



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New Beginnings' Safe Parking Program 20th Anniversary Luncheon Honors
the Hon. Susan Rose and Congressman Salud Carbajal**

Santa Barbara, CA – New Beginnings is thrilled to announce our upcoming Safe Parking Program 20th Anniversary Luncheon. This milestone event will honor the Honorable Susan Rose and Congressman Salud Carbajal for their pioneering efforts in creating and sustaining the first-in-the-nation “Safe Parking Program”.

The internationally recognized program transforms lives by providing safe, overnight parking and support services to individuals and families living in their vehicle. It has been replicated by many other communities and the idea is poised to expand nationally through bi-partisan federal legislation introduced by Congressman Carbajal. New Beginnings currently manages 200 spaces in 31 parking lots across Santa Barbara County. The program was recently recognized through an \$8 million grant that will resolve 21 vehicle encampments in Santa Barbara County.

Event information:

Place: Santa Barbara Woman’s Club at 670 Mission Canyon Rd, Santa Barbara

Date: Thursday, June 20th

Time: 11:30 – 1:30pm

Info, Sponsorship, and Tickets: <https://sbnbcc.org/safe-parking-program-anniversary-luncheon>

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michele Wakin, author of *Hobo Jungle: A Homeless Community in Paradise (2020)*, will provide the keynote address contextualizing vehicle living among makeshift housing solutions for homeless people. Dr. Wakin will share a historical overview of homelessness in the US and the vehicular homeless living in Santa Barbara. Regarding the Safe Parking Program and vehicular homelessness, Dr. Wakin said, “People want a place of their own, however modest, that offers privacy, autonomy, and respect.”

“We’re excited to celebrate this milestone as the longest running Safe Parking Program in the country,” said Kristine Schwarz, New Beginnings’ Executive Director. “We’re very proud of the program’s success and the many communities who have been helped over the years by our best-practice, evidence-supported model.”

Proceeds from the luncheon will support the New Beginnings’ Safe Parking Program.

This milestone event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, including:

- Glenn & Amy Bacheller
- Andrew & Liz Butcher
- Lloyd & Richard Dallett
- Maureen & Dave Ellenberger
- Kait Hamilton, State Farm



- Mary Howe-Grant, Ph.D.
- The Hutton Parker Foundation
- Montecito Bank and Trust
- Sara Miller McCune
- Jon Kechejian & Sandy Schoolfield
- Charles & Eileen White Read

Tickets and Sponsorship Opportunities for the 20th Anniversary Luncheon are available for purchase at <https://sbnbcc.org/safe-parking-program-anniversary-luncheon/>. Seating is limited, so we encourage interested individuals to reserve their spot early.

About New Beginnings

New Beginnings provides quality, affordable counseling, shelter, case management and education that strengthens our community and provides people the ability to lead healthy and productive lives. New Beginnings, located at 530 E. Montecito St., Suite 101, Santa Barbara, CA 93103, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

The New Beginnings Safe Parking Program has been a beacon of hope and support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community for the past two decades. Through its innovative approach and unwavering commitment, the program has provided a safe and secure environment for those living in their vehicles, offering access to vital resources, support services, and pathways to stability.

Contact Information

For more information, please contact our development department at (805) 963-7777 x112 or email Linnea Haskett, Community Engagement and Development Manager, at lhaskett@sbnbcc.org.