



## ***Monarch Services Welcomes Executive Director's Return Laura Segura Returns from Breast Cancer Battle***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Delphine Burns, *Communications Manager*  
**Email:** [delphineb@monarchscs.org](mailto:delphineb@monarchscs.org)  
**Phone:** (831) 425-4030  
**Website:** [www.monarchscs.org](http://www.monarchscs.org)

**Overview:** October is both Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and one of Santa Cruz County's most respected nonprofit leaders Laura Segura has just returned to work at *Monarch Services* from a 54-week battle with breast cancer.

Segura was diagnosed with breast cancer in Fall 2018 and underwent treatment for the past year. Segura is delighted to return to her career of violence prevention and empowerment. While Segura was on medical leave, Assistant Director Kalyne-Foster Renda served as Interim Executive Director and has played an integral role in the agency's success. Under her leadership, *Monarch Services* has not only maintained the services it has traditionally offered survivors, but also expanded its services to include a housing program, a more robust children and youth program and new community partnerships.

Laura Segura has dedicated her career to issues of social justice and has worked with *Monarch Services* for 13 years. Combining her skills in public policy and strategic planning with her passion for cultural responsiveness and equity, Segura has helped transform the way survivors of sexual assault, human trafficking and domestic violence are served in Santa Cruz County. A proud lifelong resident of Watsonville, Segura has served on numerous commissions, task forces and councils locally and statewide. She is a two-time Policy Fellow with the *Women's Policy Institute* of the *Women's Foundation of California* that helps shape California laws impacting women-identifying individuals. Segura is also a proud parent of two daughters.



*Monarch Staff members welcome back Laura Segura (middle). Their shirts read, "At Monarch, No one fights alone."*

"I am grateful to be back at work fighting a different type of battle," Segura said. "This battle is to end violence and fight for human rights and dignity for our most vulnerable residents."

Segura's resilience and strength after experiencing trauma are testaments to her commitment to *Monarch's* important work.

### **About Monarch Services (Formerly Women's Crisis Support/ Defensa de Mujeres):**

*Monarch Services* has a 42-year history in Santa Cruz County of providing advocacy and resources to community members affected by violence. Services include court accompaniments, restraining order assistance, counseling, emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis line, outreach, education and support groups. *Monarch Services* is the only rape crisis center in Santa Cruz County and includes an emergency response team. All services are available in Spanish and English and are free or low cost. ***Se Habla Español.***