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**ALAMEDA COUNTY STEPS UP TO FIGHT HUNGER THROUGH “STONE SOUP” FOOD DRIVE**

Alameda County employees have again displayed remarkable creativity and compassion by smashing the County’s all-time record for donations of food and cash to its annual holiday food drive – and by setting new standards for collective cleverness by creating compelling displays with food packages, cans and boxes focusing on the theme of eliminating hunger in the community.

The record-breaking campaign is part of Alameda County’s Third Annual Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition, which has raised more than \$13,000 in cash and 13,000 pounds in donations of nonperishable food items for the Alameda County Community Food Bank to help fight hunger during the coming holiday season. The cash donations alone can be converted by the Food Bank into nearly \$80,000 worth of food supplies to help feed the hungry.

“Once again, our Alameda County employees have shown through generosity that they are truly committed to public service and making our community a better place,” said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. “When we mobilize our 9,600 employees, we really can make a difference.”

The remarkable results of this year’s food drive are on display for everyone to see. Driven by the desire to help the less fortunate in the community – and to inspire others to do so – employees from 14 County departments have built remarkable displays in public Alameda County buildings using donated food packages, cans and boxes.

The displays include:

- “Picture a World Without Hunger,” an interactive photo booth created by the Registrar of Voters Office that allows passersby to post for free “selfie” photographs that can be emailed and posted to social media to get the word out about food insecurity and community efforts to end it.
- “Starve Wars,” a “Star Wars”-themed display by the Information Technology Department that includes R2D2 with a rotating head, a short video story and a direct message: “May the Food Be with You.”
- The “Can It Out Kiosk” created by the Alameda County Library, which symbolizes the effort to nourish the hungry through food donations just as it nourishes the intellects of residents through books and other educational materials.
- A “SteamPunk Time Machine” designed by the General Services Agency that aims to transport us to the time when food insecurity is a thing of the past.
- Four displays with Golden State Warriors themes that incorporate the local team’s championship run in 2015 to inspire residents to the cause of ending hunger. The displays also utilize the team’s slogan, “Strength in Numbers,” to underscore how a collective community effort can erase food insecurity.

The Food Drive is inspired by an old folk story, “Stone Soup,” which celebrates generosity and collaboration amid difficult times, especially in times of scarcity. The moral is that by working together, with everyone contributing what they can, a greater good is achieved.

A panel of judges evaluated all the entries for creativity, for clever uses of donated food and for the total amounts of cash and food donations. **Winners of the County’s Stone Soup Design Competition will be announced at the Alameda County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, December 1.**

The Stone Soup Displays will be available for public viewing until December 4. All donations are expected to be picked up by the Alameda County Community Food Bank during the week of December 7 so that they can be put to use providing nourishment to residents during the coming holidays.

To view Alameda County’s Stone Soup displays, and to arrange interviews with County leaders who spearheaded the Food Drive, contact Myrna Lopez at (510) 272-6984.