Monterey County Administrative Office
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- A big ‘thank you’ to Health Department staff who helped county workers stay a head of the flu bug

County Support for a Holiday Giving Program Will Put Smiles on the Faces of Hundreds of Foster Children

Monterey County employees have come through in a big way for local foster children this holiday season.

Organizers of the annual Holiday Giving Program, which gathers gifts for foster children in Monterey County, say county employees donated 200 of the 800 gifts needed to make the holidays bright for these children.

“Abuse and neglect know no season, and children who are living in foster care or are in emergency foster care have an especially difficult time during the holidays,” explains Dyane Tori, who coordinates the yearly gift drive. “Times are tough, but when it comes to foster children, county employees and the community are really coming through to bring these kids some happiness.”

The Holiday Giving Project is a collaborative between G.I.F.T. Inc and the Department of Social and Employment Services, Family and Children’s Services Division.
Participants select paper ornaments with details about a foster child and their gift wishes. Donors purchase and wrap the gift, which is delivered by volunteers.

If you are participating in the program, but sure to get your gift, with the paper ornament attached, to those coordinating gift pick up at your department by the end of the week.

Shelter Art Project Gives Needy Pets Some Glamour and Hope

When animals arrive at the Monterey County Animal Services (MCAS) shelter, they are experiencing fear, loss, shock and stress. As part of the admitting process, shelter staff takes photos of the animals. These photos are essentially a mug shot, and the animal is not looking its best. Due to budget restrictions, there have been few resources for shelter staff to create better images of the animals – until now.

MCAS has collaborated with the Shelter Art Foundation to provide creative and attractive photos of the adoptable animals at the shelter. These new photos, showcasing each animal’s personality and charm, replace those ‘mug shot” entry photos. The more classy pictures are uploaded to MCAS’s website, Facebook page and distributed to Petfinder and Adopt-a-Pet, two national websites for adoptable animals.

The MCAS photography team is composed of county employees who are volunteering their time and who have been trained by Shelter Art Foundation as animal handlers, photographers and photo editors. The training program gives volunteers proven methods for capturing compelling images under studio-lit conditions and the results speak for themselves.

Our county volunteers are:

Sandy Ayala, Environmental Health
Bob Bates, Environmental Health
Nancy Treffry, Environmental Health
Betty Purcell, Accounting
Ismail J. Cruz-Osorio, Adult Services
Peggy Harris, POA Environmental Health
Photo sessions take place once a week, but that is not enough time to keep up with the constant intake of animals. More volunteers are needed so that all pets have the best possible profile photo to attract adopters. You can find out more about volunteer photography by contacting Nancy Treffry at x1299 or Peggy Harris at x 4571.

A Thank You to Health Workers Who Helped County Employees Beat the Flu Bug

On November 30th, the Health Department hosted a luncheon in appreciation of staff members who contributed to the Monterey County Employee Influenza Clinics.

“More employees received the vaccine at work this year than any past season,” says Ray Bullick, Health Department Director. “The staff exceeded my expectations and I’m very proud of how they all pulled together to make it happen.”

“We had folks from our finance office, nurses from all of the different Public Health Units, office assistants, partners from Natividad Medical Center, communication folks, student nurses, and even the co-workers who helped us carry all of the boxes,” says Molly Hubbard, Immunization Coordinator. “I was impressed with how well we worked together as a team.”

Employees who contributed to the clinics were treated to a special meal, home cooked BBQ prepared by Ray Bullick himself.