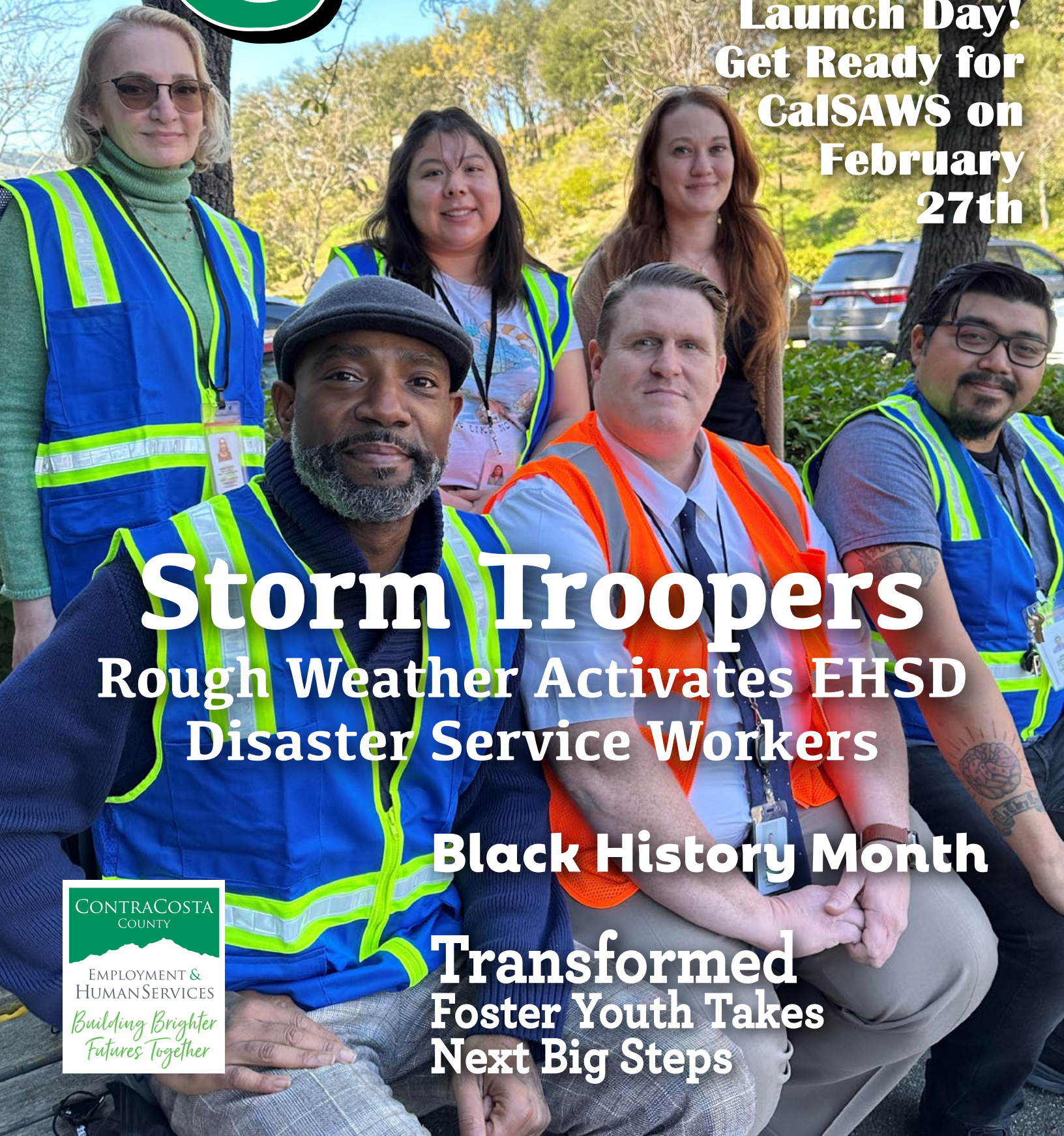


Headlines

**Launch Day!
Get Ready for
CalSAWS on
February
27th**



Storm Troopers

**Rough Weather Activates EHSD
Disaster Service Workers**

Black History Month

**Transformed
Foster Youth Takes
Next Big Steps**



Counting Down to CalSAWS!

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media

In just under a month, Contra Costa will become a CalSAWS County, joining the other 42 California counties already on the new Statewide Automated Welfare System. It's a very exciting and busy season at EHSD as final preparations for the CalWIN to CalSAWS migration are underway.

In addition to Instructor Led Training (ILT) and Practice Labs that staff members who will be using CalSAWS are participating in, there are numerous tasks and adjustments the various Team Leads and Workgroups are handling in order to be ready for **Go Live on Monday, February 27th**. CalSAWS Change Champions continue to be available for questions and support throughout the transition.

If you are looking for more tools, resources, and a second-by-second clock to CalSAWS implementation in Contra Costa County, be sure to visit the [CalSAWS Intranet page](#) – often!

As preparations earnestly continue within EHSD, outreach to our external audiences is key. The CalSAWS team is ensuring our customers and partners are “in the know” regarding this major system change for administering the County’s benefit programs, particularly related to

[BenefitsCal.com](#). To get the word out, EHSD will be using various channels – ehds.org, social media, lobby monitors, flyers, partner emails, and more – to let everyone know about the new online portal that will replace MyBenefitsCalWIN.org (MyBCW).



BenefitsCal.com is a simple and mobile-friendly way for community members to apply online, upload documents, report changes, and review their benefits – Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and CalWORKs/General Assistance. The transition to BenefitsCal.com will not affect anyone’s current benefits, but recipients will need to create a new BenefitsCal account and link it to their case to continue to access benefits information online with the implementation of CalSAWS.

The road to CalSAWS has been a long, winding, and sometimes bumpy one. EHSD staff members, led by **Eileen Olson** and the CalSAWS team, have gone the extra mile to handle the many twists and turns on this journey with unparalleled expertise, patience, and dedication. We look forward to a successful migration to CalSAWS on February 27th.



Storms Pound Bay Area, EHSD Answers the Call

By Cora Young,
Emergency & Safety Coordinator



Cora Young, EHSD Emergency and Safety Coordinator, attended emergency flood exercises at the Office of Emergency Services for situations like the recent storms.

The New Year brought an onslaught of desperately needed rain to the Bay Area, and with it came high winds, more than a foot of rain, flooding and the evacuation several residents to emergency shelters. With a barrage of atmospheric rivers pounding the region, causing an estimated \$27 million in damage in Contra Costa County, several EHSD employees jumped into action as designated Disaster Service Workers.

Rahsaan Robinson (AAS, Social Worker) and **Brandon Gamoras-Young** (WFS, Experienced Clerk) transported badly needed food from the

Concord Food Bank to the Health, Housing and Homelessness Services program (H3) where it was distributed to shelters. Rahsaan also transported evacuees from a shelter in Concord to warming stations where evacuees could dry their clothes and recuperate during the day. “The storms had a definite effect on the clients we serve in the sense that many of them had no way to get back and forth between the two facilities,” says Rahsaan. “I mean it was coming down hard. I interacted with quite a few clients, and overall the sentiment was

Continued on next page

Storms Pound Bay Area, EHSD Answers the Call

Continued from previous page

extremely appreciative. One woman looked at me incredulously and asked, 'You don't mind driving in this rain? God bless you guys.' I just smiled. It reminded me why I do what I do."

John Bonnar (WFS, Eligibility Worker) and **Monika Bugarin** (CFS, Social Worker) also helped drive clients to warming stations after the shelters closed for the day.

"Unfortunately the only van that could be procured was a small 5 passenger Ford Transit, so every day we had to make multiple trips," says John. "I was the lead out the door in the rain rallying and loading them up, so I interacted with everyone on our cars trips. I worked with the mentally ill and homeless in downtown Oakland for years, so I am very familiar and comfortable talking to all kinds of people in all kinds of conditions."



Brandon Gamora-Young and Rahsaan Robinson helped transport food, from the Concord Food Bank, to evacuees.

"We were able to talk to the people, make conversation, and reassure them that they were in good hands," says Monika. "By the second and third day, all the people we picked up were lively and talkative. They had gotten over their nervousness. Several of them told us that they appreciated us picking them up and dropping them off during the rainstorms."

"One of the gentlemen we drove was glad we were driving him to Trinity (warming station), since he would be able to do laundry, and have some clean clothes, says **Mildred Linares** (Admin, Experienced Clerk) who also helped transport evacuees.

Tom Ta (Admin, EHSD Facilities Manager) and **Cora Young** (Admin, Emergency & Safety Coordinator) were responsible for coordinating staffing logistics and responding to mutual aid requests related to care and shelter during disaster events. "EHSD did exceptionally well given the time sensitivity of the requests. For the first time, new volunteering opportunities allowed EHSD to collaborate with its Health Services partners and they rose to the occasion," says Tom.

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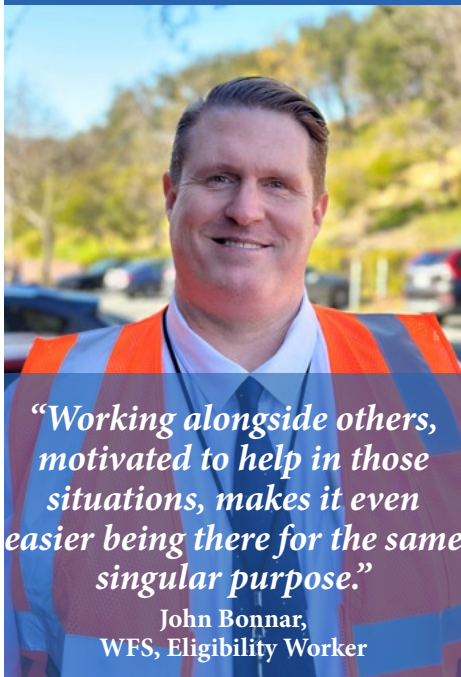
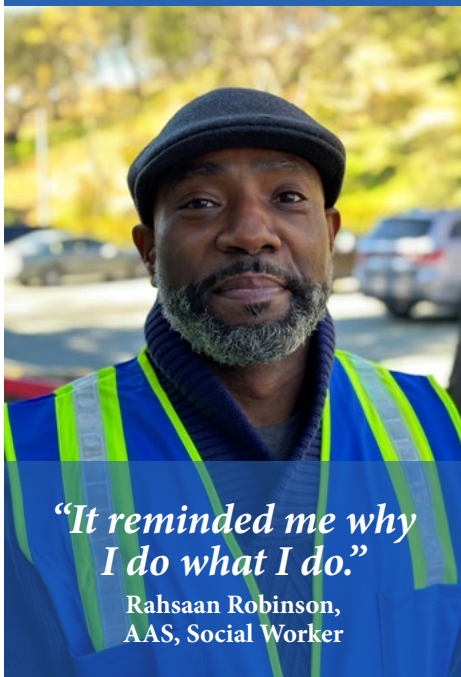


EHSD Disaster Service Workers delivered more than 90 bags of food to evacuee shelters.

Storms Pound Bay Area, EHSD Answers the Call

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The Disaster Service Workers



SEE NEXT PAGE FOR “CALLING ALL DISASTER SERVICE WORKERS”

Calling All Disaster Service Workers

EHSD staff members who are interested in specialized training to be more involved with care and shelter activities during disaster events can contact **Cora Young**, Emergency & Safety Coordinator, at safe@ehsd.cccounty.us.

All Contra Costa County employees are designated Disaster Service Workers (DSW) through state and local law. County employees affirm this requirement by taking an oath upon the start of their employment. DSW's are required to return to work in the event of an emergency or disaster to help our community. Learn more on Vector Solutions by searching "Disaster Service Worker" and launching the "CCC Disaster Service Worker Training" course.



Holiday Food Fight 2022 – It's a Wrap!

We don't have the final results yet, but we do know that the County Cares Holiday Food Fight had a lot of generous supporters – many from EHSD! Thank you to all who donated and/or participated in our department's See's Candy sale and the gift card/gift basket drawing. With all proceeds going to The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, we know that our community members will benefit from the extra help to provide nutritious food for their families during the months to come. We anticipate the final totals soon, and will announce the Big Apple trophy winner and more when we can.



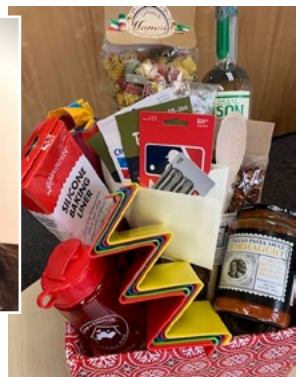
EHSD Drawing revealed the following winners of various restaurant gift cards:

- **Debora Bertasi, ASA III, Admin**
- **Jennifer Dodson, Medical Program Assistant, WFS**
- **Arti Bhandari, Supervising Accountant, Admin**
- **Cynthia Mallory, Personnel Technician, Admin**
- The winner of the grand prize basket filled with several gift cards & other goodies: **Deborah Walker, Clerk-Senior Level, AAS**

Shout out to those who contributed prizes for the EHSD Drawing: **Annie Gant**, Clerk-Experienced Level, Admin; **Andoni Luzuriaga**, SWIII, CFS; **Kathy Marsh**, CFS Director; **Deb Johnson**, Senior Level Clerk, Admin; **Tish Gallegos**, Community Relations



Grand prize winner
Deborah Walker of
Aging & Adult Services



BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023



Cartoonist Morrie Turner: Diverse & Inclusive Ahead of Our Time

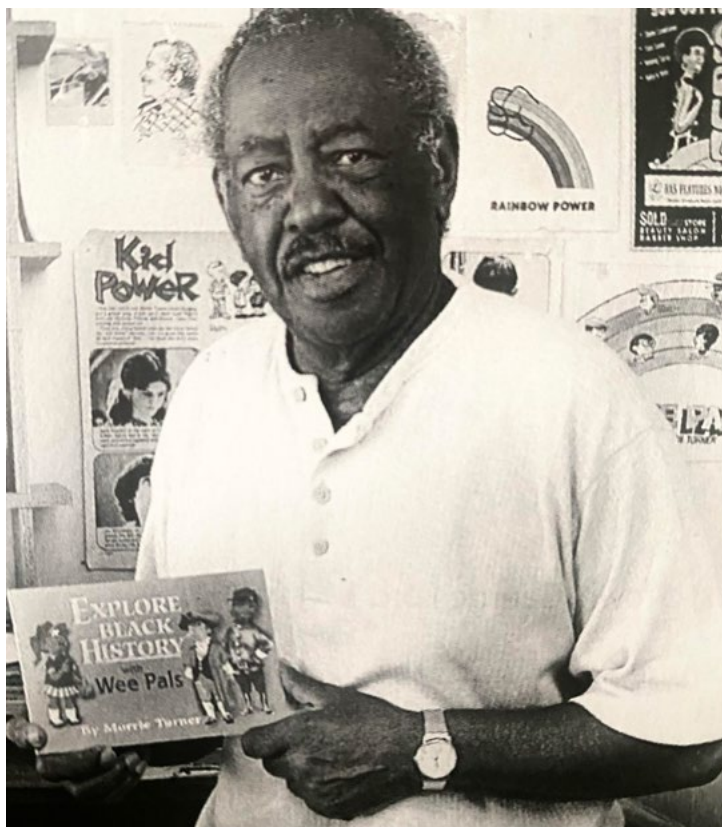
By Laura Locke, Community/Media Relations Contributor

Before [Black History Month](#) officially existed, cartoonist Morrie Turner celebrated the lives and contributions of notable Black Americans in his daily comic strip called [“Wee Pals.”](#)

It was the first nationally syndicated comic strip created by a Black American – and the first to feature racially and ethnically diverse characters.

“Rainbow Power!” was a frequent refrain trumpeted by the “Wee Pals” kids, who themselves were a spectrum of Black, White, Asian, Hispanic and Jewish (a girl in a wheelchair and a deaf girl eventually joined the cartoon cast).

“Wee Pals” brilliance is that it presented people’s differences (racial, ethnic, gender, religious, physical and mental) as a reflection of American society, an inherent part of the national story, not something to be questioned, disrespected or feared.



Cartoonist Morrie Turner with his illustrated children’s book, “Explore Black History with Wee Pals,” published in 1998 by Just Us Books.

It’s hard to imagine nowadays, but in 1965, when the comic strip first appeared in major metropolitan newspapers, it was considered “subversive,” according to the New York Times. Three years later, after the assassination of [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#), “Wee Pals” which dealt with themes of tolerance, fairness and belonging, took off in popularity, appearing in more than 100



Original drawing of “Nipper” from Morrie Turner’s “Wee Pals” comic strip. Based on Turner himself as a kid, Nipper always wore a Civil War flat-topped cap, and is one of the most popular “Wee Pals” characters.

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Cartoonist Morrie Turner: Diverse & Inclusive Before His Time

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newspapers nationwide. The animated pals even starred in their own network TV show [“Kid Power”](#) broadcast Sunday mornings on ABC from 1972-1974.

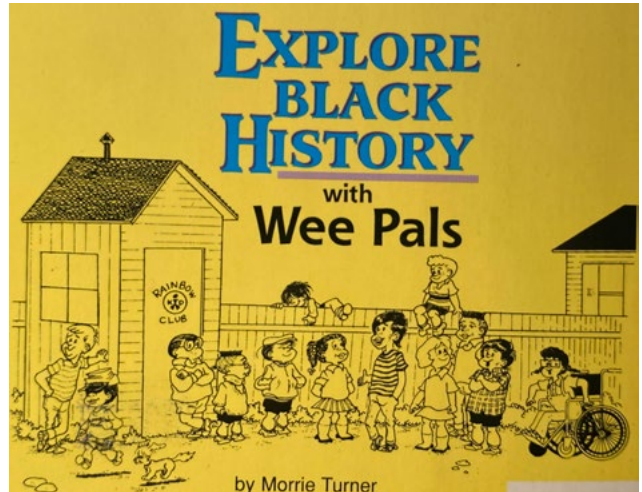
An Oakland, Calif. native, Turner put his community and ancestry front and center in his depiction of American life. His artistry provided fun, light-hearted entertainment while simultaneously correcting the systemic oversight and marginalization of his people.

“Soul Corner,” for example, his Sunday sidebar, spotlighted important people and milestones in African American history – along with stories and anecdotes that, until recently, were left out of U.S. history books and classrooms.

In his children’s book, “Explore Black History with Wee Pals,” Turner’s characters taught each other about the accomplishments of 70 notable Black Americans, including [Fannie Lou Hamer](#), [Jesse Jackson](#), [Odetta](#), [Frederick Douglass](#) and [Stokely Carmichael](#).

In decades since the passage of [the Civil Rights Act](#), the nation has been catching up with Morrie Turner’s inclusive, peaceful and humane vision: African Americans’ accomplishments and struggle for racial justice & freedom was officially recognized in 1976 by the U.S. Government, which sets aside the month of February as [Black History Month](#). Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland also commemorate the annual observance.

Morrie Turner passed away in 2014, at the age of 90, but his “Wee Pals” characters live on today reaching some 25 million readers.



Back cover of “Explore Black History with Wee Pals,” by Morrie Turner, published in 1998 by Just Us Books.



“Wee Pals” cartoon featuring his diverse cast of kids talking about racial pride and Black history. (Creators Syndicate)

Talk With Your Teens

February is National Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

By Claudia Gonzalez, Contra Costa Alliance to End Abuse

What is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month?

According to the National Institute of Justice, teen dating violence “includes physical, psychological or sexual abuse; harassment; or stalking of any person ages 12 to 18 in the context of a past or present romantic or consensual relationship.” Teen dating violence can happen in-person, over social media, phone, text messages, email or any other electronic format.

The teenage years are when young people start dating and forming romantic relationships for the first time and healthy relationships take hard work and awareness. As parents, caregivers, and supportive adults, we can learn more about teen dating violence and how to prevent unhealthy and violent relationships among teens. Teen dating violence also affects parents, friends, teachers, classmates, and the community as a whole. This month is a time to raise awareness about teen dating violence, and preventing and promoting healthy relationships.

Possible Warning Signs of Teen Dating Violence

- Insults, intimidation, or humiliation
- Isolation from friends
- Isolation from family
- Extreme jealousy and controlling behavior
- Constant social media monitoring
- Invasion of privacy and showing up unannounced
- Threats
- Physical violence
- Signs of scratches or bruises
- Unwanted sexual contact
- Explosive and extreme temper



How Can I Start a Conversation?

You can start a conversation about healthy relationships anytime. But, if you observe changes in the teen’s mood, interests, appearance, drop in grades, bruises, or anything that may raise concerns of possible abuse, it is important to open a safe dialogue. Talk honestly and openly with teens about healthy relationships. Reinforce that they do not include any type of violence (verbal, physical, or sexual). Have conversations on how to recognize signs of abuse and unhealthy relationships. Talk through some resources and identify safe adults that the teen could reach out to if they want to talk or feel like they might be in an abusive relationship.

What Resources are Available?

STAND! For Families Free of Violence

standffov.org

24-hour, toll-free Crisis Line: 1 (888) 215-5555

Community Violence Solutions

cvsolutions.org

Call or Text 24-hour Hotline: 1 (800) 670-7273

The Family Justice Center

cocofamilyjustice.org

Richmond: (510) 974-7200

Concord: (925) 521-6366

Antioch: (925) 281-0970

BOS Recognizes Eligibility Workers, Human Trafficking Prevention Month

By Larena Baldazo, Web Producer, Community Relations

On Tuesday, January 17, 2023, EHSD Director **Marla Stuart** presented two resolutions at the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors meeting, the first to proclaim January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

“The two core reasons that people need us (EHSD) in their lives is violence and poverty. With these two presentations today, we are lifting these devastating social problems to our collective attention and we’re celebrating and appreciating our dedicated and talented public servants,” Marla said.

Presenting with her were Contra Costa County Human Trafficking Task Force members including representatives from the Alliance to End Abuse, Community Violence Solutions, and DA Diana Becton’s office.

Following the Human Trafficking Prevention presentation, the County Supervisors recognized EHSD’s **Winslow Clepper, Brianna Morris, Danielle Howard** and the entire **EHSD EW team** to commemorate Eligibility Worker Month.

Both proclamations were accepted just before the 45th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration and Humanitarian of the Year Awards Ceremony.

EHSD extends its gratitude to all who are working toward the prevention of human trafficking, our dedicated eligibility workers, and our County Supervisors for calling attention to these important recognitions in Contra Costa. If you missed the January 17 meeting, you can watch it here: <http://bit.ly/3wgz2dc>



Human Trafficking Prevention Month (L-R): **Diane Burgis, Marla Stuart, Tamina Alon, Claudia Gonzalez, Katrina Natale, Ken Carlson, John Gioia, Federal D. Glover, Cynthia Peterson, Candace Anderson, Oravanh Thammasen.**

Eligibility Worker Month (L-R): **Marla Stuart, Brianna Morris, Winslow Clepper, Ken Carlson, Danielle Howard, John Gioia, Federal D. Glover, Diane Burgis, Candace Anderson and Tracy Murray.**



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BOS Recognizes Eligibility Workers, Human Trafficking Prevention Month

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CSB Executive Director **Nic Bryant** joined several Contra Costa partner agencies for the Positive Parenting Awareness Month proclamation and presentation at the January 17th Board of Supervisors meeting.

*Building Brighter
Futures Together*

YOS Event Moves to March 16, 2023

The EHSD Executive Team had originally looked forward to recognizing our Years of Service (YOS) honorees at a hybrid in-person/virtual celebration, then pivoted to virtual only due to various buildings with Covid outbreaks. After careful thought, ET rescheduled YOS for Thursday, March 16, 2023. An additional consideration was the impact of CalSAWS preparations, and the importance that all honorees have the opportunity to attend, enjoy, and fully support this special event.

Plans for YOS as an in-person event at Pleasant Hill Community Center, with an option to attend virtually, are well underway. We will be celebrating all those who reached milestone years of service in 2022 (10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 years). EHSD is looking forward to honoring these staff members on March 16th.

For those celebrating their milestones this year, we plan to resume our January celebration in 2024.

An Update on Javier

Teen Inspired By Own Transformation

By Alan Wang, Community Relations Media Specialist

When you step up to become a Resource Family (also known as Foster Families), it can make a huge difference.

We just heard from Ramon and Diana Viscarra whose story was in *Headlines* last May. They tell us that Javier, who they started fostering a few years ago, is in community college with plans to enter a four-year university. Javier's own experience and transformation inspired him to work towards a degree in social work.

"He wants a career that allows him to use what he's been through to make an impact in a young person's life," explains Ramon. "His story is a special one, and I couldn't be more proud!"

Like many aspiring foster parents, Ramon and Diana Viscarra did not think they had what it takes



CLICK on the play button to hear Viscarra family describe how they stepped up when Javier needed someone.

to accommodate a teen in need of a place to call home. Their home was modest, and they did not have the resources for lavish trips and experiences. Still, this Pittsburg family stepped up to care for Javier, Ramon's younger cousin, and soon realized the only thing he wanted was a safe and stable environment with someone who loved him.

"He came to us with the hoodie on. Very withdrawn," says Diana. "Eventually, the hoodie came off. He's a completely different kid. He's outspoken. He's

engaged. He's smiling. He jokes."

Foster parenting is a calling heeded by people who make a commitment to offer love and understanding. The caregivers often find out that

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An Update on Javier

Teen Inspired By Own Transformation

Continued from previous page

the blessing is all theirs. Resource families – whether or not related to the child or youth they take in – can change a child’s life *and* their own.

“This has turned out to be the most rewarding experience of my life,” says Ramon. “My only regret is that I didn’t step up sooner.”

Currently, our community is looking for foster parents who have the ability to understand and accommodate teens, LGBTQIA+ youth, and children with developmental and medical needs.

While Contra Costa County’s priority is to reunify foster youth with their biological families when it is safe and in the child’s best interest, some cases may result in adoption. If you believe you have the unique and loving skills to become a foster parent, simply attend a Resource Family Orientation by clicking [here](#) to sign up for a free virtual orientation (in English and Spanish) and learn how you can be a part of the solution.



Javier on move-in day at his college dorm. He aspires to be a Social Worker to help out other kids going through what he has experienced.

Building Brighter Futures Together



More info & orientation schedule:
[Become A Foster Parent in Contra Costa County | EHSD](#)

Finding Your Purpose

Contributed by Personnel Services

Amidst the fast pace of modern existence, it can be hard to hear your inner voice and live life according to your unique values. Work, family responsibilities and societal expectations can combine to drown out your search for meaning. However, you can live with greater purpose.

- Stop and take stock of your life. Decide if you're adhering to your values or just going through the motions.
- Find a quiet place and listen for your heart's desires. Think: Is there a cause to which I'd like to devote myself? Is there a specific population I'd like to serve? Is there a certain art form I'd love to pursue?
- Sometimes our passions become so buried under life's details that we lose them. Get specific about what fires you up, and try linking these interests to service, e.g., your talent plus helping people = purpose.
- With your new goal, build an action plan with achievable interim steps. Track your progress!

Source: Healthwise Staff

Browse more articles at <https://member.magellanhealthcare.com/>

YOUR EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS

Save on Major Brands & Everyday Essentials

Save with your Employee Discounts on LifeMart, your online members-only discount center, where you can save big on major purchases like travel, tickets, attractions, electronics, cars, vacations, or on day-to-day essentials like groceries and child care. And best of all, access is free! [Click here to access the LifeMart Discount Center in your web browser.](#)

Magellan Ascend



UPCOMING WEBINAR: Maintaining Positive Relationships – February 8

This webinar will:

- Explain healthy relationships
- Identify the components of maintaining positive relationships
- Describe the importance of positive relationships at work and steps to deal with conflict

Missed the live webinar?

Webinars are listed in your Dashboard under “Upcoming”. If you haven’t signed up to use the County Employee Assistance Program yet, follow these two easy steps:

Step 1: Go to <https://member.magellanhealthcare.com/> and click on “Sign up.”

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

Customer Service Champions

These individuals are being recognized for going the extra mile by delivering excellent service to our customers. They went above and beyond in their willingness to help and demonstrate EHSD’s emphasis on providing exemplary customer service. Congratulations on a job well done!

Michelle Ceelen Enables Smooth Transition

By Julie Peck, EHSD Ombudsman



Michelle Ceelen went “above and beyond” in the case of Ms. C, who moved to Solano County 3–4 months ago and initiated a transfer of her Medi-Cal. Ms. C. is pregnant and her baby is due in 2–3 weeks and she wanted to have her prenatal care and delivery in Solano County. The transfer did not happen as expected as there were some issues getting customer aid on her own case. Michelle was given the case and made the corrections so the customer could enroll in the Partnership program. The customer contacted the State Managed Care Ombudsman for expedited enrollment and was redirected to Michelle. She then arranged to have a conference call with the customer and the State Managed Care Ombudsman who helped expedite enrollment in Partnership. Michelle also gave the customer her direct line in case there were any future issues. The customer expressed genuine gratitude to Michelle and said,

Continued on next page

Mariah Marabuto

By Julie Peck, EHSD Ombudsman

Supervisor: Rosalie Uy



I received a phone call from a distressed parent, whose son had recently returned to live at home. The son was experiencing a mental health crisis and in need of services. He applied for Medi-Cal on a Friday before a holiday weekend and his mother called the following Tuesday asking if his application could be expedited, as he really needed help. The customer and his mother completed an Authorized Representative (AR) form and sent it to me. **Lynne McGraw** was tasked with finding the application, which had not been assigned. Lynne contacted **Mariah Marabuto** whose response was “I am happy to help.” Mariah processed the Medi-Cal application and when I contacted the AR to let her know her son’s application had been processed, she said, “tears are coming down my face as I write this e-mail. I am so grateful for Ms. Marabuto. I can’t express in words how much this all means to me and my son.”

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Customer Service Champions

Michelle Ceelen

Continued from previous page

“Please thank Ms. Ceelen for me because now I can have my baby in Solano County!”

Michelle was responsive to an urgent situation and her follow-up was stellar. Excellent customer service delivered and mission accomplished.

Building Brighter Futures Together

Mariah Marabuto

Continued from previous page

Lynne later said, “this case had nothing to do with Mariah yet she immediately offered to process it herself. Mariah is friendly, professional, knowledgeable and so willing to assist.” I second Lynne’s words. Mariah stepped up and responded to an urgent situation and took on a task that had not been assigned. Her attitude – “I am happy to help” – is a reflection of excellent customer service at EHSD.



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.

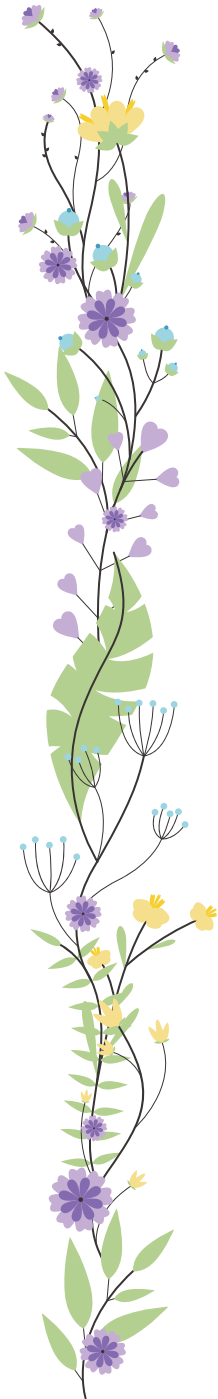
We Care Guidelines: [click here](#)
We Care Nomination Form: [click here](#)

Our Core Values

- Promote Organizational Excellence
- Deliver Exceptional Customer Experience
- Openly Communicate
- Embrace Change
- Practice Ethical Behavior
- Respect Diversity



Legacy



Some things were meant to savor
And handle with great care
They're unique...one of a kind
And absolutely rare..

It's only when the flavor's gone
And you try to repeat the taste
You understand
Without a doubt
You were blessed with grace...

In this life
You'll discover
Anywhere you go
You may not recall the charts, the graphs
Or that Urgent Memo
But the things that will linger
Will last for a lifetime
Because it was never about
The work
But...they taught you to survive...

As we tip through the nostalgia
Of meetings, emergencies and
Demands of the job
It won't be their words....
But their passion we'll recall...

The gift of the heart
In all we do and say...
The gift of the heart
That causes our minds to sway...
To see beyond the numbers...
The deadlines and protocol
And find the person buried within
The one you balanced...
Ensuring they would not fall

As we look back
Once more
To catch a glimpse of your shine...
We are made the better
.....the brighter...and wiser over time...
Debora Boutté
Thank you for your heart
Your love, your charm, your grace

But most of all...thank you...
for the seeds you planted
In each one of us
One of immense Legacy
One no one else will ever...
Even slightly touch...
We love you Debora!



Written especially for
Debora Boutté, Retired Departmental
Human Resources Officer II

By Lisa Thomas, Departmental
HR Analyst II





SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

SERVICE AWARDS

25 YEARS

Lynnette R Watts, AAS Svcs Senor Staff Assistant, AAS

20 YEARS

Terri Rose, Sr Soc Svc Info Sys Analyst, Admin

15 YEARS

Hugo Zambrano, Public Auth Sr Benefits Clerk, AAS

10 YEARS

Carlos F Colmenares, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS
Manjeet Kaur, Infant Toddler Teacher-Project, CSB
Karen Malmberg, Clerk-Experienced Level, CFS
Tina R. Medeiros, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS
Heather K Parsons, Clerk-Senior Level, CFS
Roheen Rabbi, Associate Teacher-Project, CSB
Shelly Rodrigues, Secretary-Journey Level, AAS
Heath St. John, Social Worker III, CFS
Juliette Scott, Social Worker III, CFS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Nicole Banks, Soc Svc Program Assistant, CFS
Lisa Bautista Vela, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Marlena Bocanegra, Social Worker III, CFS
Rose Butler, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS
Silvia Grande, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Mary McFarland, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

Cassidy Morris, Social Worker, AAS
KimLien Pruner, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Marilya Rosario, Clerk-Experienced Level, WFS
Cheenequa Quadros, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS
Maria Vargas Carrera, Account Clerk-Advanced Level, Admin

RETIREES

Denise August, Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS
Carmen Castaneda, Child Nutrition Assistant-Project, CSB
Lashan Graves, Clerk- Senior Level, WFS
Cynthia Marin, Eligibility Worker III, WFS

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 or (925) 608-4904.**



SPREAD THE WORD

February 2023

- **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**
- **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**
- **FEBRUARY 2 – Groundhog Day**
- **FEBRUARY 3 – National Wear Red Day**
- **FEBRUARY 14 – Valentine’s Day**
- **FEBRUARY 20 – Presidents’ Day (Holiday)**
- **FEBRUARY 22 – Ash Wednesday**
- **FEBRUARY 28 – Linus Pauling Day**

March 2023

- **NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKER’S MONTH**
- **NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH**
- **IRISH HERITAGE MONTH**
- **MARCH 3 – Employee Appreciation Day**
- **MARCH 7 – Purim**
- **MARCH 7 – Holi**
- **MARCH 8 – International Women’s Day**
- **MARCH 12 – Daylight Savings Time Begins (spring forward)**
- **MARCH 16 – Years of Service**
- **MARCH 17 – St. Patrick’s Day**
- **MARCH 20 – Spring Equinox**
- **MARCH 23 – Ramadan starts**
- **MARCH 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day**
- **MARCH 31 – Cesar Chavez Day**



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 needs your support to provide care for children 0–18 years of age. Please join us for a virtual orientation and learn more about becoming a caregiver.

FREE VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS

February 2 or 16 • 4 to 6 p.m.
 March 2 or 16 • 4 to 6 p.m.
 April 6 or 20 • 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at www.ehds.org. If you belong to an organization or community group interested in learning more about Resource Family Approval/foster parenting, we can schedule an individual session for your group, in English or Spanish.

To register for a class, please call (925) 655-4230 or email ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us

We Care... You Care

CLICK here to learn more about nominating a coworker.
Updated We Care...You Care nomination form: [click here](#) and see page 16

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

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The next issue of *Headlines* will publish in early March. Contact us at our EHSD *Headlines* email, Headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us, by **February 21st** if you have an upcoming event, article, or idea you would like to submit.