



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **RECORD-BREAKING HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE AND DESIGN COMPETITION TO BE SUBJECT OF AWARDS CELEBRATION IN OAKLAND**

The Winners of Alameda County's Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition will be announced **at 11 a.m. Tuesday, November 25**, at a meeting of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The meeting will take place at the Alameda County Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland.

The competition this year enabled Alameda County to smash its all-time record for employee donations to the County's annual Holiday Food Drive in support of the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

County employees donated more than 8 tons of food and over \$8,000 in cash to nearly double the County's previous record, set last year.

"This shows that when we mobilize our 9,500-plus employees, we can really make a difference," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. "Our dedicated workforce and executive leaders are generous, creative and committed to improving our communities and the lives of our residents."

The food drive's success was achieved by creating some friendly competition among County departments that were urged to rise above their peers in terms of total donations raised and to test their artistic know-how by creating compelling sculptures/art pieces using donated food cans, boxes and packages.

It is this latter aspect of the County's Stone Soup competition that really stirs employee passions. This year, they pulled out all the stops to create visual public displays in County buildings emphasizing the theme of hunger.

In all, 14 County departments participated in this year's competition. Using food items they created several imaginative displays, including: a replica of Hayward's historic Meek Estate Mansion; a "Kingdom of Can-a-Lot and the Knights of the Full Table;" a detailed model of Oakland's Rene C. Davidson courthouse; a model of the robot "Wall-E," that combines food packages with some high-tech gadgetry in a depiction of the Pixar Animation movie character; and a replica of the Oakland shoreline, complete with the Port of Oakland's towering cargo cranes.

"These amazing displays are what people are talking about as they pass through our County buildings," said Keith Carson, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. "We hope that the generosity and creative talents of our employees inspire others to have conversations about the basic needs of our communities and take action to help end hunger here in Alameda County."

Four awards will be presented on Tuesday, based on the best incorporation of food; the most creative concept; a "Chef's Award" that combines the first two categories; and a "Best Recipe Award" that factors in the entry's total amount of food and cash collected.

Pictures of these amazing creations will be displayed throughout Tuesday's demonstration. In addition, some of the creations are still on display in offices near the Board chambers, and can be shown to camera crews.

Lastly, County officials will be available for interviews to discuss how the competition came to be and the background of the innovative entries. Interviews can be provided in Spanish and Chinese as well.