

# Headlines

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## Kathy's Corner

By Kathy Gallagher, EHSD Director



### A Giving Competition

We are in the midst of the annual Holiday Food Fight, a friendly competition between Contra

Costa and Solano to raise money for our Food Bank that serves both counties.

Last year's need for support was starkly obvious as we grappled with Covid's impact on everyone, particularly on thousands of families who were already struggling, and even more who faced new financial hardships resulting from the pandemic.

In 2020, Contra Costa County raised more than \$70,000, providing 140,000 meals. In particular, EHSD came through with astounding generosity by raising the most in donations from the County's large departments (301+ employees). THANK YOU!

In 2021, we may have a more hopeful outlook as we prepare for the holiday season and the coming year. Yet the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano continues to respond to an overwhelming demand from our community members who are still working through the financial devastation of being underemployed, losing their jobs, small businesses, or homes.

Unemployment insurance and emergency funds replace only a small percentage of lost income, and we are seeing the expiration of many of these resources. So many of our families are months

behind in rent payments and deeply in debt, relying on the Food Bank to meet nutritional needs.

At EHSD, we can be grateful that, through the pandemic, we have avoided furloughs and layoffs. We have the opportunity to show our compassion and dedication that we bring every day to our human services work. As this holiday season approaches, I am asking our EHSD family to again dig deep to help those who have been so seriously impacted during this extraordinary time. Every donation matters and contributes to putting good, nutritious food on many tables.

I encourage you to consider how you might support the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano through this year's Holiday Food Fight.

*My best and Happy Holidays to all of our EHSD family.*

*Kathy Gallagher, EHSD Director*



EHSD won the Contra Costa County trophy for the most donations from a large department last year. Let's go for it again!

# Holiday Food Fight 2021

EHSD Holiday Food Fighters are in the ring! We are already seeing many generous contributions from staff coming through the EHSD [donation page](#) on the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano's website.

While we get to have some fun as part of the Holiday Food Fight, we know that many EHSD customers and community members rely heavily on the Food Bank to ensure they have nutritious food for their families. As a department, we have great capacity to support our entire community, and the Food Bank as an EHSD partner. We appreciate you giving whatever you can for this worthy cause.

## Holiday Food Fight FAQs

**How do I donate?** You can easily donate on the [EHSD page on the Food Bank's website \(https://give.foodbankccs.org/team/325286\)](https://give.foodbankccs.org/team/325286).

**Why money instead of canned food?** The Food Bank stretches every dollar so it can increase its buying power to purchase fresh, nutritious vegetables and fruits.

**How many meals will each \$1 donation buy?** Two.

**Are there other ways to support the Food Fight aside from donating online?**

Participate in any activities and fundraisers at your EHSD building. Post a message of support and the donation link on your social media if you would like. Re-gift a usable gift card by donating to the EHSD Gift Card Drawing, request a donation from a business, or buy a ticket for a chance to win.



### **EHSD Gift Card Drawing Thursday, December 16**

Cost to enter: \$3 per ticket, \$5 for two (save \$1), \$12 for five (save \$3) and \$20 for eight (save \$4)

To enter, go to the [EHSD donation page](#) by Wednesday, December 15th at 5 p.m., put in the donation amount for total number of tickets you are purchasing, and type in this info in the comments section as you submit your donation:

- **EHSD Gift Card Drawing**
- **Total number of tickets**
- **Name, phone & location**

We appreciate all of you who are donating gift cards and money to bolster our prize box (remember to send them in by Friday, December 10th). This year we plan to spread the winnings among many!



To see how the Food Bank is supporting those in need during these challenging times, check out this Food Bank video.

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## Holiday Helpers Broaden VESTIA's Impact

By Cindy Smith, Program Coordinator VES Unit and Judy Peralde, VESTIA Board President



As the holiday season approaches, EHSD's nonprofit partner VESTIA is reaching into the community to show support for the work organizations do on behalf of EHSD clients and others in need. 2021 continues to be a difficult year for Contra Costa children and families who continue to feel the stress and uncertainty as they struggle to pay bills. COVID-19 has had a devastating impact, with more than 100,000 cases in Contra Costa County alone since the pandemic began.

This year's **Holiday Helpers** program will look a little different than it has in the past. This season, VESTIA is raising money to donate \$30,000 to four nonprofit organizations and two EHSD programs to help strengthen our communities and our neighbors in West, East, and Central Contra Costa County who have fallen on hard times. Many of the families we serve are the "working poor" who are barely able to make ends meet. We admire their persistence and are here to offer a helping hand.

VESTIA has chosen the following organizations/ programs as recipients of this year's Holiday Helpers reimagined season of giving:

- [Monument Crisis Center](#)
- [Love a Child Missions Homeless Shelter](#)
- [Bay Point Community All -N-One](#)
- West Contra Costa Youth Services Bureau
- [Children & Family Services \(Children's Fund & Emergency Shelter Fund\)](#)

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Holiday Helpers program and help VESTIA support these organizations and the families at risk in our community please visit: <https://vestiainc.org/holiday-helpers-warehouse/> or send your donation check to: VESTIA, Inc., 400 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 and write "HHW" on the memo line.

VESTIA's tax ID # is 94-3017952.





## True Grit, EHSD's New Civil Rights Coordinator

By Alan Wang, Community Relations Specialist

Gabriela Zapata gets her sense of righteousness from watching her mother speak out for her family when things weren't looking fair. "I realized I also had a voice that deserved to be heard," says EHSD's new Civil Rights Coordinator. Gabriela grew up in one of Oakland's toughest neighborhoods, off of International Boulevard, where the Latin X community wasn't always heard. Today, she's making sure the voices of EHSD clients are heard when they believe their civil rights are being violated. *Headlines* sat down with Gabriela to find out more about what she does and where she gets her grit.

### What is your role as the Civil Rights Coordinator for EHSD?

**Gabriela:** The Civil Rights Coordinator and the Appeals Unit are responsible for conducting investigations and making reports on behalf of EHSD's clients. As the Civil Rights Coordinator, I am the official point of contact for discrimination complaints. I'm responsible for compiling the Civil

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## True Grit, EHSD's New Civil Rights Coordinator

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Rights Annual Report and I'm the main organizer for the compliance review. I'm also a resource for County staff on all civil rights matters. I will work with you and the State Civil Rights Unit (CRU) to assist with specific questions you may have as I provide guidance regarding our department's practices and our county's needs.

### What are some examples of common situations where you step in as the Civil Rights Coordinator?

**Gabriela:** Some common situations where I would step in as the Civil Rights Coordinator would be during the Civil Rights Investigation process. I ensure that the Civil Rights Investigators in the Appeals Unit have the training/resources available to complete a thorough investigation. This means they would need to have access to County records, County policy and procedures, and County staff to interview for a discrimination complaint in the investigation process.

### How can EHSD employees utilize your services?

**Gabriela:** I can be reached by my direct line at (925) 655-0872, the Appeals main line at (925) 655-0880, or through e-mail at [gzapata@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:gzapata@ehsd.cccounty.us). You can send me information to review and I will get back to you.

### Tell us a little bit about your background.

**Gabriela:** I started my public services career in Solano County as a CalWORKS/WTW eligibility worker. Then I worked for the IEVS Overpayment



Gabriela's daughter, Cassandra, is an avid softball player in a year-round league and at her high school in Fairfield.

Unit until I was promoted to an Appeals Officer where I finished my time with Solano County working Appeals for 12 years ( a total of 17 years of service)

### What's an important lesson you've learned in life that you apply to your work at EHSD?

**Gabriela:** One huge lesson that I have learned in life is that there is always someone out there in the world that has it worse than you. I try my best to keep that in mind and I work one day at a time



Gabriela's son, Juan Carlos (left), Gabriela (center) and husband, Juan Zapata (right). Being diagnosed with leukemia on Christmas Eve 2009, then finally leaving ICU and the hospital a decade later before Thanksgiving makes the holidays hard for us and special at the same time.

Gabriela and her son re-wrote and sang the lyrics to the song "Imagine" during music therapy at Oakland Children's Hospital. To watch it, CLICK on the link <https://youtu.be/eOPiVsrDck>

because tomorrow is not guaranteed to anyone. I say this because my 9-year old son was diagnosed with a rare Leukemia (ALL+ PH) back in 2009. I lived at Oakland Children's

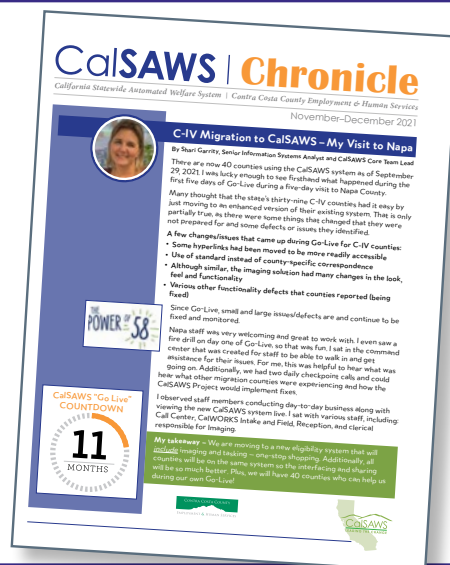
Hospital for 6 month during my son's Stem Cell Transplant and I spent 10 years in an out of the hospital fighting for his life. Today, I am happy to say he is cancer free and we just celebrated his 21st birthday so I truly feel blessed to have him with us. But witnessing babies and children suffering and losing their battle to cancer changes your perspective in life forever. Work will always be

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## CalSAWS Chronicle, November-December

Forty of California's 58 counties are now on CalSAWS! EHSD's Shari Garrity was on the scene for Go-Live in Napa, one of the C-IV counties that made the big switch in September. As Contra Costa and other CalWIN counties get ready for Go-Live starting next fall, Shari shares her insights from the C-IV transition. Read all about it in the November-December 2021 issue of the CalSAWS Chronicle. Also, learn why data cleanup is critically important, and about the work involved in migrating millions of documents in five phases. Plus, you can also play the CalSAWS Crossword puzzle!

To read more, **CLICK** on the image.



## True Grit, EHSD's New Civil Rights Coordinator

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here and taking care of ourselves and our families is important for EHSD staff in order for us to service our clients the best that we can. You can **CLICK** on the link below if you would like to view a video of our time in the hospital. <https://youtu.be/e0PiVsirDCK>

**Tell us something interesting about yourself.**

**Gabriela:** I wear a flower in my hair to keep me close to my identical twin sister who moved to the Lake Tahoe/Reno area. We have been nearly inseparable and the flower helps me keep her close to me as I do not see her as often as I would like.

## Holiday Food Fight FAQs

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**Does my Food Bank donation count toward the Holiday Food Fight if I made it through the Combined Charities Campaign for 2020?**

Yes. Please forward a record of your Combined Charities Food Bank Donation form/confirmation to [EventsCommittee@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:EventsCommittee@ehsd.cccounty.us).

**Does EHSD need gift card donations this year?**

YES! We are gathering usable gift cards for restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, coffee shops, movie theatres, sports venues, retail shops or online shopping, to include in the EHSD Gift Card Drawing. You can also help by asking a business owner to donate a gift card to the cause (we can provide a Food Bank donation receipt for tax purposes). Email [EventsCommittee@ehsd](mailto:EventsCommittee@ehsd).

[cccounty.us](http://cccounty.us) by Friday, December 10th if you want to donate, or drop off to Community Relations at 40 Douglas.

**When is the EHSD Gift Card Drawing?** Thursday, December 16th. More details to come.

**Do donations from EHSD retirees count toward the Food Fight total?** Yes.

**When does this year's campaign end?** December 31st, 2021.

**Can I send a donation by check instead of donating online?** Yes. Send to **Deb Johnson**/Community Relations at 40 Douglas Drive, Martinez. You can also send cash and check donations from non-staff members.

# Pink Wheels Keep on Rollin'. How I Celebrated My Last Cancer Treatment

By Elisa Connell, CFS Social Services Program Assistant/Foster Care

Breast cancer touches so many lives. About one in eight women will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. As a young child I witnessed my mother battle breast cancer when she was 48 years old. Due to my family history, I began getting mammogram screenings every two years when I was 36 years old. In March 2021 my mammogram showed some abnormalities and so an additional mammogram and biopsy was ordered. On April 12, 2021 I was diagnosed with Stage 1B breast cancer. Even with my family history, it was still a bit shocking that at 44 years of age I was about to start my own battle with breast cancer. I took a leave of absence from work for surgery and chemotherapy. I completed three months of chemotherapy and returned to work full-time before my last chemo treatment was complete. My co-workers and supervisor have been so supportive throughout this whole journey and being back at work was good for me mentally. The last step of my active treatment was 15 radiation treatments which I completed on October 27th. To celebrate my last day, my husband organized for Project Pink Wheels to transport me to my last treatment.

Project Pink Wheels celebrates and honors many cancer warriors in our community and the pink fire truck was designed to show support for those in our community touched by any type of cancer. The truck is a rolling honorarium that has been signed by cancer warriors. Captain Chris Leimpeter's wife is a breast cancer survivor and is the inspiration for this project. The project is run by volunteer firefighters and many of those have had a loved one affected by cancer. The project just celebrated its one year anniversary.



Captain Leimpeter and retired Captain Elia Alailima, who still volunteers his time to the project, came to my house and picked me up in the pink fire truck to drive me to my last radiation. My husband was able to ride along so that he could see me ring the bell. It was the first time Project Pink Wheels had transported someone to Kaiser's Cancer center in Dublin. While the pink fire truck was parked at the cancer center several other cancer fighters, doctors and nurses came out to take pictures in front of the truck and the firefighters were able to share their mission. When we returned to our house, I was welcomed by family, friends and the neighborhood kids. I signed the truck with a short message and also signed the truck with my mother's name who lost her fight to cancer in 2005.

I share my story to bring awareness and encourage women to perform monthly self-exams and to schedule regular clinical breast exams and mammograms. Early detection is key to saving lives. I also want to give kudos to Captain Chris and his volunteers for such a wonderful program.

—Elisa Connell



# Quick Tips: Reducing Holiday Stress

Contributed By Personnel Services

In your work and personal lives today, you're likely to encounter people who differ from you—in areas such as culture, ethnicity, age group, physical abilities or limitations, educational background, gender identity and sexual orientation. However, don't let such characteristics divide you! If you take the time to learn about others' lives and treat them with respect, you'll almost certainly find more commonalities than differences.



Magellan Ascend

- Ask people to share some of the customs and practices associated with their cultures.
- Encourage them to tell their personal stories; you'll get a fuller picture of who they are—their feelings, nuances and the richness of their lives. Plus, they'll be pleasantly surprised by your interest.
- Practice accepting ideas that are different from your own, and show respect to those in your daily orbit regardless of their orientation.

Read the rest of the article or browse more topics at [www.magellanascent.com](http://www.magellanascent.com).

## UPCOMING WEBINAR: *Increasing Your Movement for Better Emotional and Physical Health* December 8

Register for this webinar to:

- Discuss how to change your perspective about exercise
- List the benefits of movement on our mental and physical health
- Learn how to make exercise something to look forward to
- Discuss how to get started

Missed the live webinar? Don't worry, you can access webinar recordings by clicking on "Learning Center" and selecting "Webinars." If you haven't signed up to use the County Employee Assistance Program yet, follow these two easy steps:

Step 1: Go to [www.magellanascent.com](http://www.magellanascent.com) and click on "Sign up."

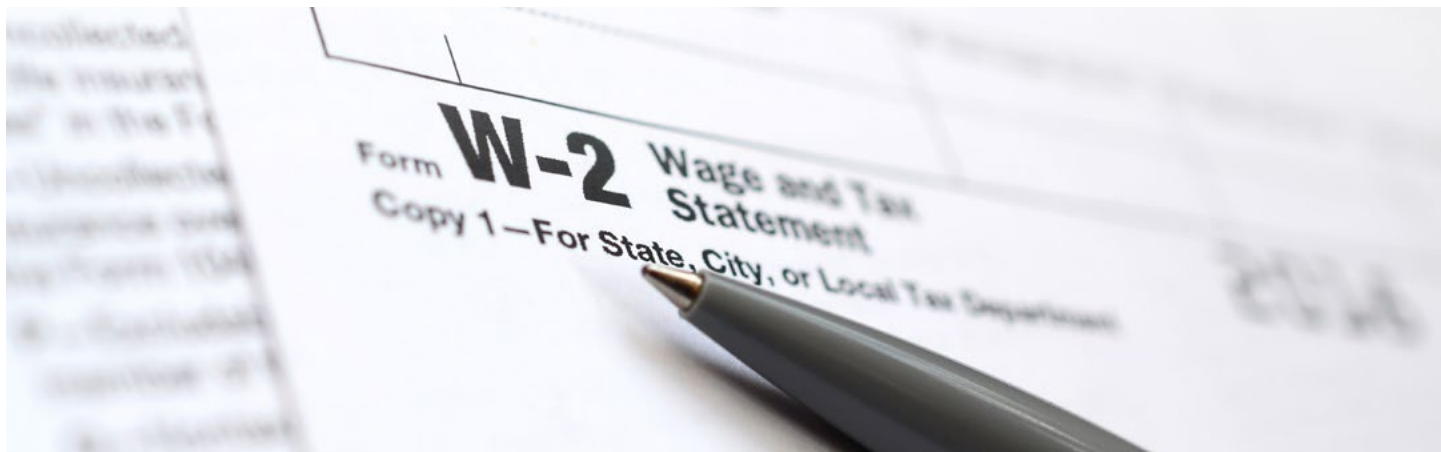
Step 2: Complete the online registration form and click on "Get Started."

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And best of all, access is free!

[Click here to access the LifeMart Discount Center in your web browser.](#)



## W-2 Forms are Going Electronic

By Cheryl Leonor, Administrative Services Assistant III

As the 2021 year-end is approaching, we would like to remind employees of the W-2 consent option available through [Employee Self-Service \(ESS\)](#).

Employees have the option to receive their W-2 year-end form electronically (through ESS) rather than having a paper form mailed out. Here are some benefits of going electronic:

- Employees have access to their W-2 earlier than if mailed out.
- Online delivery eliminates the chance of having the W-2 form lost, misdirected, delayed, or returned during delivery.
- Employees can access their online form at any time on ESS, and reprint as needed.
- W-2 form will remain online for several years.
- Reducing paper usage.

If you wish to continue to receive paper W-2 forms by mail, make sure to review your mailing address and update as needed in [Employee Self-Service \(ESS\)](#). Questions? Create a ticket through [Personnel Track-It](#) and select the “Payroll→General Payroll Questions” Transaction Type.

### Get THE DOWNLOAD

EHSD’s IT Team wants to make sure you’re in the know! Be sure to read the November–December issue of [The Download](#) to learn about what “out with the old, in with the new” means for an IT project, as well as checking bandwidth to fill the “need for speed” and not taking the bait on phishing scams.

[CLICK on the photo to read The Download.](#)

# Let's Taco About It!

By Amanda Cleveland, CSB Administrative Services Assistant III

During the week of October 11th, the Community Services Bureau's Head Start and Early Head Start directly operated programs celebrated Hispanic Heritage month by engaging the children in a Tacos Week! All of the children had the opportunity to try different types of tacos each day for lunch. The selection of tacos for the week included: Tacos Al Pastor, Carne Asada Tacos, Veggie Tacos, Crispy Blackened Tofu Tacos, and Chicken Tinga Tacos.

**Edgar Moreno**, our Child Nutrition Food Operations Supervisor, and **Sophia Talbot**, our Nutrition Manager, created and approved the menu. Together they designed a menu that was healthy, creative, and connected to the roots of traditional tacos from different parts of Mexico and all over the world!

Throughout the week, the children not only tasted many flavors of tacos, but they also did art activities around tacos and read the book *Dragons Love Tacos*. Additionally, we recorded our very own CSB Director, **Dr. Aaron Alarcón-Bowen**, reading

*Dragons Love Tacos*. As a closure to Tacos Week, we recorded our Fiscal Officer, **Nancy Benavides**, reading *Dragons Love Tacos 2!* To view these videos, get the recipes to the tacos above, and see additional photos from Tacos Week check out the [CSB Facebook page](#).

This week also provided an opportunity to highlight the wonderful work that CSB's Child Nutrition Unit does. Edgar and the team have been working to make sure children are getting fresh meals made from scratch, using mostly organic food in recipes (Edgar has a goal to have the kitchen fully organic by the end of the program year). They are passionate about ensuring children in Early Head Start and Head Start programs are receiving delicious and nutritious food. "Good food creates happiness in a child, that's why I cook with love and care," Edgar says.

Thank you Child Nutrition Unit for all that you do for the children and families in the community!



**CHILD NUTRITION UNIT**  
Top (left to right): Rhuel Alejandro, Joel DeLa Cruz, Sophia Talbot, Leticia Navarro, Rosa Santoyo, Janet Buttrick, Greg Bacigalupi, Edgar Moreno  
Bottom (left to right): Louis Sonico, Gover Thompson, Rebeca Galloway  
Not Pictured: Carmen Castaneda



# Full Circle, One Woman's Journey

By Judi Knittel, Supervisor CFS Family Engagement Unit

Recently I came into possession of an article from nearly 10 years ago about a young woman, Christine Zavala, who had recently graduated from a substance abuse program, was a new mom with a three-week old daughter, and had no place to live. This article (<https://www.calhealthreport.org/2012/12/06/family-shelters-focus-on-kids/>), highlights the realities that so many of our mothers face on a daily basis.

As a new mom coming right out of substance use treatment Christine, like so many of our parents, didn't have anything but a new baby and a desire for a better life. She secured a clean, warm, safe place to live through the Shelter, Inc. program, and arrived just before giving birth to Mia. Christine was referred by the substance use treatment program where she overcame an addiction problem.

Like so many parents, Christine's journey was not always easy. There were setbacks, bumps in the road, and hairpin turns. Our Family Engagement Team, a collaboration between CFS and the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC), entered Christine's life when she became involved with CFS. She says, "I was CFS involved and finally met my Parent Partner Dave Mason and my EIOS Venny (Mondragon). They changed my life instantly in that



Christine Zavala holds her daughter, Mia, at SHELTER Inc. in Martinez.  
PHOTO CREDIT: Heather Tirado Gilligan

time. I love this program and am thankful for all of you."

Fast forward to today, Christine is exactly where she wants to be, helping others as she was once helped. Christine is now a Spanish-speaking EIOS working in the West County office. She has come full circle to help other parents find their way to a better life, as they embark on their own personal journey just like Dave, Venny, and so many others extended a helping hand as she moved forward into life.

[CLICK on the link to watch how Dave Mason mentored another client.](#)

Parent Partners and EIOS continue their long tradition of helping families wherever they see a need, and, in the case of substance abuse, can provide substance-affected youth information about local treatment programs/opportunities, as well as straight talk regarding the effects of drug use. They can further provide caregivers with information and resources as they care for the substance-affected youth.

## From Foster Child to Rapping Dad, A Story that Inspires

By Alan Wang, Community Relations/Media Specialist

Derek Clark delivered an emotional and compelling inspirational presentation at EHSD's recent Leadership Team Meeting on November 30th. His life is one of resilience and redemption. As a child he suffered unthinkable child abuse, abandonment and emotional distress before being turned over to a psychiatric hospital at age five. His 13 years in the San Francisco Bay Area foster care system reflected an early life of humiliation, aggression, emotional distress, overwhelming anxiety and being wrongfully labeled.



Derek Clark (at 5 years old) suffered unthinkable abuse at the hands of his mother before becoming a Bay Area foster child.

CLICK on the play button to watch Derek Clark's inspirational speech.

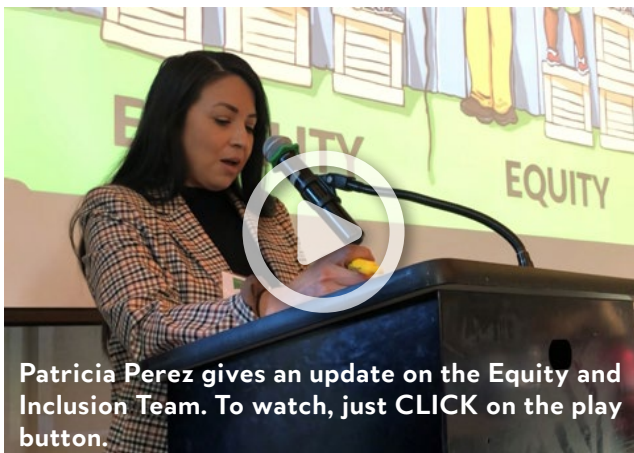
**CONTENT WARNING:** Derek speaks candidly about his experiences of violence and abuse throughout this presentation. Use viewer discretion due to sensitive content.



Eventually, with the help of loving foster parents and a fantastic social worker, he defied the artificial limitations imposed upon him. He has turned his situation from a victim to a victor, equipping him with the wisdom and the will to never give up.

Derek is an inspiring speaker, author and has recently become a viral video sensation for his "Rapping Dad" videos which have received more than 250 million views. He is also been featured on *CNN Headline News*, *The Steve Harvey Show* and many other TV shows around the world.

## Who We Are at EHSD



Patricia Perez gives an update on the Equity and Inclusion Team. To watch, just CLICK on the play button.

The recently formed Equity and Inclusion Team is committed to ensuring EHSD is a fair and inclusive work environment. The team needs accurate demographic data to best perform this important work. For this reason, the group encourages you to fill out your information in your **People Soft** profile (on the EHSD Intranet home page under MyLinks, click PeopleSoft Employee Self Service and sign in. Click on Personal Details, then Ethnic Groups).

The Equity and Inclusion Core Team is a group of EHSD volunteer representatives who are making recommendations for updating policies, training content and much more in order to improve equity and inclusion at EHSD. The team shared its latest updates at the recent EHSD Leadership Team Meeting.

## Catching the Stars – Stellar ME Results

By H. Van, EHS Division Manager, Workforce Services

Congratulations to the Multi-Program Intake Division at Hercules and the Clerical & Benefits Expedited Services Team (CBEST) for completing the CalFresh Management Evaluation with ZERO findings or errors. The State remarked on the excellent customer service provided by both teams.

*Congratulations!*



## We Care...You Care

**We Care...You Care** is how we recognize our peers, emphasizing internal customer service. **We Care...You Care** nominations tie directly to one or more of our six Core Values. The program gives you the opportunity to show your coworkers how much you appreciate them. If you work with someone who deserves special recognition for internal customer service, check out the We Care...You Care link to the guidelines, then fill out a nomination form and submit it to the supervisor of the person you are nominating.

**Guidelines:** [http://ehsdhome/Community-Relations/Documents/WeCareThatYouCare%20Guidelines\\_FINAL.pdf](http://ehsdhome/Community-Relations/Documents/WeCareThatYouCare%20Guidelines_FINAL.pdf)

**Nomination Form:** [http://ehsdhome/Community-Relations/Documents/WeCareThatYouCare%20Nomination%20Form\\_FINAL.pdf](http://ehsdhome/Community-Relations/Documents/WeCareThatYouCare%20Nomination%20Form_FINAL.pdf)



# Driving to Snow Country?

SAFETY TIPS FROM CON FIRE



Driving becomes more dangerous in the winter, due to wet and icy roads. It is important to exercise extreme caution as the weather gets colder in the coming months, especially if driving in snow. Here are some tips to help keep you safe on the road this holiday season:

## Before driving:

- Clear off your entire vehicle to keep flying snow and ice from obscuring visibility
- Familiarize yourself with the directions beforehand so that you don't have to check the map as often while driving
- Let others know your estimated route and arrival time.
- Pack an emergency kit that includes a cell phone and charger, ice scraper, flashlight, first aid kit, jumper cables, flares, sand/salt, water, blankets, and anything else you might need during an emergency

## While driving:

- Wear a seatbelt and use car and booster seats properly
- Don't drive above the speed limit
- Maintain a full gas tank to prevent fuel lines from freezing
- Don't use cruise control
- Don't crowd a snowplow if you see one on the road
- Leave plenty of room between your vehicle and others as it takes more time and distance to stop your vehicle on wet roads
- Do NOT text!

For more safety tips, visit [ccfcpd.org](http://ccfcpd.org).

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FIRE • RESCUE • EMS

**THE 3 P'S OF WINTER DRIVING SAFETY**  
**PREPARE FOR THE TRIP, PROTECT YOURSELF, AND PREVENT CAR ACCIDENTS**

**SAFE WINTER DRIVING TIPS** **PROTECT**

- Drive belted & use car and booster seats properly
- Clean off your entire vehicle to keep flying snow and ice from obscuring visibility
- Pack an emergency kit — jumper cables, flares, sand/salt, cell phone + charger, ice scraper, 1st-aid kit, water, flashlight, blankets...
- Don't crowd the plow

**DO NOT TEXT AND DRIVE**

- FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH DIRECTIONS, LET OTHERS KNOW ESTIMATED ROUTE AND ARRIVAL TIME
- MAINTAIN A FULL GAS TANK TO PREVENT FUEL LINES FROM FREEZING
- LEAVE PLENTY OF ROOM BETWEEN YOUR VEHICLE AND OTHERS AS IT TAKES MORE TIME AND DISTANCE TO STOP YOUR VEHICLE ON WET ROADS

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## SERVICE AWARDS | RETIREES | NEW EMPLOYEES

### SERVICE AWARDS

#### 30 YEARS

Michelle Perry, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

#### 25 YEARS

Dena Holland-Wilson, Eligibility Work Supervisor I, WFS  
Trina Weng, Infant Toddler Assoc Teacher-Prj, CSB

#### 20 YEARS

Shelly Draper, Medical Program Assistant, WFS  
Derek Forrest, Info Sys Programmer/Analyst IV, Admin  
James Gibson, Clerical Supervisor, WFS  
Eugenia Hidalgo-Malacas, Vol and Emergency Prog Spec, AAS

#### 15 YEARS

Yolanda Contreras, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS  
John Mintz, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS  
Daly Young, Secretary-Advanced Level, WFS

#### 10 YEARS

Rachael Burt, Soc Svc Program Assistant, CFS  
Tyrine Butler, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Elisa Connell, Soc Svc Program Assistant, CFS  
Julie Ramirez, Eligibility Worker III, WFS  
Amy Toomey, Social Casework Assistant, CFS  
Heidi Wagner, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS

### Save the Date! • January 27th, 2022

EHSD “Years of Service” is a special event acknowledging dedicated service to the Contra Costa Community. Next month, we will celebrate EHSD staff members who reached milestone years of service (10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35) during 2021. We look forward to returning to a live, in-person event. More info to come!

### RETIREES

David (Dave) Tilton, Clerk-Senior Level, Admin.

### NEW EMPLOYEES

Iyadunni Adeyemi, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Kim Anderson, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Christina Barney, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Christopher Bartzi, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Vanalashkmi Boorada, Info Sys Prog/Analyst IV, Admin  
Stephanie Burden, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Lakeesha Calhoun, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Gleezerie Castro, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB  
Michelle Daggs, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Chinwe Ehenemba, Social Casework Asst, CFS  
Alejandro Esquivel, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Rebecca Galloway, Child Nutrition Assistant, CSB

Jagjit Gosal, Account Clerk-Adv Level, Admin  
Deo Kasule, Accountant III, Admin  
Monique Luster, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Janie Ly, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Erika Moreno, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS  
Lan Morris, Medi-Cal PA, WFS  
Ruth Rankin, Eligibility Worker I, WFS  
Oravanh Thammasen, Program/Projects Coordinator, Admin  
Brandon Trieu, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS  
Tsering Tsomo, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB  
Jon Woffinden, SS Fraud Prev. Supervisor, Admin

Are you planning a retirement celebration for a staff member and would like to present them with a retirement certificate? **If so, please contact Deb Johnson at [djohnson@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:djohnson@ehsd.cccounty.us) or (925) 608-4904.**



# SPREAD THE WORD

## December

- **COUNTIES CARE HOLIDAY FOOD FIGHT** (through December 31)
- **DECEMBER 6** – Hanukkah Ends
- **DECEMBER 7** – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- **DECEMBER 21** – Winter Solstice (shortest day of the year)
- **DECEMBER 23** – Festivus
- **DECEMBER 24** – Christmas Holiday (observed)
- **DECEMBER 25** – Christmas Day
- **DECEMBER 26–JANUARY 1** – Kwanzaa
- **DECEMBER 31** – New Year’s Holiday (observed)

## January

- **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH**
- **ELIGIBILITY WORKERS MONTH**
- **JANUARY 1** – New Year’s Day
- **JANUARY 17** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday)
- **JANUARY 27** – EHSD Years of Service Event

Is there room in your home for one more?

Make a change in a child’s life and become a Resource Parent/ Family for a foster child. Contra Costa County has more than 1,000 children who need your help. Join a free virtual orientation during the COVID-19 Health Order. We will update the in-person orientation schedule as restrictions lift.



### FREE VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS

January 6 or 20 • 4 to 6 p.m.  
February 3 or 17 • 4 to 6 p.m.  
March 3 or 17 • 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at [www.ehsd.org](http://www.ehsd.org).  
To register for a class, please call (925) 602-6960, toll-free at 1 (866) 313-7788, or email [ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us)

### We Care... You Care

<http://ehsdhome/Pages/Service-Champions.aspx>  
and see page 22

Want to know what else we’re doing at EHSD?

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Like us on Facebook



Contact us at our *EHSD Headlines* email, [headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us), if you have an upcoming event, article, our idea you would like to share.