

# 2024 Rising Stars Celebration of Hope



# RISING STARS

CELEBRATION OF HOPE

Friday, October 25, 2024  
First Unitarian Church  
Oakland, Ca 94612



self-sufficiency.org



# Rising Stars 2024

6:00-6:20 pm - Reception, photos,  
photobooth & music

6:20 pm Welcome by Satia Frazier-North,  
MC

6:25 pm Invocation by Rev. Harry Williams

6:35 pm CEO remarks

6:45 pm Music by Sister Mattie Johnson

6:55 pm Video message by AG Bonta

7:00 pm Keynote by Dajuan Stewart Sr.

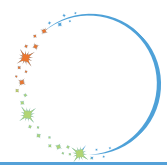
7:20 pm Rising Star Alum - DeZha Boynton  
(speech read by Denise Moody)

7:30 pm RECOGNIZING RISING STARS &  
Group photo

7:50 pm Thank you's & DINNER

8:00 pm Dinner

**\*Updated Program**





# Welcome to Rising Stars,

Congratulations to our 2024 Rising Stars Awardees!!

It is with heartfelt respect, admiration, and love that I say YOU DESERVE THIS -- and not just this, but so much more. You deserve love, safety, respect, and a sense of belonging -- something I hope BOSS has provided you with. You deserve safe affordable housing, living wage jobs, healthy relationships, and opportunities -- which we see you striving towards each day.

I have been at BOSS now for over 10 years, and every year I see obstacles and challenges steeped in a history of racial oppression, policy violence, inequity, and injustice -- but at the same time, I have seen inspiring strength, creativity, determination, grace, courage, and success. I see lives change and heal, I see communities come together -- always thanks to individuals like you, who are committed to positive change for your own lives, your families, and your communities.

We wish you health, happiness, and continued progress -- congratulations on all you have achieved, and will continue to achieve!

*Sincerely,  
Donald Frazier, Chief Executive Officer*

# Our Mission

Our mission is to help homeless, poor, and disabled people achieve health and self-sufficiency, and to fight against the root causes of poverty and homelessness.

BOSS was created in 1971 to help individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who had become displaced because of public hospital closures. Programs and services expanded over the past five decades to include services for unhoused, disabled, and low-income individuals, families, and neighborhoods in Alameda County. In 2013, executive leadership expanded the mission and began developing solutions for mass incarceration and violence in the community as unaddressed crises stemming from racially biased policies and systemic inequities.

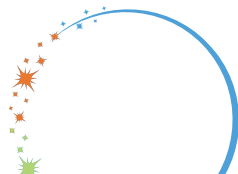
Today, BOSS is recognized as a social justice leader with housing, reentry, violence prevention, along with innovative service delivery methodologies.

# About Rising Stars

## OVERCOMING CRISIS TO TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES

The men and women BOSS serves exemplify grace and determination as they overcome life challenges and trauma to carve new paths. RISING STARS CELEBRATION OF HOPE honors the people who use BOSS services and are working hard on a fresh start.

The men and women being honored have experienced domestic or community violence, family separation, homelessness, extreme poverty, incarceration, and justice system involvement – Despite it all, they are determined to rebuild their lives, attain gainful employment, and do whatever it takes to take care of themselves and their families. BOSS' 2024 Rising Stars are incredible and important SUCCESS STORIES that need to be shared and celebrated!!



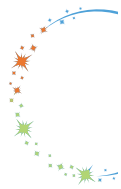
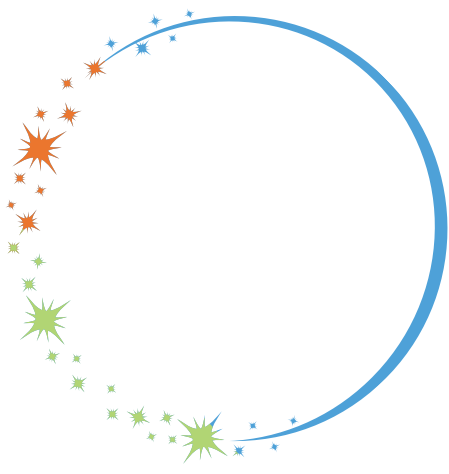




# Your 2024 Rising Stars

Daniel Anoyke  
 Eric Cobbs  
 Brian Collor  
 Christopher Dickens  
 Norice Dilworth  
 Carlos DuBose  
 Demorea Evans  
 Da'Jon Ford  
 Aurelia Foster  
 BruceWayne Golson  
 Anne Gormley  
 Adrienne Ivey  
 Tali Jackson  
 Karla Jackson  
 Marcel Jones  
 Kimberly LaBelle  
 Michelle Mandele  
 Shanay Mayes  
 Heaven McGee  
 Capri Nelson Nelson  
 Albert Oneal

Sancho Paniagua  
 Merci Pena  
 Jimmy Peters  
 Mike Powell  
 Elise Richardson  
 Davone Rose  
 Steven Sampson  
 Bradley Shells  
 Creesha Sheppard  
 Tony Smith  
 Margarita Sobalvarro  
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 Stanley Williams  
 Avalonia Williams  
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 Tyrone Willis



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Donald Frazier

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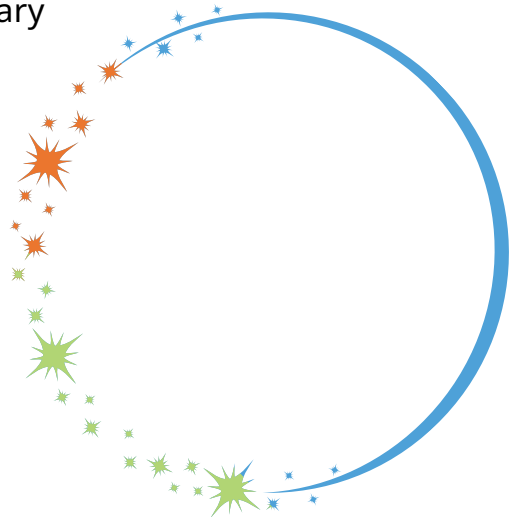
Victor Sandhu

Hiwet Tesfamariam

Michael White

DeShannon Williamson

Yahna Williamson



“

*Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.”*

*— Booker T. Washington*



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**A big thank you to BOSS and its dedicated staff for its amazing work in our community!**

**With much appreciation,**

*Dan Scarola*



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Department  
Alameda County Health



For More Information:



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contact: Ryan McGehee

[rmcgehee@self-sufficiency.org](mailto:rmcgehee@self-sufficiency.org)



[www.self-sufficiency.org](http://www.self-sufficiency.org)

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## BOSS Talks: Amplifying Voices of Redemption & Resilience

BOSS Talks is more than a series, it's a transformative movement that encourages dialogue and challenges stereotypes. It's a platform for growth, learning, and community healing, fostering an environment where voices from varied paths share their truth.



AMPLIFYING VOICES OF RESILIENCE AND  
REDEMPTION

LONNIE MORRIS &  
DONALD FRAZIER  
TALK, 'NO MORE TEARS'  
INSIDE AND BEYOND  
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