



CAO's Corner

By Susan S. Muranishi,
County Administrator

In 2013 Alameda County unveiled several new innovations and drew national recognition for meeting expanding community needs in the face of continuing financial challenges. In January we honored nine adults with developmental disabilities who excelled during year-long County internships as part of our pioneering **Project SEARCH** program. We received a very strong community response in April when we held our second-ever Hackathon, **Alameda Apps Challenge 2013.1**, in which more than 150 people participated. We followed this event with our first-ever employees-only Hackathon, **Rethink AC**. This event brought together more than 100 County employees and through their collaborations resulted in several clever new ideas for apps to improve access to County services. In May we celebrated the opening of the **REACH Ashland Youth Center**, the result of a decade of grass-roots lobbying for more youth-oriented services in Ashland. In June, the District Attorney's Office received an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACO) for its annual **Justice Academy**, which brings together high school students to learn about all aspects of the justice system. In July, Alameda County spearheaded the launch of the **Regional Renewable Energy Procurement Project**, a joint procurement – at substantially reduced costs – of alternative energy installations for more than 100 public facilities across the Bay Area. Big news greeted us in September when our website, ACGOV.ORG, topped the County Portal category in the national **Best of the Web** awards for the best government websites. The year ended with a flurry of generosity from our employees whose contributions to the County's first-ever **Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition** amounted to more than three times the amount donated for last year's Holiday Food Drive. A big THANK YOU to our employees, whose hard work, creativity and community spirit are truly inspiring. Happy Holidays!

"STONE SOUP" FOOD DRIVE INSPIRES GENEROSITY

The Board of Supervisors on November 26 celebrated the winners of the County's first Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition, which raised an estimated 5 tons in food donations and \$4,000 in cash for the Alameda County Community Food Bank. The Food Drive included some inspired displays made entirely with boxes and cans of nonperishable food. The total donations marked a more than 3-fold increase over last year's Holiday Food Drive totals. The theme of this year's food drive was the story of Stone Soup, an old fable celebrating individual generosity and collaboration amid difficult times. The winners of the Stone Soup Food Drive and Design Contest were:

Most Innovative – The Alameda County Registrar of Voters Office. The Registrar's display included several dozen cans of soup and other nonperishable food suspended with fishing line to create the word, "Vote." The Registrar's office donated 502 pounds of food.

Most Creative – The County Department of Child Support Services, which used cans and other food containers to create an image of a soldier standing over a simmering pot of soup. The Department donated a total of 1,018 pounds of food.

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A Stellar Night for Women's Hall of Fame



About 150 People attended a special Alumnae Celebration of the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame on November 17 in Oakland. The event raised money for the program's Youth Scholarship Fund.

Stone Soup Food Drive Inspires Generosity

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Chef's Award – The Information Technology Department. ITD created a 21st Century workspace with computer, desk, chair, filing cabinets and other office items composed of donated food containers. ITD donated 3,130 pounds of food.

Best Recipe award – The Office of the County Counsel, for its display, “Tipping the Scales of Hunger.” The display includes a model of the County Courthouse, as well as an attorney’s work station and several attorney briefcases packed with food. The Office of the County Counsel donated 1,380 pounds of food.

Alameda County also raised about \$4,000 in cash for the Food Drive. The Food Bank says it can distribute \$4 of food for every \$1 in cash that is donated. The expanded food drive comes in response to a recent run of tough economic times, as well as a reduction in federal food assistance benefits that took effect on November 1. These factors add to the challenge the Food Bank faces in serving hungry families and individuals in our community. Through their generosity, Alameda County’s employees once again have shown they can always be counted on to help our less-fortunate residents.



To see these and more photos from the Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive, go to <http://bit.ly/1iR8LII>

Alameda County Nabs “Greenest Fleet” Award

Green Fleet Magazine has named Alameda County’s vehicle fleet the 17th Greenest Fleet in North America. It is the fifth time Alameda County has been recognized as one of the 40 greenest fleets in North America in the magazine’s annual awards program. Ours is also the highest ranked fleet of all California Counties, ahead of Sonoma, Sacramento, and San Bernardino. The Government Green Fleet Award recognizes federal, state, and local fleets that demonstrate sustainable practices in fleet composition, fuel and emissions, policy and planning, fleet utilization, education, and executive and employee involvement. Alameda County operates a large fleet of vehicles that enables employees to deliver necessary services to residents. Alternative-fuel vehicles and green practices have been essential components of the County’s transportation program for many years. The County’s vehicle fleet includes 175 gas/electric hybrids and 21 electric vehicles, which together save



more than \$200,000 in annual fuel costs. In fact, more than half of the motor-pool vehicles that employees share for on-the-job travel are hybrid. In addition to the County’s “Greenest Fleet” honor, Alameda County General Service Agency’s Transportation Services Manager, Doug Bond, was also named a “Sustainability All-Star” for the third year in a row.

Relief Fund Helps Philippine Typhoon Victims

Alameda County has reactivated its Disaster Relief Fund to enable employees and people in the community to voluntarily donate funds to benefit the victims of the devastating typhoon that struck the Philippines on November 8. The Disaster Relief Fund was established in response to the September 11, 2001 tragedy and has been reactivated following several calamities since then. The Fund allows employees and County residents to donate directly to the Philippines recovery effort. County employees may also have the option to donate up to 5 days of accrued vacation time, compensatory time and/or holiday in-lieu time. Alameda County has set up a web page at www.acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm to enable people to donate to the Disaster Relief Fund online. Credit cards and PayPal can be used to donate. Cash donations also can be contributed via personal check payable to the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund, c/o the Auditor-Controller Agency, 1221 Oak Street, Room 238, Oakland, CA 94612.



ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS

Contact Your Supervisor

SUPERVISOR SCOTT HAGGERTY, District 1

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536 4501 Pleasanton Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612 Pleasanton, CA 94566
Phone: (510) 272-6691 Phone: (925) 551-6995
Fax: (510) 208-3910 Fax: (925) 484-2809

district1@acgov.org

SUPERVISOR RICHARD VALLE, District 2

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536 24301 Southland Dr., Ste. 101
Oakland, CA 94612 Hayward, CA 94545
Phone: (510) 272-6692 Phone: (510) 259-1097
Fax: (510) 271-5115 Fax: (510) 259-0860

district2@acgov.org

SUPERVISOR WILMA CHAN, District 3

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536 15903 Hesperian Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94612 San Lorenzo, CA 94580
Phone: (510) 272-6693 Phone: (510) 278-0367
Fax: (510) 268-8004 Fax: (510) 278-0467

district3@acgov.org

SUPERVISOR NATE MILEY, District 4

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536 20993 Redwood Road
Oakland, CA 94612 Castro Valley, CA 94546
Phone: (510) 272-6694 Phone: (510) 670-5717
Fax: (510) 465-7628 Fax: (510) 537-7289

4501 Pleasanton Avenue, 2nd Floor
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Phone: (925) 803-7959

district4@acgov.org

SUPERVISOR KEITH CARSON, District 5

1221 Oak Street, Suite 536
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (510) 272-6695
Fax: (510) 271-5151

hosdist5@acgov.org

County Re-Entry Program Cited as National Model; Wins \$749,298 Grant

The United States Department of Justice has awarded a \$749,298 grant to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office for its Second Chance Act (SCA) Two-Phase Adult Reentry Demonstration Program. The Alameda County Sheriff's Office was one of only 15 programs nationwide to receive grants through the US Department of Justice's Second Chance Act reentry program. The Sheriff's Office has titled this one-year grant, "Operation My Home Town" (OMHT) because it seeks to continue a paradigm shift in how incarceration is practiced in Alameda County. OMHT focuses on supporting ex-offenders reentering the Eden Area and other unincorporated communities of Alameda County. Working with the Sheriff to support the reentry population's transition back into the community are several other County agencies – including the Probation Department, District Attorney, Health Care Services Agency, Social Services Agency, Community Development Agency, Eden Area Regional Occupational Program and Public Defender - as well as community-based organizations such as Deputy Sheriff's Activities League, East Bay Community Law Center, and Niroga Institute. As lead agency, the Sheriff's Office must regularly report to the federal Department of Justice on the program's progress. In awarding the grant, federal officials said the OMHT program can serve as a model for other agencies around the country that seek to assist ex-offenders transition successfully back into the

Poll Workers Needed for Piedmont Election Feb. 4, 2014

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters is hiring poll workers to work the General Municipal Election in Piedmont on February 4, 2014. Poll workers must be registered to vote, though some high school students aged 16 and older are allowed to work at the polls with school permission. Poll workers must attend a training class prior to Election Day. To learn more, call (510) 272-6971

County Links

Alameda County Government <http://www.acgov.org/government/>
Alameda County Board of Supervisors <http://www.acgov.org/board/>
Lookup/pay Property Taxes <http://www.acgov.org/propertytax/index.htm>
Awards won by Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/awards/>
Links to Alameda County Departments and Agencies
<http://www.acgov.org/government/departments.htm>
Employment with Alameda County <http://www.acgov.org/government/employment.htm>
Alameda County forms <http://www.acgov.org/government/formscenter.htm>
Alameda County Superior Court <http://www.alameda.courts.ca.gov/>

For a calendar of Alameda County events, visit the County website at <http://www.acgov.org/calendar>. Also check the websites of the members of the Board of Supervisors (listed under Board contacts on the left side of this page).