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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**3rd Annual Overdose & Drug Awareness Symposium to Bring the Community Together
in Support of Monterey County Youth**

Monterey County, CA. July 2026

Sun Street Centers and community partners invite Monterey County residents to attend the **3rd Annual Overdose & Drug Awareness Symposium** on **Thursday, August 13, 2026** at the **Oldemeyer Center in Seaside**. The symposium will take place from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**, with a resource fair beginning at **5:00 p.m.** The free event will bring together youth, parents, educators, healthcare professionals, and community members for an evening focused on overdose awareness, prevention, education, and support.

Substance use continues to impact families throughout Monterey County. According to **DataShare Monterey County**, the county's fentanyl overdose death rate rose to **14.8 deaths per 100,000 residents** in 2024, exceeding the statewide rate.

The symposium aims to provide community members with information about current drug trends affecting youth, the risks associated with substance use, and the resources available to help individuals and families. Attendees will hear from local leaders, public safety professionals, prevention advocates, and individuals who will share personal experiences and perspectives.

“Prevention starts with each of us. As Program Director, I see firsthand the importance of prevention, education, and community partnership in supporting youth and families. This symposium brings our community together to share resources, strengthen connections, and build safer, healthier futures for youth throughout Monterey County. I encourage parents, youth, educators, and community members to attend, learn, ask questions, and join prevention efforts that can help save lives.”

– Reyna Alcala, Director of Prevention Services

The event will also include a community resource fair, dinner, raffle prizes, childcare, and community service hours for high school students who attend. Spanish translation services will be available.

***Event registration is required.**

Register for the symposium today:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/overdose-and-drug-awareness-symposium-tickets-1989622648902?aff=oddtcreator>

For more information, visit our website:

www.SunStreetCenters.org

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Since 1968, Sun Street Centers has been providing the most comprehensive and effective services for education, prevention and recovery of alcohol and substance use disorders. Relying on a proven social model developed by our founders, Martin and Nancy Dodd, as well as the compassion and experience of our staff, we welcome all individuals and families to hope, heal, share and thrive with a drug-free and alcohol-free lifestyle.