



## ACGOV Cares Highlights County Legacy of Community Service

On November 21st, Alameda County formally launched **ACGOV Cares**, a new online effort to engage the County's 9,600 employees and our residents about caring for our communities through volunteerism and many other programs and opportunities that strengthen our East Bay region.

The new site, <http://acgovcares.org/>, showcases the many ways County employees are already making a difference – by mentoring disadvantaged youth, volunteering for worthy causes, feeding the hungry and helping their neighbors. Through first-person stories of employees who donate their resources and time, **ACGOV Cares** seeks to build a sense of collective pride within the County workforce and inspire others to commit themselves to community service.



The site also has outward-facing elements that focus on engaging residents about volunteerism and opportunities for them to give in creative, wide-ranging ways. Through a link to [VolunteerMatch](#), the site helps to match residents with opportunities that match their interests and support our communities.

"We are proud of the many ways our employees donate their resources and their time throughout the year to make our community a better place," said Scott Haggerty, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. "We think **ACGOV Cares** will give credit where credit is due – and inspire others to get involved and experience the powerful rewards of volunteerism."

The site will evolve as it inspires people to volunteer and to share their powerful stories of giving back. New employee testimonials will be added regularly to maintain and enhance interest in **ACGOV Cares**.

"Our employees have always been inspired by the spirit of community service," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. "Through **ACGOV Cares**, we seek to acknowledge their commitment to our communities and encourage all County employees to seek new opportunities to give back and experience the many rewards of community service."

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## \$140 Million Grant to Help Homeless, Other “High Utilizers” of Health Care System

The Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) has been awarded more than \$140 million by the California Department of Health Care Services for an ambitious program to improve health outcomes for the homeless and other high utilizers of health care services while reducing avoidable costs.

The program, known as AC Care Connect, focuses on people experiencing homelessness, people who are high utilizers of multiple systems – including emergency services, hospitalizations, and law enforcement – and people with complex conditions who need care coordination across multiple systems in order to obtain good treatment outcomes. An estimated 20,000 people will benefit from the program over five years.

“Everyone in the United States, rich or poor, has a hard time getting whole-person care,” says Kathleen Clanon, MD, HCSA’s Medical Director. “We treat people as though they were a collection of separate medical problems. For people who, in addition to medical problems, are poor, mentally ill, or struggling with addiction, this challenge is often insurmountable. As a result, they cycle through crises without getting better and frequently land on the street.”

The pilot program will help organize health care providers, housing, behavioral health, probation, and other systems to work together to better coordinate care. It also will help patients obtain housing, deploy technology to enable communications and coordination between providers and promote integrated care that includes primary care, substance use treatment, and behavioral health care.

“AC Care Connect is going to help us build a system where the right hand will know what the left hand is doing so we can stabilize people and get them the help they need,” said Supervisor Wilma Chan, Chair of the Board of Supervisors’ Health Committee.

County and city agencies, health plans, health care and social services providers, housing authorities, advocacy groups, consumers, and others are participating in the project. “I’m excited about this partnership,” says Dr. Clanon. “We have a real chance to reduce homelessness and suffering in our community.”

## Highland Hospital Project Celebrated for “Green Building” Achievements

The Acute Care Tower Replacement Project at Highland Hospital, an extensive \$668 million modernization of the historic hospital campus, was the focus of special recognition at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors on October 11 for design achievements that will save energy and conserve natural resources.

**HIGHLANDHOSPITAL**

A member of Alameda Health System

An official with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) attended the meeting to honor Alameda County and the Alameda Health System (AHS) – jointly responsible for Highland and other facilities in the AHS network – for two new facilities at Highland that have received national Gold certification through the USGBC’s prestigious LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building program. The program rates building projects according to their high-performance achievements in resource conservation and energy savings.



In addition, officials from PG&E presented Alameda County – which is funding the project – with \$736,000 in incentive payments for the innovative engineering design approaches incorporated into the Highland facilities that will significantly reduce energy use at the medical complex.

The multi-phase modernization project at Highland – the cornerstone of Alameda County’s public health care system – is the largest construction project ever funded by Alameda County. The new facilities at Highland also are the latest in a series of new County building projects that have achieved lofty “green building” standards. Other buildings include the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center in San Leandro, also a LEED Gold® building; and the REACH Ashland Youth Center, which achieved the highest LEED Platinum® rating.

### “Stone Soup” Inspires Employees to Give, Create



### Alameda County Stone Soup Food Drive

The 2016 Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition shifted into high gear in November, highlighted by record-breaking levels of giving and mind-boggling feats of creativity by County employees.

Fourteen County departments participated in the Food Drive this year, donating 18,300 pounds of food and \$14,000 in cash. Donations will go to the Alameda County Community Food Bank to support its efforts to provide tasty, nourishing meals to residents struggling to put food on the table.

Once again, the Food Drive focused on friendly competition between County departments and the creative flair of employees who built thought-provoking displays constructed with donated boxes, bags and cans of non-perishable food.

The displays were designed to engage visitors to County buildings about the issue of hunger in the community. The creations will be on display through December 6, then will be dismantled and provided to the Food Bank. The County’s cash donations will go a long way to help the Food Bank, which can convert every dollar contributed into \$6 worth of food items to feed the hungry.

“The level of creativity, generosity and community spirit shown by our county employees is very inspiring as we approach the holiday season,” said Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator.

It’s the fourth straight year that Alameda County has used the old fable of Stone Soup – which celebrates generosity and collaboration in difficult times – to bring an inspired new spin to its annual holiday food drive to support the Food Bank

The approach is working, as Stone Soup continues to inspire record levels of generosity within the County’s 9,600-person workforce. To learn more about Stone Soup, and to see more pictures of employees’ inspiring creations, go to <http://acgovcares.org/#stonesoup>.

To learn more about the Alameda County Community Food Bank and to contribute to its efforts to feed the less fortunate in our community, go to <http://www.accfb.org/>.



The Board of Supervisors got into the Stone Soup spirit by furnishing the Board chambers with a Holiday Food House made with cans of food, sacks of rice and a roof of ramen noodles



The wildly popular “Pokemon Go” game was the inspiration for “Pokemon - Go End Hunger,” a display by the Information Technology Department



The football-themed “Kicking Out Hunger” was created by the Office of the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder. The concept grew from one employee’s realization that the map of Alameda County (pictured right) resembles a boot



## Bright Ideas - A Feature Focusing on Innovation

### Supervisors Tout New Tool to Combat Hunger

The Board of Supervisors declared October "Hunger Action Month" at its meeting on October 25. Supervisor Wilma Chan, who leads the "All In Alameda County" initiative to end hunger in the County by 2020, used the occasion to tout an innovative new online tool that holds the hope of boosting local enrollment in the CalFresh food assistance program. The tool, developed through a new partnership involving the County and the Alameda County Community Food Bank, provides a CalFresh application that is pre-filled with an applicant's Medi-Cal information, allowing a person to renew Medi-Cal benefits and apply for CalFresh in one easy step. It is hoped the new tool will help boost the number of CalFresh beneficiaries in Alameda County, and help the community take a significant new step in eliminating hunger in local households. At the October 25 Board meeting, Supervisor Chan presented a "Hunger Action" proclamation to Alisa Loveman of the County Social Services Agency (left) and Allison Pratt of the Food Bank (right).



### Nominations Being Accepted for 24th Annual Women's Hall of Fame

Nominations are now being accepted for the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, which each year honors extraordinary local women and celebrates their contributions to the community. Honorees will be celebrated at the 24th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame luncheon and awards ceremony on Saturday, April 1, 2017. Once again, the event will be co-hosted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women.

Nominations are being accepted for outstanding women in 12 categories: Business and Professions; Community Service; Culture and Art; Education; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Traditional Careers; Science, Technology, Engineering; Sports and Athletics; Philanthropy and Youth. The deadline to submit nominations is January 20, 2017.



Since its inception in 1993, over 200 women have been inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame. In addition to honoring extraordinary women leaders from Alameda County, the annual event raises funds to provide youth scholarships and helps support local non-profit community partners serving women, youth and families.

The Women's Hall of Fame is a countywide event celebrating the contributions of extraordinary women leaders in our communities during National Women's History month. In 2017, we expect another sell out with more than 500 attendees and many opportunities to both honor the inductees and contribute to support our youth and community partners.

"As public support for our Women's Hall of Fame program continues to grow, we are having a greater positive impact by expanding our youth scholarships and contributions to community programs benefiting women, youth and families," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator and Co-Chair of the Women's Hall of Fame. "We expect to continue this success in 2017 by focusing the spotlight on another group of outstanding women who make a difference in our communities."

The 2017 Women's Hall of Fame inductees will be announced at the beginning of 2017 and honored at the luncheon and awards ceremony. Visit our website at <http://www.acgov.org/whof/> to submit an online nomination or to obtain more information, or call (510) 272-6984.

## County Remembers Lives Lost to Domestic Violence

On Friday, October 28, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and the Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC) hosted their annual Day of Remembrance event honoring those lives lost as a result of domestic violence. The hallway outside Department 1 of the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland was lined with life-sized cut outs of unnamed victims, emblazoned with their tragic stories. Local organizations set up tables to share information and resources with the public.

Attendees heard the moving story of Julie, a survivor of domestic violence, and the new skills she has developed through the STEP-UP women's empowerment program at the ACFJC. During the ceremony, the names of the women, children and men killed in domestic violence incidents were read out by ACFJC clients and survivors of domestic violence. It was somber, powerful and moving tribute to these victims.

District Attorney Nancy O'Malley told the gathering of more than 100 people that anti-violence efforts over the past decade have helped to dramatically lower the number of domestic violence deaths in Alameda County. She urged everyone to support local efforts to eliminate domestic violence altogether.



*At the Day of Remembrance ceremony on October 28 in Oakland, guests paused to look at photographs of people who died as the result of domestic violence*

## "Savvy" Award Winners Honored



*The Board of Supervisors in October honored Alameda County's Information Technology Department (ITD) and General Services Agency (GSA) for being named winners in the 2016 Savvy Awards competition, sponsored by the Washington D.C.-based City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA). ITD won for its newly launched Alameda County Permit Portal, while GSA was honored for its Green and Healthy Awards program. Pictured are (left to right): Supervisor Nate Miley, Supervisor Richard Valle, Supervisor Wilma Chan, Chief Information Officer Tim Dupuis, GSA Director Willie A. Hopkins Jr., County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi and Supervisor Keith Carson.*

## County Administrator Named Public Finance “Trailblazer”

Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi has been named a Trailblazer in Public Finance by the Northeast Women in Public Finance and the Bond Buyer, the country’s leading news resource covering the municipal finance industry.

Muranishi, who was selected from a pool of more than 60 public sector nominees from around the country, will be honored at the Bond Buyer’s annual awards dinner in December.

The honor comes as Alameda County, under Muranishi’s leadership, has strengthened its financial position, launched bold initiatives to pay down long-term debt and leveraged its good standing to maximize limited taxpayer resources.

“I am excited, though not the least bit surprised, to hear that Susan is being honored in this way,” said Scott Haggerty, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. “Through thick and thin, she is always there to make sure Alameda County remains in strong financial position and is able to provide top-notch services to residents who need our support.”



In naming her for the “Trailblazer” award, judges noted not only Muranishi’s strong leadership in the area of public finance, but her lengthy track record as a mentor to women in the field. Her many community activities to support girls and women professionals were cited earlier this year when Muranishi – Alameda County’s chief executive since 1995 - was named by the County Administrative Officers Association of California to receive its first-ever Distinguished Service Award.

The “Trailblazer” award comes amid a string of successes in Alameda County’s quest to bolster its finances, upgrade facilities and infrastructure and reduce taxpayer costs. Earlier this month, Fitch Ratings and Moody’s Investors Service both upgraded Alameda County’s Issuer Ratings to “AAA” and “Aaa” respectively, the highest municipal bond ratings possible. In announcing its ratings upgrade, Moody’s cited the strong leadership team led by Muranishi as being instrumental in allowing Alameda County to routinely balance its budget without major staffing and program reductions, while significantly reducing its unfunded pension liability and building its reserves to cushion local programs from the blow of a future economic downturn.

The County’s financial strength has also allowed it to refinance major capital costs to lower the strain on limited public resources. For instance, the County is currently completing a fixed-rate refunding of nearly \$100 million in outstanding bond debt associated with the construction of the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center in San Leandro. The refunding will allow the County to take advantage of historically low interest rates and save more than \$1 million in annual debt service costs over the next two decades.

## Alameda County Sets Records for Voter Registration, Ballots Cast in Single Election

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters Office processed ballots cast by 670,245 voters in the November 8 General Election, an all-time record for a single election in the County. The total included more than 200,000 vote-by-mail ballots that had to be reviewed and tallied in the days following Election Day.

The record voter participation came after Alameda County shattered its all-time record for registered voters, with 888,709. The 75.42 percent voter turnout was just shy of the record 78.27 percent set in the 2008 General Election.

Among many significant items that went before local voters was Countywide Measure A1, \$580 million in general obligation bonds placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors to support affordable housing. The measure was approved, with support from 73 percent of the voters.

