



COUNTY OF MONTEREY

# CAO Weekly Report

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## SPECIALREPORT



*Supervisor Mary Adams (far right) presents a resolution honoring this year's successful Employee Giving Campaign to Child Support Services Director Jody Holtzworth who was the Campaign Chair. Also on hand during the ceremony are Katy Castagna, United Way; Anna Marie Olds, Human Resources; Susie McKee, Health and Gerardo Perez, Information Technology.*

## County Notes

- > Did you know county libraries have lots of fun events every day? Check out their [calendar](#) for activities at all branches.

# Congratulations to All for a Successful Giving Campaign

The 2017 Monterey County Employee Giving Campaign officially has come to an end, although this week, many departments were getting in last minute fundraising efforts to raise just a little more money for deserving charities.

The campaign is ending on a high note and donations are still being counted.

This year's theme was "Everyone can be a Superhero" and from the many events organized by dedicated staff and the dollars they raised, there are a lot of county superheroes! Campaign Chair Jody Holtzworth says it has been an exceptional year.

"The executive committee and department liaisons have really gone the extra mile this year and I want to thank them for their time and efforts. I also want to thank all of our employees who donated to the many worthy causes. We, as a whole, benefit in return because it helps us have stronger, healthier communities in our county."

When Holtzworth received a resolution from the Board of Supervisors this week, she asked three members of the executive committee to accompany her, so she could honor Anna Marie Olds, Susie McKee and Gerardo Perez for their longstanding support for the giving program. Thanks also to the departments which did so many fundraising events. The total is \$5,740 - and counting!

Libraries  
 Clerk of the Board  
 Health Department  
 Treasurer-Tax Collector  
 Assessor-Recorder  
 Probation  
 Information Technology  
 Employee and Community Relations  
 Sheriff  
 CAO/IGLA-OES  
 Emergency Communications  
 Department of Social Services  
 Department of Child Support Services  
 Department Heads Council



*Monica Rodriguez celebrates her GoPro Hero win with Clerk of the Board staff.*

Wrapping up events from last week and this week, here are some of the results of campaign fundraisers:

The three-week online auction was a great success, this year earning \$2,898.

The winner of the Clerk of the Board's GoPro Hero drawing package is Monica Rodriguez from the Public Defender's Office. This event raised more than \$1,200.

Congratulations to Miriam Hernandez of the Health Department's Behavioral Health Bureau who was the winner of the Health Department BBQ Grill drawing. This event raised \$1,355.

The winners of the prize baskets drawing today from the Auditor-Controller's Office are Sonia Angelo, Sheriff's Office; Erika Martinez, Auditor-Controller; Patricia Vasquez, Child Support Services and Maria Papurello, Auditor-Controller. This event raised \$300 and an Ice Cream Sundae Social yesterday raised \$172.

Congratulations to all for a great campaign.

# VITA Volunteers Needed for 2017 Tax Season



Interested?  
Visit [UnitedWayMCCA.org/free-tax-prep](http://UnitedWayMCCA.org/free-tax-prep)

## GAIN A SKILL! CHANGE A LIFE!

### Sign up to be a Volunteer Tax Preparer!

We provide FREE tax training and certification to fit YOUR schedule!  
Check out our website for training dates and more info.

- UWMC's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance service (VITA) provides free tax counseling and preparation to working families and individuals.
- Last year, volunteers helped bring back millions in refunds and credits back into our local economy.
- Receive 32 hours of free tax certification to prepare you for the season. Training can be done online or in class, and all materials are provided.
- Volunteer at a tax site in your neighborhood.
- Visit [unitedwaymcca.org/free-tax-prep](http://unitedwaymcca.org/free-tax-prep) to learn more.

**WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?**

- Tax Preparers
- Greeters
- Site Coordinators
- Interpreters
- Bilingual volunteers appreciated



## Training Begins This Fall!

Sign up now to help your community save their tax dollars.

**Earn It! Keep It! Save It!**  
[www.unitedwaymcca.org/free-tax-prep](http://www.unitedwaymcca.org/free-tax-prep)



Tax season is around the corner and time for the annual call for volunteers for the VITA program.

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is a collaborative program between the Monterey County Department of Social Services (DSS) and the United Way. VITA provides free federal and state income tax preparation and electronic filing for low to moderate-income individuals and families, helping them get their hard-earned refunds. But without trained volunteers, those refunds won't happen.

The United Way is looking for volunteers to become tax preparers and fill other vital roles. Volunteers will be trained and certified by the IRS, so you can learn a skill and help the community.

Check out the graphic to the left for additional details. If you'd like to volunteer, you can sign up online [here](#).

# Health Department Shares Information During Suicide Prevention Week

Most of us have been touched by the tragedy of suicide: we may have lost someone close to us or been moved by the loss of someone we may have never met but heard of their passing.

When a suicide happens, those left behind often experience deep shock. Even if they knew the person was struggling, they may not have expected suicide would be the result.

The Health Department marked this year's Suicide Prevention Week by encouraging people to know the signs, find the words and reach out to someone if you are concerned for them.

- **Know the Signs:** Most people who are considering suicide show some warning signs or signals of their intentions. Learn to recognize these warning signs and how to respond to them by visiting the Know the Signs website ([www.suicideispreventable.org](http://www.suicideispreventable.org)).
- **Find the Words:** If you are concerned about someone, ask them directly if they are thinking about suicide. This can be difficult to do, but being direct provides an opportunity for them to open up and talk about their distress and will not suggest the idea to them if they aren't already thinking about it. The "Find the Words" section of the Know the Signs website ([www.suicideispreventable.org](http://www.suicideispreventable.org)) suggests ways to start the conversation.
- **Reach Out:** You are not alone in this. Before having the conversation, become familiar with some resources to offer to the person you are concerned about. Visit the Reach Out section of the Know the Signs website ([www.suicideispreventable.org](http://www.suicideispreventable.org)) to identify where you can find help for your friend or loved one.

There are programs and practices that have been specifically developed to support those who are in a suicide crisis. The Suicide Prevention Resource Center hosts a registry of 160 programs, practices and resources for suicide prevention. You can learn more about them by visiting <http://www.sprc.org/strategic-planning/finding-programs-practices>.

