

Contra Costa Council on Homelessness

Homelessness Awareness Month 2022  
Recognitions for “Outstanding Landlord”

*The Outstanding Landlord/Property Manager Category is to recognize landlords or property management companies that have enriched the lives of people facing homelessness in Contra Costa County by providing permanent housing opportunities. Outstanding efforts can be demonstrated in a number of ways including length of time involved in housing people affected by homelessness, number of units rented to individuals and/or families facing homelessness, quality of units rented, etc. Landlord or property management company must rent units in Contra Costa County to individuals and/or families facing homelessness.*

**Nominees**

1. Britney/ Jannell Gonzalez, BayCliff apartments (District 1)
2. Som Bhatia (District 5)
3. Tiffany Powell, Glo's Independent Living LLC (District 1)
4. Lee Robertson, Black Diamond Holdings, Inc (Serves Entire County)

*The following pages contain descriptions of each nominee as provided by the person (s) who nominated them.*

# Britney/ Jannell Gonzalez, BayCliff Apartments

**Nominated by:** Marie Estacio, Housing Specialist liaison

**Supervisory District:** District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

**Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:** *We have been working with Bay Cliff apartments for the last 3 months and they have been extremely helpful throughout the housing application process. At this moment they have housed more than 3 of our former clients.*

**The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:** *Clients are being given a second chance at establishing a new beginning to move forward with their lives. The shelter staff and the clients value their patience and understanding as well as their willingness to help and ensure our clients are in a new home.*

*Clients are being given a second chance at establishing a new beginning to move forward with their lives. The shelter staff and the clients value their patience and understanding as well as their willingness to help and ensure our clients are in a new home. Britney and Janelle, were very helpful ensuring that our clients units and documentation are in order prior to their voucher expiring.*

# Som Bhatia

**Nominated by:** Jose Villa, Partner in ending homelessness

**Supervisory District:** District 5 (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg, portions of Pinole and Antioch, and unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hill, Reliez Valley, and Clyde)

**Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:** *Som Bhatia has been renting his 38 units to PSH, Section 8, and RRH programs for over 15 years. He has properties in Martinez, Pittsburg and Bay Point. Som is liked by our participants and case managers alike for his calm and respectful demeanor. He treats his tenants with respect and works rapidly to complaints of criminal activity and is quick to address work orders submitted by his tenants.*

**The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:** *Som has been working with chronically homeless folks for over 15 years. He does a great job of communicating with our case managers when our participants are struggling with maintaining their housing. Unlike other landlords that are quick to evict their tenants, Som is compassionate and works with the participants service providers so that they have the ability to correct the issue at hand so that they do not go back to the streets.*

*In my 12+ years experience working with homeless folks, I have never heard of a participant complain about Som. He is truly a nice man that understands the struggle of our homeless participants and is compassionate and helps them as much as he can.*

# Tiffany Powell, Glo's Independent Living LLC

**Nominated by:** Sessallie Hopgood, Tenant

**Supervisory District:** District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

**Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:** *Glo's Independent Living LLC is an excellent example of a caring organization that truly helps its homeless tenants and deserves to be recognized for it. Tiffany Powell, the proprietor, has consistently demonstrated her commitment, understanding and resources to providing homeless individuals a safe place to stay while they transition to permanent housing. She began this organization in 2019 and it has continued to grow. She cares about her tenants and wants the best outcome for them. When maintenance issues occurs she has them resolved as soon as possible. The rooms are clean and well maintained. Her houses have wifi access that enables computer utilization. As well as kitchen equipment (plates, forks, microwave, pots and pans etc) so you are able to cook. It is indeed a home until you get your own.*

**The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:** *She consistently goes out of her way to be not only a landlord but an advocate for you. Her dedication is admirable and commendable and she truly does care. Her tenants are truly the beneficiaries because she treats them with respect by giving them a sense of being seen and heard while enduring such a precarious situation.*

*She consistently goes out of her way to be not only a landlord but an advocate for you. Her dedication is admirable and commendable and she truly does care. Her tenants are truly the beneficiaries because she treats them with respect by giving them a sense of being seen and heard while enduring such a precarious situation. Tiffany Powell and Glo's Independent Living LLC is an excellent example of an organization that is committed to ending homelessness. She continues to strive to make a difference in the community by providing a safe place to stay and informing you of resources that will aid you in with a successful transition. Residents can also participate in company sponsored outings too e.g Golden State Warrior games, picnics, community events etc.*

# Tiffany Powell, Glo's Independent Living

**Nominated by:** Wesley Alexander, Peer

**Supervisory District:** District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

**Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:** *I will like to nominate Tiffany Powell of Glo's Independent Living. I have known Tiffany Powell since 2020 and in that time, I have seen her working diligently to provide independent living facilities to those who are need of transition housing as well as wellness services to make them feel whole, supported, and connected to good people. She has worked diligently to improve in-take, clientele experience, operations, services, post-transition feedback/follow-up, funding all with the goal to create an environment that caters to the wellness of the unhoused or those in transition.*

**The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:** *Tiffany has endured her own hardships on the way; therefore, she is literally serving herself when she serves the stakeholders because there was a time when she literally was in their shoes. Her work is not a job. It is a calling rooted in deep understanding of the complexities and needs of the stakeholders she serves. A lack of resources will not stop her from providing the haven and directions that each one of her tenants/clients require.*

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# Tiffany Powell, Glo's Independent Living

**Nominated by:** Larry Wilson, Professional

**Supervisory District:** District 1 (Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, part of Pinole, and the unincorporated communities of Bayview, East Richmond Heights, El Sobrante, Kensington, Montalvin Manor, Tara Hills, North Richmond, and Rollingwood)

**Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:** *Tiffany Powell/Glo's Independent Living over the years has been my go to room/room share rental connection. Out of all the room rental options in West county no one comes close. Tiffany/Glo's goes above and beyond the call of duty to not only provide a safe affordable place to live but she has been known to take her residents to amusement parks, ball games, movies, barbecue's out to dinner and much, much more. No other property honors their residents like Tiffany/Glo's.*

**The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:** *Well the answer that the difference is that they're housed they have a place to live to call home. They have a community/family. Myself as a Housing Navigator appreciated working with Glo's Independent Living because of the integrity this program displays.*

*Well the answer that the difference is that they're housed they have a place to live to call home. They have a community/family. Myself as a Housing Navigator appreciated working with Glo's Independent Living because of the integrity this program displays. It would be nice if these properties that offer rooms and room shares were subsidized. Clients living on \$950 a month and paying \$650 to \$800 for a room share are always scraping by.*

# Lee Robertson, Black Diamond Holdings, Inc

**Nominated by:** Laura Rasmussen, VA Housing Specialist that works w/ many Property managers and landlords across Contra Costa and Solano Counties

**Supervisorial District:** They serve the entire county

**Nominee's outstanding contribution to ending homelessness:** *Lee Robertson of Black Diamond Holdings, Inc, is a property manager who has worked w/ the VASH program for years. She goes out of her way to help our veterans and really tries to offer great housing to them, as well as working through difficulties.*

**The difference that the Nominee's service makes to individuals facing homelessness:** *On Many occasions, Lee Robertson from Black Diamond Holdings, Inc has reached out to our VASH team to help our veterans get housed. She's patient and works w/ whatever obstacles arise. She cares about our program, and the veterans. We are very grateful for Lee.*

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