peace.

MÚSICA, MOTOS Y MERCADO

Community Through Hope is throwing a rooftop deck party like you’ve never experienced. Dubbed Música, Motos Y Mercado, this event is happening on Saturday, July 22 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Coronado Beach Harley-Davidson in National City. As part of our Cause, Culture and Community (3C) campaign,
this event is meant to raise awareness and fundraise leading up to our organization’s fifth anniversary celebration.

Attendees can expect to enjoy incredible Latin jazz featuring Gilbert Castellanos and the New Latin Jazz Quintet, delicious food and drinks from local vendors, amazing Harley Davidson motorcycles and a complementary sunset! General admission tickets cost $50 and it’s $75 for the VIP lounge (includes beverage and bites) with proceeds benefitting Community Through Hope. Tickets are available here, on our website. Don’t miss out on this incredible opportunity to enjoy a summer evening out with friends, strangers and your local community.

LOCAL HOMELESSNESS ORDINANCE BAN PASSES IN SAN DIEGO

As you may have heard, earlier this month a proposed ordinance that places a ban on homeless encampments on sidewalks passed 5 to 4 among San Diego City council members. This happened with no housing in place for unsheltered individuals.

Unsupported by a majority of local unsheltered homeless providers due to poor planning and the increased potential for criminalization, Community Through Hope can’t help but wonder what the consequences will be in following weeks and months to the South Bay community.

As a nonprofit service provider that honors equity and offers hope to this vulnerable population, we don’t believe this ordinance should have passed as outlined. The city’s attempts at creating more shelters aren’t happening fast enough nor are they adequate in meeting the actual needs of unsheltered
individuals. Similar to what happened at Harborside Park, this vote is extremely dangerous because it displaces people, including folks who are too disabled or elderly to relocate.

In addition, this ban will likely lead to unnecessary arrests and interactions between law enforcement and the unsheltered community, as well as death. This is a community that is already ostracized and doesn’t feel safe. They need more security, not less. In the meantime, our organization and others that are already impacted by needs of this community will begin preparing as best we can for the influx of individuals we expect to see in the South Bay (which according to the RTFH recent numbers is already up 22 percent) because of this decision.

NEW BOARD MEMBER GENEVIÉVE JONES-WRIGHT

Community Through Hope is excited to announce that we’ve added another dynamic member to our board. Geneviéve Jones-Wright is a San Diego native who was previously a local public defender with the bulk of her work bulk representing unhoused individuals. Her passion and action in fighting for the
human rights of the unsheltered and against their criminalization aligns perfectly with our mission at CTH. As a new board member, Geneviève said she hopes to help continue helping high- and at-risk community members gain the dignity and respect they deserve in addressing disparities with this population.

Through her legal background, analytical, research and writing skills, Geneviève will continue to help our team meet people where they are, address their needs and tell share their story in an authentic way that resonates with others. In addition, as the founder of the nonprofit Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance (MoGo), which focuses on racial justice through impact litigation, government accountability and advocacy for society’s marginalized populations, Geneviève will most certainly amplify our in bringing awareness to various critical unsheltered issues in the South Bay.