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## **WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY'S RECORD-BREAKING HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE AND DESIGN COMPETITION**

Six Alameda County departments were honored with awards on Tuesday for their winning entries in the County's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stone Soup Holiday Food Drive and Design Competition, which this year helped the County smash its all-time record for employee donations to its annual Holiday Food Drive to support 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 between 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. The displays, which have adorned Alameda County public buildings over the past several weeks, all focus on the theme of hunger.

A panel of five judges reviewed the entries made by 14 different County departments in this year's competition. Winners in this year's Stone Soup competition were:

- **Most Innovative Award – The District Attorney's Office.** This award went to the entry seen to show the best incorporation of food in its display. The winning entry is a detailed replica of the Rene C. Davidson Courthouse near Oakland's Lake Merritt. The model was built with more than 1,300 pounds of food and stands more than 6-foot-tall.
- **Most Creative Award – The Registrar of Voters Office.** The Registrar's entry, which received the judges' highest score for creativity, is a model depicting the Oakland shoreline that includes the Port of Oakland's iconic cargo cranes. The model incorporated the 556 pounds of food donated to the Food Drive by Registrar employees.
- **Chef's Award – The Auditor-Controller Agency.** The award, given for the highest combined scores for incorporation of food and for creativity, went to the Auditor Agency's depiction of Shel Silverstein's story, "The Giving Tree." The display incorporated 1,120 pounds of food.
- **Best Recipe Award – Information Technology Department.** The IT Department created a detailed replica of the robot "Wall-E," from the Pixar Animation movie, that incorporates more than 2,222 pounds of food. The award weighed the IT department's high totals for food donations, as well as the \$1,024.50 in cash donations made by employees.
- **Honorable Mention – County Administrator's Office and Office of the County Counsel.** The County Administrator's Office used 550 pounds of donated food to create a model of the Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry and the Food Bank itself. The County Counsel created a model of the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum and a large football using 806.25 pounds of donated food.

"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."