



Project SEARCH Celebrates Seven New Graduates

Alameda County's groundbreaking Project SEARCH program, a proven pipeline to career employment for people with autism and other developmental disabilities, celebrated the graduation of seven people who recently completed year-long internships with the County.

"Your accomplishments reflect the growing success of this amazing program," County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi told the graduates at an upbeat ceremony on January 26th in Oakland. "That success is shown not only in the growing number of graduates moving on to permanent employment, but also by the many Project SEARCH programs that are being established in the public- and private-sector that look to Alameda County as a model."

About 75 friends and family members attended the ceremony to applaud the accomplishments of Alameda County's 8th class of Project SEARCH graduates. This year's graduates were: **Kevin Chen, Melissa Bandy, Jessica Kohli, Sofia Sandoval, Yehonatan Pick, Laura Goodman** and **Talia Fuller**.

The graduates and their supporters also gave thundering applause to the 10 County departments that participated in Project SEARCH by providing internships in 2017: the Assessor, Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder, County Administrator's Office, District Attorney's Office, Law Library, General Services Agency, Office of the Public Defender, Sheriff's Office, Treasurer/Tax Collector and Human Resource Services.

Lori Kotsonas of East Bay Innovations, the County's nonprofit Project SEARCH partner, took time during the ceremony to offer new statistics that gave the graduates a morale boost as they prepared to search for career opportunities. These numbers show that 92 percent of Alameda County Project SEARCH graduates who have moved on to permanent employment over the past eight years are still working in their jobs.

These graduates also are making an average of \$15.10 an hour, which is about \$3 more on average than employees in California who face similar challenges but have not graduated from Project SEARCH.

One place the latest graduates will surely look for work is Alameda County, which has a strong track record of hiring internship graduates into full-time jobs. At least 18 graduates of the County Project SEARCH program have moved on to permanent jobs with Alameda County, while many others have found paid employment elsewhere – including BART, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and St. Mary's College in Moraga.

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Record-Breaking Stone Soup Food Drive

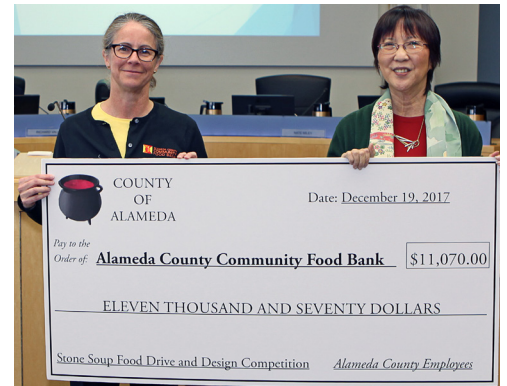
County departments' innovative displays about feeding the hungry won rave reviews from the Board of Supervisors on December 19 as the Board presented a half-dozen awards for the **2017 Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition**.

A record 16 County departments participated in the food drive, bringing new levels of compassion and creativity to the County's annual flourish of holiday giving. The 7-week effort collected over 10 tons of food (about 2,000 pounds more than in 2016) and \$11,000 in cash contributions to help the **Alameda County Community Food Bank** provide tasty, nourishing meals to residents struggling to put food on the table.

"Efforts like this are more important than ever," said Wilma Chan, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. "There are policies pending at the federal level that would dramatically cut food programs and, already, so many people are in need."

Once again, the Food Drive thrived on friendly competition between County departments and the creative flair of employees who built eye-catching displays to engage visitors to County buildings.

A week before Christmas, the displays were dismantled and their nutritious building blocks were provided to the Food Bank. The cash donations went a long way toward helping our neighbors in need, as the Food Bank can convert every \$1 contributed into \$6 worth of food items to feed the hungry.



Board President Wilma Chan presented a check for \$11,070 to Amy Donovan of the Alameda County Community Food Bank on December 19.



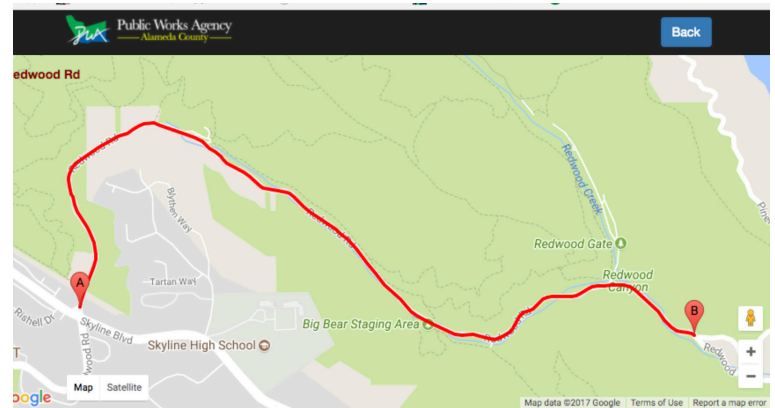
Bright Ideas - A Feature Focusing on Innovation

Road Closures Web App Gives Travelers Instant Information

A collaboration involving the Public Works Agency and the Information Technology Department (ITD) has resulted in the creation of a new Road Closures application, <https://roadclosures.acgov.org/>, which gives users real-time information about road closures announced by the County.

After authorized County staff enter road closure information into the new mobile website, the information is fed directly into Waze and Google maps. This provides the information in a highly usable format, as many travelers use Waze and Google Maps to determine driving directions. Timely information provided by the app allows the County to immediately reroute traffic away from worksites and incidents.

The new application also allows Alameda County to analyze data collected by Waze. In addition to real-time traffic and routing information, this data can be analyzed to study long-term traffic patterns to better plan construction, maintenance, traffic flow, and public safety programs.



Road Closed (both directions)
REDWOOD ROAD CLOSED AT SKYLINE BOULEVARD
Starting: 12/07/2017 11:30 AM
Ending: 12/07/2017 5:00 PM

Alameda County DSAL to Host Golden Gloves Boxing Tournaments

Flush with the success of its Boxing Academy for local youth, and three regional boxing tournaments it has hosted over the past two years, the Alameda County Deputy Sheriffs' Activities League (DSAL) will host the **Northern California Region 1 Golden Gloves boxing tournament** on February 1-3 at its home gym in Cherryland.

Bouts will start at 6 p.m. all three nights at the Hayward Adult School Gymnasium, 22100 Princeton Street, Cherryland (unincorporated Hayward).

The tournament will provide three nights of great boxing featuring top-notch fighters from throughout Northern California. It will also serve as a prelude to the **California State Golden Gloves boxing tournament**, which also will be hosted by Alameda County DSAL in April.

Golden Gloves tournaments are the premier exhibitions of amateur boxing in the United States. Winners of the DSAL-sponsored State tournament in April will advance to the National Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions later this year.



Tickets for the February tournament are available online at acdsal.org. Tickets for each night of boxing cost \$25 for Ringside Seats and \$15 for General Admission seating.

Landing the two Golden Gloves tournaments is a major achievement for Alameda County DSAL, and reflects the success of the DSAL Boxing Academy for local youth that the organization has been operating out of the Hayward Adult School gym for the past several years. The DSAL Boxing Academy serves local youth as young as 8, providing fitness and boxing skills training every weeknight. Youth who participate in the program must finish their homework and maintain a 2.0 grade-point-average in school.

50 More Volunteers Needed for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/ Earned Income Tax Credit (VITA/EITC) Program!

YOU have what it takes to make a difference. Don't delay; sign up today!

In December, the first major tax overhaul since the 1980s was signed into law by the President of the United States. Although the provisions will not go into effect until 2018, the "Tax Cut and Reform Bill" will soon shake up life for millions of Americans – impacting decisions such as home ownership and where to send kids to school.

Last year, the Social Services Agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program assisted low-income families and individuals in recouping \$1,643,077.00 in Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) funds and \$54,000.00 in State EITCs.

The program not only provides financial relief to local taxpayers, it also allows a large amount of money to flow back into the Alameda County economy. The VITA program, operated by the Alameda County Social Services Agency, provides free tax assistance to low- and middle-income taxpayers and ensures that these households are able to file their tax returns accurately and timely, without having to rely on costly services to get the refunds they deserve.

Because we anticipate record demand for our no-cost tax preparation services this year, **the VITA program is seeking 50 more volunteers** to meet the anticipated demand.

If you are looking for a way to make a positive impact in our community – as well as gain new skills and forge connections with compassionate colleagues – step up and volunteer for the VITA program this tax season. All volunteers receive FREE IRS certified tax training. THREE classroom sessions are still available for new volunteers without experience. VITA program services kick off January 22.

Register here:

https://alamedasocialservices.org/public/services/community/eitc/volunteer_form/volunteer_form.cfm.

ARTSFUND Program Offering Grants to Arts Organizations in Alameda County

The Alameda County Arts Commission is taking applications for the 2018 ARTSFUND Grants Program supporting nonprofit organizations based in the County.

ARTSFUND supports a wide range of arts programming such as dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual arts, and multi-disciplinary arts. Last year's ARTSFUND program awarded grants to 35 nonprofit organizations. In 2018, as many as 45 organizations may be awarded grants ranging in size from \$1,000 to \$2,500. The Alameda County Arts Commission is dedicated to improving the quality of life by nurturing a thriving environment for the arts, promoting economic opportunities for Alameda County artists and arts organizations, and encouraging public participation in the arts.

Information can be found at the Arts Commission website www.acgov.org/arts (click on "Programs"). **The application deadline is March 1, 2018.**

Funding for the ARTSFUND Grants Program is provided by the County of Alameda, individual contributions submitted with County property tax payments, and donations to the Foundation for the Arts in Alameda County.

Further details are available within the ARTSFUND Grants Program Guidelines and Online Application available at the Arts Commission website www.acgov.org/arts (click on "Programs"). You can also contact the Alameda County Arts Commission by email at artscommission@acgov.org or phone at (510) 208-9646.



Join Us for 25th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame

The 25th Annual Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon and Awards Ceremony is scheduled for **Saturday, March 24, 2018, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 4700 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland.**

For its 25th Anniversary, the Women's Hall of Fame is accepting nominations in a new category: **Emerging Leader**, which will celebrate young women representing a new generation of leaders. In 2018, women will be honored in this and 12 other 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.



We will be announcing this year's honorees in the coming week. Tickets are still available and there are many sponsorship opportunities for you to support this important local program. For information about tickets, sponsorships and other details, go to <http://www.acgov.org/whof/>.

More than 200 women have been inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame since its inception in 1993. In addition to honoring extraordinary women leaders from Alameda County, the program raises funds for the Mary V. King "Leading the Way" Youth Scholarship and helps support local nonprofit community partners serving women, youth and families.

The Women's Hall of Fame is a countywide event held in conjunction with **National Women's History Month** in March.

Disaster Relief Extended to Communities Affected by Wildfires, Mudslides

On January 23rd, the Board of Supervisors extended support generated through the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund to communities in Central and Southern California affected by wildfires in December and related mudslides in early January.

On January 9th, mudslides struck the community of Montecito in Santa Barbara County, killing at least 17 people, injuring many others and causing extensive property damage. The mudslides followed heavy rainfall and affected hillsides cleared of vegetation by wildfires that swept across parts of California in December. Those wildfires caused at least two deaths and billions of dollars in property damage.

The Disaster Relief Fund has been receiving support from County employees and residents since late summer, when hurricanes devastated parts of Texas, Florida and the Caribbean. The Fund continued to provide relief through the fall after the Board extended support to people impacted by the mass shooting in Las Vegas and the Napa/Sonoma wine country fires in October.

**Alameda County
Disaster Relief Fund**
Click for more details

County employees and our communities have generously provided support to victims of natural and man-made disasters since the Board established the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund following the attacks of September 11, 2001. The Fund has been reactivated following disasters both domestic and abroad, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile in 2010, the Northern Japan Earthquake/Tsunami in 2011 and the tragic Ghost Ship warehouse fire in Oakland in December 2016

Go to <http://acgov.org/government/news/disaster.htm> to make an online donation or to obtain more information. County employees may also have the option to donate up to 5 days of their accrued vacation time, compensatory time and/or holiday in-lieu time. Information about the Disaster Relief Fund is also at **ACGOV Cares** (<http://acgovcares.org/>), our ongoing effort to engage employees and residents about volunteerism and other opportunities to strengthen our communities.

Valentine's Day Weddings to be at Clerk-Recorder's Offices in Oakland and Dublin

The Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office is taking reservations for wedding ceremonies on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14th, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Reservations are available for weddings at the Clerk-Recorder's main office, 1106 Madison Street in Oakland, and at its satellite office at 7600 Dublin Boulevard in Dublin. The Oakland location offers a specially furnished Wedding Room, while the Dublin location features a charming outdoor courtyard for ceremonies.

Couples who would like to make reservations for their wedding ceremonies on Valentine's Day must obtain their marriage license by Friday, February 9th. While wedding ceremonies are available at both office locations, marriage licenses are sold exclusively at the Clerk-Recorder's main office location in Oakland.

Ceremonies are \$75 and appointments can be made when purchasing the marriage license or by calling the Clerk-Recorder at **(510) 272-6362**. Each appointment will last approximately 20 minutes. Walk-in service will also be available in Oakland on Valentine's Day, on a first-come, first-served basis.



County Administrator Honored for Leadership

County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi received a special **Circle of Service Award** from the California State Association of Counties on January 23 for her work in negotiating a 2017 agreement with the State that helped to cushion the blow of a shift in costs to counties related to the State-mandated In-Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS). Pictured with Muranishi is Darby Kernan, CSAC's Deputy Executive Director for Legislative Affairs, who said the IHSS agreement was just the latest example of the County Administrator stepping forward to provide leadership when California counties face thorny challenges. "She is always there to bring a balanced approach that addresses tough issues while making sure California's 58 counties always get the best deal possible," Kernan said of Muranishi.



Career Opportunities with Alameda Alliance for Health

The Alameda Alliance for Health – a public, not-for-profit managed care health plan ensuring care for underserved residents and families of Alameda County – has a number of career opportunities for people with a vast array of skills.

Specialties where opportunities exist include finance and accounting; executive leadership, customer service, quality improvement, nursing, behavioral health, social work, community outreach, pharmacy and information technology.

Go to <https://www.alamedaalliance.org/> for more information about the Alliance. To view the Alliance career page, go to <https://jobs-alamedaalliance.icims.com/jobs/search?ss=1>

Closure of Redwood Road Near Castro Valley Extended Through February

The Public Works Agency has extended the closure of Redwood Road, at mile marker 7.38 near Castro Valley, through February due to rains in December and January that saturated the worksite and slowed repair work.

Motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians are advised to use alternate routes. Access to the East Bay Regional Park District's Anthony Chabot campground is limited to the Oakland side of Redwood Road.

Go to www.acpwa.org for updates.



A section of Redwood Road near Castro Valley collapsed during heavy rains last year. Repairs will continue through February