



Alameda County Announces Winners of 2019 Stone Soup Competition

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday announced the winners of the County's 2019 Stone Soup Food Drive and Design Competition, which placed County departments in friendly competition in raising food donations for the Alameda County Community Food Bank – and in building inspired displays to capture public attention about hunger in the community.

County employees made personal donations of more than eight tons of food and more than \$13,000 cash to the Food Bank in this year's Stone Soup Food Drive. That cash figure equates to nearly \$100,000 worth of food for residents struggling with food insecurity — because the Food Bank can convert every \$1 donated into \$7 worth of nutritious food items.

In addition, 16 employee teams constructed creative public displays — focused on the themes of hunger and helping others — with boxes, cans and sacks of non-perishable food items donated by County workers. Those entries were judged in the annual awards competition whose winners were revealed today. The winners were:

The Leadership Award went to the Board of Supervisors for its display, "Imagine Vision 2026," a construction made of soup and vegetable cans depicting an iconic portrait of John Lennon and the title of his famous song, "Imagine." The display calls on the community to imagine a future in which Alameda County realizes the key goals of its long-term Strategic Vision, called Vision 2026. One of those goals is eliminating poverty and hunger in the community.

The Best Recipe Award went to both the County Administrator's Office and the Public Works Agency for achieving the highest combined judges scores for creativity and food and cash donated. The County Administrator's Office display also focused on Vision 2026 and the six 10x Goals the County has established for supporting thriving communities well into the future. The Public Works Agency went with what it knows best, designing a Street Sweeper – complete with rotating brooms – urging the community to sweep away the problem of hunger in Alameda County.

The Chef's Award went to the District Attorney's Office, for its display, "Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow," and messages urging youth to pursue their dreams through education; and the Information Technology Department for its "Game of Thrones"-themed display, "Hunger is No Game — Food is Coming." The award went to the entries with the highest combined judges' scores for inspirational use of food donations and creativity.

The Most Creative Award went to both the Auditor-Controller Agency for its display, "Let's Rise Up to End Hunger," and the Social Services Agency for its "Fab Five Food Superheroes" display. The award went to the entries with the highest scores for creativity and imaginative quality.



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Three other awards were given to nine other County departments that participated in the Stone Soup competition. A complete list of this year's winners, and photographs of their entries, can be found at: <http://acgov.org/government/news/stonesoup.htm>

"Once again, our County employees stepped up to help their neighbors in a meaningful way," said County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, who launched the first Stone Soup Food Drive in 2012 to give added motivation and inspiration to its annual effort to support the Alameda County Community Food Bank. "The success of this year's Stone Soup Food Drive also reflects the priority Alameda County places on ending hunger in our communities."

The Stone Soup Food Drive is central to Alameda County's "10x" Goal of eliminating poverty and hunger in the community. The term 10x describes the approach of "moonshot" thinking that inspired some of the greatest technology innovations of the past several decades. Inspired by this game-changing approach, Alameda County set out six 10x Goals in [Vision 2026](#), its long-term Strategic Vision for supporting local communities to thrive over the next decade.

While Stone Soup is a County-sponsored initiative, all food and cash contributions are made voluntarily by County employees and departmental leadership.

This was Alameda County's 6th annual Stone Soup Food Drive, but 2019 marks the first time the effort has taken place outside the end-of-the-year holiday season. The timing was changed because the Food Bank typically finds it especially difficult to provide food for hungry residents during the first months of the year – after receiving an annual surge of donations during the holidays.

The Alameda County Community Food Bank accepts donations year-round to help the community's less fortunate. To donate, go to <http://www.accfb.org/>.

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