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November 21, 2016

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Alameda County Seeks to Inspire Volunteerism, Community Service Through ACGOV Cares

Alameda County is formally launching ACGOV Cares, a new online effort to engage the County's 9,600 employees – and our residents – about caring for our communities through volunteerism and many other programs and opportunities that strengthen our East Bay region.

The new site, <http://acgovcares.org/>, showcases the many ways County employees are already making a difference – by mentoring disadvantaged youth, volunteering for worthy causes, feeding the hungry and helping their neighbors. Through first-person stories of employees who donate their resources and time, ACGOV Cares seeks to create/inspire a sense of collective pride within the County workforce and inspire others to commit themselves to community service.

The site also has outward-facing elements that focus on engaging residents about volunteerism and opportunities for them to give in creative, wide-ranging ways. Through a link to [VolunteerMatch](#), the site helps to match residents with opportunities that match their interests and support our communities.

ACGOV Cares also taps the rich tradition of community service within the County workforce to inspire others to give. It casts a spotlight on innovative County service programs such as **Combined Charities**, which allows employees to support great community causes all year long through small payroll deductions; **Adopt-A-Family**, through which employees bring holiday cheer to foster children and families on public assistance; and the annual **Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition**, which has sparked a surge of holiday giving by employees who challenge the creativity and compassion of their peers while helping the Alameda County Community Food Bank to feed the hungry.

“We are proud of the many ways our employees donate their resources and their time throughout the year to make our community a better place,” said Scott Haggerty, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. “We think ACGOV Cares will give credit where credit is due – and inspire others to get involved and experience the powerful rewards of volunteerism.”

The site also is designed to evolve as it inspires people to volunteer, and to share their powerful stories of giving back. Already, the site features a wide range of testimonials from employees who volunteer their time to help others. Testimonials showcased on ACGOV Cares now include those of employees who volunteer to:

- Feed the hungry through free meal programs
- Coordinate an athletic competition that raises funds for a Bay Area organ donation program
- Support local youth whose lives have been affected by sex trafficking

New employee testimonials will be added regularly to maintain and enhance interest in ACGOV Cares.

“Our employees have always been inspired by the spirit of community service,” said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. “Through ACGOV Cares, we want to acknowledge their commitment to our communities and encourage them to share their stories as both an inspiration and a challenge to all county employees – to seek new opportunities to give back and experience the many rewards of community service.”