

# Headlines



**Robin Townsend,  
WDB Client—  
From Unhoused  
to Skilled Worker**

**\$29.7 Million in  
Head Start Funds  
for Contra Costa**

**Employee's Dog  
Displays Unusual  
Talent**

**Mercedes Jaime  
Delivers 35 Years  
of Service**

CONTRACOSTA  
COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT &  
HUMAN SERVICES

*Building Brighter  
Futures Together*

# New Funds Help Contra Costa's Youngest Kids Access Early Learning

*CSB Administers Head Start for Contra Costa County, One of Three Grant Recipients in the Area to Receive Millions*

By Tish Gallegos, Community Relations/Media Manager



Contra Costa County is one of three agencies to be awarded a Head Start grant from the [Administration for Children & Families \(ACF\)](#), a division of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). The five-year awards provide \$29.7 million in the first year and similar amounts in each of the subsequent four to provide early childhood education (ECE) to infants, toddlers, and preschool children throughout the County.

The grant to [Contra Costa County, which administers its Head Start program through](#)

[EHSD's Community Services Bureau](#), enables it to fully fund its current childcare centers, and to continue existing subcontractor partnerships with KinderCare, Aspiranet, Crossroads/Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD), and Tiny Toes. Head Start is also directly funding the [Mexican American Opportunity Foundation \(MAOF\)](#) and [The Unity Council](#) to deliver services to Contra Costa children and families.

*Continued on next page*

## New Funds Help Contra Costa's Youngest Kids Access Early Learning

*Continued from previous page*

“We will have Head Start funding for a total of 1,634 slots in Contra Costa County,” explained District 5 Supervisor Federal Glover, Chair of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. “We welcome MAOF and The Unity Council as partners that can help Contra Costa expand access to infant-toddler care and preschool, especially for our Spanish-speaking and immigrant families in parts of West, Central, and East County.”

“Contra Costa County is strongly committed to supporting the health and well-being of our children and families through our high-quality child development and education programs” said John Gioia, District 1 Supervisor who chairs the Head Start Committee for the County Board of Supervisors. “We are grateful and proud that the Federal Office of Head Start recognizes our outstanding teachers, administrators, and Early

Childhood Education programs by continuing to fund us over the next five years to be the largest Head Start provider in Contra Costa.”

Head Start is a federal program that promotes school readiness for the most vulnerable young children from birth to age five, emphasizing the role of parents as their child’s first and most important teacher. Head Start operates locally to help young children from low-income families prepare to succeed in school, promoting their development through learning, health, and family wellbeing.

Out of the 1,634 slots for which Contra Costa agencies are receiving funding, CSB’s Early Head Start (infants and toddlers) will have 437, and Head Start Preschool (3- and 4-year-old children) will have 764 for a total of 1,201 slots.

Families are encouraged to apply for Head Start and Early Head Start openings by contacting CC County EHSD Community Services Bureau – (925) 272-4727 or [ehsd.org](http://ehsd.org)



# Safety Training

EHSD has partnered with the Sheriff's Office whose sergeants are hosting Lobby Safety Trainings for our buildings with public-facing lobbies.

Currently, the Sheriff's Office can accommodate two EHSD trainings per month. We anticipate the ability to schedule trainings for all the buildings with public facing lobbies over the next year.

The goal of these trainings is to promote situational awareness, reinforce proactive planning for various situations that occur, and to give staff strategic tools to increase staff safety.

The topics of these trainings will be:

- Overall Lobby Safety
- Active Shooter information
- Use of Panic Buttons
- Communication strategies with Emergency Services when an incident occurs
- Question/Answer Period with Sergeants from the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department

The Lobby Safety Training content may be specific to the physical characteristics of each building. Space is limited based on the meeting room at each location. Therefore, we strongly encourage staff to sign up for trainings in their own buildings.

Please only sign up for a training in an alternate building as a last option. More trainings will be made available in 2025.

Please sign up for **ONE** of the following **8** sessions in SMART

---

**1305 MacDonald**  
**3rd Floor Conf. Room**  
**Sep. 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**  
**Sep. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

---

**400 Ellinwood**  
**Conf. Room 304 A&B**  
**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**  
**Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

---

**4545 Delta Fair**  
**Glacier Conf. Room**  
**Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**  
**Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

---

**151 Linus Pauling**  
**Diablo Room**  
**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**  
**Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:00 p.m.**

---



## EHSD Live! Breaks New Ground with Creature Feature & Real Time Giveaway

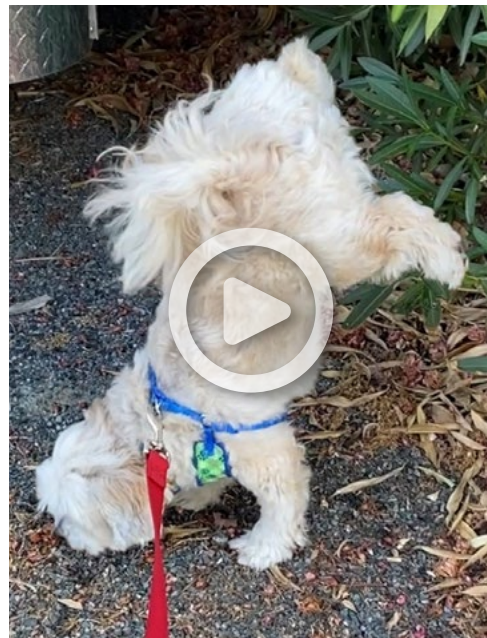
If you missed the last installment of EHSD Live! you also missed an EHSD employee's dog doing a handstand while peeing on a bush. Cody is an 8-year-old Maltese who belongs to In-Home Support Services (IHSS) Program Manager, **Lorena Orellana**. She says Cody has been doing it that way ever since he was a puppy.

You may have also missed the opportunity to win a \$25 gas gift card during our new and improved Trivia Challenge. Every viewer had a chance to send in the correct answer (via the Zoom Q& A tool) to a question about something in the live show. **Andrew Gonzalez**, a Secretary-Journey level at 151 Linus Pauling, was the first to send in his answer to win in real time. Congratulations, Andrew.



Trivia Challenge winner, **Andrew Gonzales**, won a \$25 gas gift card by watching the show and sending his answer to us in real time.

You can watch the whole show by CLICKING on the link <https://vimeo.com/1002903772>



If you have an unusual pet or one with some interesting talents, we want to show them on our Creature Feature. Let us know with email at [Headlines@EHSD.cccounty.us](mailto:Headlines@EHSD.cccounty.us).

Watch Cody the 8-year old Maltese in action by CLICKING on the link



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

*Building Brighter Futures Together*

**NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2024**

## Aging and Adult Services Small Advocacy Unit Making Huge Impact

By Renata Pierce, AAS Social Work Supervisor

The small but mighty Advocacy Unit of five social workers accomplishes a great deal through compassion and caring for our less fortunate county population. The Advocacy Unit serves our homeless and disabled population in obtaining ongoing social security benefits and permanent, stable housing. They spend countless hours wading through mountains of medical records and filling out forms to assist with the SSI granting process.

Last fiscal year, they accomplished 73 grants of social security benefits resulting in more than \$210,000 returned to the county for recoupment of General Assistance funds.



Renata Pierce, Maria Sepulveda, Leenetta Bailes, Trinette Pinson. Back row Jeanette Vargas, Scott Sanders

The HDAP, CORE team: (front row) Polly Stringer, Renata Pierce, Marjory Ellison, Alex Atkinson. (Second row) Carl Mason, Maria Sepulveda, Paul Webb, Leenetta Bailes, Lisa Thomas, Rahsaan Robinson, Fulvia Whitehead, Michael Fisher. (Last row) Denica Watley, Scott Sanders.



In addition, they participated in the Homeless Disabled Advocacy Program (HDAP) that works closely with CORE outreach and Health, Housing and Homeless Services (H3). We are proud to be one of the first HDAP SSI programs in California.

Through this service, they have permanently housed 147 disabled homeless individuals and temporarily housed 56 people (since 2018). Currently, there are 128 individuals enrolled and active in the HDAP in various stages of pending SSI. Once an individual is housed and in permanent housing, the HDAP team continues to assist with additional resources and checks in at six months, twelve months, and twenty-four months intervals before the individual is exited successfully from HDAP.

### Outstanding Customer Service

EHSD Social Worker (SW), **Maria Sepulveda**, had to meet her homeless client at a corner of an empty lot by a large bush where he had his tent.



Advocacy Unit member, **Maria Sepulveda**, never gave up on her client

She had to assist him in gathering needed information and signing release forms to submit his Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claim. Due to the client's mental health issues and inability to maintain a good phone that he kept losing, it would have been extremely difficult for him to follow through this lengthy SSI process on his own. After locating him, then Maria transported him to several disability doctor's evaluations. After his first denial, Maria

*Continued on next page*

## September is INTERGENERATIONAL MONTH

### How to Observe Intergenerational Month

#### 1. Visit or volunteer at a retirement home

As we get older, we become less mobile and thus more isolated. Call your local rest or retirement home and find out if there are ways you can connect with elderly residents through volunteering or just offering friendship.

#### 2. Join a Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program

Kids say the darndest things, but they can also teach us some things.

Big Brothers programs offer opportunities to connect with younger generations while helping at-risk kids navigate the tricky territory of their lives. This also might land you a lifelong friend.

#### 3. Call your mother or grandmother

If you're lucky enough to have parents or grandparents still alive, make it a point to connect and communicate with them more frequently. Offer to cook them dinner or to step out with them for a glass of wine. Don't take them for granted.



---

## Aging and Adult Services Small Advocacy Unit Making Huge Impact *Continued from previous page*

filed an appeal, and the client was approved for SSI. The client was issued a direct express card from the Social Security Administration to get benefits. After losing the card several times, he lost the right to continue with this service. So, Maria assisted him with obtaining a bank account that he is now successfully managing. The client is now housed with HDAP assistance and is doing well.

# Gathering for a Healthy Community

By Nicole Hefner, CFS East Operations

East County Community Partnership is hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Health Resource Fair on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Our goal for this event is to create a safe place for our community members to participate, gather, learn, and find support.

To participate, organizations can contact **Nicole Hefner** at [hefner@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:hefner@ehsd.cccounty.us) or share the flyer with community members.



## EAST COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNER HEALTH RESOURCE FAIR

**Saturday September 21st**  
**10:00AM-2:00PM**

**Location**  
NICK RODRIGUEZ COMMUNITY CENTER  
213 F ST, ANTIOCH CA 94509

- \*Resources and information
- \*Games and activities for all ages
- \*Free giveaways and chances to win
- \*A safe place to build community
- \*Food Trucks

### Community Partners

**ANTIOCH CALIFORNIA**  
OPPORTUNITY LIVES HERE

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**  
EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

- Antioch Charter Academy
- Antioch Library
- Antioch Unified School District
- Black Infant Health
- Brighter Beginnings Health Clinic
- Center for Human Development
- Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Contra Costa County Department of Child Support Services
- Contra Costa Foster Friends
- El Timpano
- Families First Prevention Act
- First 5 Center-East County
- Hope Solutions
- Lincoln Families
- Opportunity Junction
- Pacific Clinics
- Safe Refuge for Children and Families
- Tandem Partner in Early Learning
- Welcome Home Baby
- YMCA of the East Bay
- And many more

**Follow us on IG @eastcountycommunitypartners**



# Outreach in September

## Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding for All

In celebration of moms and babies, on Tuesday, August 7, 2024, the Concord Women, Infants & Children (WIC) office was honored to join many other countries in nurturing, supporting, and informing families during World Breastfeeding Week Celebration. EHSD's 4 Our Families Navigators **Natalie Aguilar** and **Casey Costa** represented our benefit programs and services, providing information to those who attended.



Navigators: **Natalie Aguilar** and **Casey Costa**



# 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:** [WeCareThatYouCare Guidelines\\_FINAL.pdf](#)

**We Care nomination form:** [WeCareThatYouCare Nomination Form\\_FINAL.pdf](#)



NATIONAL  
**WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
MONTH**  
— SEPTEMBER —

# Real Life Success Stories

## Workforce Development Board Plays Crucial Role in Client Lives

By Alan Wang, Community Relations Media Specialist

Teresa Bittner, of Oakley, had just acquired a job with Comcast cable TV, in Livermore. “I had been out of a job for months and needed a little boost to get started while I waited for my first paycheck,” says Teresa. To give her that extra boost, the Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Contra Costa County hooked her up with some prepaid gas cards to get to work and money to buy work clothes. It was all she needed.

Robin Townsend, on the other hand, had been unhoused for more than a year, had no job skills, and no idea where to get help. To her amazement, the WDB had a library of resources

*Continued on next page*

Teresa Bittner’s employer sent her to Rubicon Programs to get training on Quick Books software.



## Real Life Success Stories Workforce Development Board Plays Crucial Role in Client Lives *Continued from previous page*

and a team of people to help get her trained and employed. “I was treated awesome,” says Robin. “They were really kind to me.”

No matter how much help you’re looking for, EHSD’s WDB is there to help people break out of poverty and play a key role in driving the local economic engine.

Eventually, both Teresa and Robin received extra training from Rubicon Programs, a career services provider, which also gave Robin a temporary job in its work program. Robin was also referred to America’s Job Center of California (AJCC) and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) program, which is funding the expansion of her training to become a front and back office Medical Assistant. The AJCC is a one-stop shop for

workforce services, providing a comprehensive range of no-cost employment and training services for employers and job seekers.

Workforce Development Month raises awareness about the importance of the workforce industry to a growing national economy providing critical links between your community and businesses looking to hire jobseekers, education, training and support resources. To find out more on how the WDB helped Robin and Teresa, [CLICK](#) on the link and watch their stories.



Above: Robin Townsend received a laptop computer and training from Rubicon Programs and the American Job Center of California.



The Workforce Development Board at 4071 Port Chicago Highway is where Robin and Teresa received career assistance. [CLICK](#) the play button to hear how it helped them.

*Building Brighter  
Futures Together*

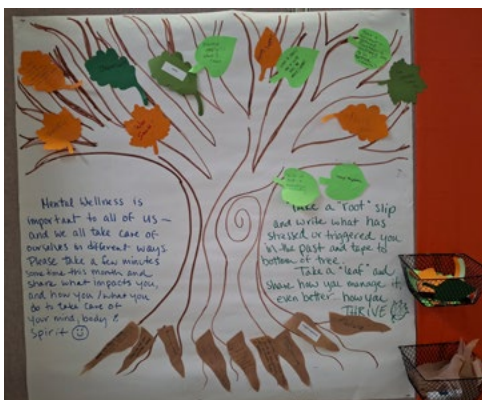
# National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month!

By Cristina Montufar, Translator, CFS

To honor National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in July, the Events Committee at West County EHSD came up with some ideas for our work community:

## The Feeling Tree

For this activity, introspection and sharing is key. The tree roots represent an experience or trigger, the trunk and branches signify our journey and actions, and the leaves represent how we managed/overcame those challenges, or better yet, how we thrive. All are invited to anonymously share a challenging part of their lives, how they got through it, and how they thrive now.



## The Check-In Wall: How are you feeling today?

On this multicolor wall we have posted labels of different feelings. Which one do you identify with today? This task is a gentle reminder that emotional self-awareness is a skill that needs to be practiced.

Emotional awareness helps us identify what we need and want (or don't want). There is a wide range of feelings, all are valid, and they help express a wide range of emotions that help us communicate and connect with others. Being aware of our emotions can help us talk about feelings more clearly, avoid or resolve conflicts better, build



stronger relationships and move past difficult feelings more easily. Knowing how we feel also helps us to be less self-critical.

## Be Kind

Be Kind prompts are posted on the Events Committee Board with a request for all to participate in a Random Acts of Kindness activity. Need inspiration? Random Acts of Kindness cards were



placed on the Events Committee Board the week of August 5th. The committee encourages all to take some time to make someone's day! Grab a card, complete the task and brag about it. And don't forget, Be Kind to yourself too!

Hooray for The Events Committee at West County EHSD! Building community one cubicle at a time.

# Under the Guard Tower: The Watercolors of Chikaji Kawakami

By Magdalene Gabel, General Assistance Program Analyst, Aging & Adult Services

During World War II, Executive Order 9066 was signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1945. It authorized the forced removal of all persons deemed a threat to the nation's security to the West Coast to "relocation centers" further inland, resulting in the incarceration of all Japanese Americans into what were called "internment camps." Approximately 122,000 men, women and children were forcibly moved to these internment camps.

Chikaji Kawakami was born in Kagoshima, Japan, and in 1901 immigrated to the United States. He was my great, great grandfather who was also incarcerated in the concentration camps with his wife and children (one of the children was my grandmother). Both my grandfather, Frank Shigeo Kimura, who was 28 at the time, and his wife, my grandmother, Chakeku Joan Kimura, were also imprisoned along with several of my great uncles and aunts. Chikaji left a legacy for our family as there are several artists among them. One of my brothers is a poet, the other a thriving artist who graduated from Oakland's California College of the Arts (CCA), and my sister is a novelist and screenwriter, to name a few in my immediate family.

While imprisoned in the Topaz concentration camps, Chikaji Kawakami helped found an art school within the prison camp in which he and a

few other art teachers were allowed to teach. But they were under strict guidelines on what they could paint which included censorship of the guard towers and the barbed wire surrounding the camp. With these guidelines or rules in place, the artists were still able to depict the harsh conditions while also showing the beauty within.



*Under the Guard Tower: The Watercolors of Chikaji Kawakami* is curated by Lydia Nakashima Degarrod, depicts life outside the barracks and documents the harsh living conditions during incarceration (Iwami, 2024).

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1944, the government announced that all the camps would be closed by the end of 1945. However, the experience would have an impact on those incarcerated as well as generations after. I grew up with this shadow of incarceration and the stigma of being Japanese. The experience influenced many Japanese Americans to assimilate into the "American" culture while intentionally not teaching their children to speak Japanese. Fortunately, the culture remains alive with pilgrimages to the historic sites of internment camps and continued festivals that celebrate traditions and honor our ancestors.

The Monterey Museum of Art is exhibiting a collection of watercolor landscapes created by Chikaji Kawakami, whose artist name is "Nanpo." These watercolor paintings were done while Kawakami was imprisoned at the concentration camp in Topaz, Utah. This special exhibit will run from August 22<sup>nd</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Monterey Museum of Art (MMA), located at 559 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA.

# Liana's Sleeping Bag Drive *Spreading Warmth One Sleeping Bag at a Time*

It may be hot now, but the cool fall breeze will be here before we know it, followed by freezing temperatures. This gave Liana Baldazo, Community Relations' **Larena Baldazo's** daughter an idea.

Her vision was to purchase and gather blankets to donate to our unhoused neighbors, so it was only right for her mom to reach out to Cynthia Smith, Program Coordinator, at Volunteer & Emergency Services.

From here, **Liana's Sleeping Bag Drive** was born and she could use your help.

The 10-year-old is gathering brand new sleeping bags and will drop them off to 400 Ellinwood the last week of the month. Her goal is to have the donations available for distribution as the weather cools down.

Amazon has sleeping bags for as little as \$19.99, although you can surely find them anywhere. You may bring your donation to 40 Douglas no later than Friday, September 20th or email [lbaldazo@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:lbaldazo@ehsd.cccounty.us) to coordinate with Larena.

Watch Liana's video [here](#).

*Building Brighter  
Futures Together*



CLICK the play button to watch Liana's video.

# EHSD SHOUTOUTS

Congratulations to this EHSD staff member for recently achieving a significant accomplishment!



By Shannon Currie,  
Eligibility Work Supervisor, AAS

**Mercedes Jaime**, SSPA, retired after more than 35 years with Contra Costa County. Co-workers and friends gathered on August 14th, 2024 to thank her for her service and wish her well on her retirement.



If you or a colleague have a work-related milestone or accomplishment, we want to hear about it. Email a 2-3 sentence description and photo to [EventsCommittee@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:EventsCommittee@ehsd.cccounty.us) and you may get a “shout out” in *Headlines* or on EHSD Live!

## Exit Interview Checklist

## Schedule an Exit Interview

If you are leaving EHSD, please consider participating in an exit interview. This is an excellent way to provide feedback to the Employment & Human Services Department. These interviews with outgoing staff are confidential and go directly to EHSD Director **Marla Stuart**.

You can schedule one by contacting **Julie Peck**, EHSD Ombudsperson at [jpeck@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:jpeck@ehsd.cccounty.us) or (925) 788-1722.

## Customer Service Champion

This individual is being recognized for going the extra mile by delivering excellent service to our customers. He went above and beyond in his willingness to help and demonstrated EHSD's emphasis on providing exemplary customer service. Congratulations on a job well done!

### Ben Wong

By Stephanie Rojas, Payroll Account Clerk Supervisor, IHSS

#### Exceptional Service: Ben's Commitment to Excellence in IHSS Payroll

In today's fast-paced world, where customer service often feels rushed and impersonal, it's a rare and commendable quality when an employee goes above and beyond to provide exceptional care and attention.



Chi Keung (Ben) Wong, Account Clerk-Experienced Level, AAS

Ben Wong, a dedicated payroll clerk at IHSS Payroll, exemplifies this rare quality. Recently, one of Ben's long-time customers, Mr. Smith, reached out to Ben's supervisor to express his deep appreciation for the outstanding service Ben provides—not just to him, but he believes, to all his customers.

Mr. Smith, who has been working with Ben for three years, couldn't speak highly enough of the kind and knowledgeable service he consistently receives. "Ben takes the time to explain things thoroughly," Mr. Smith shared. "Even when there's something he doesn't know right away, he finds out and gets back to me within 15-30 minutes. That kind of reliability is hard to find."

It's not just about the quick responses or the thorough explanations, though. What truly stands out is Ben's approach to customer service. Mr. Smith described his interactions with Ben as more than just transactional; they feel like special counseling appointments. "But I know he does that for all of his caseloads," Mr. Smith added, "because that's just the type of person he is. He takes the time to listen and is extremely knowledgeable."

Such a glowing endorsement speaks volumes about Ben's work ethic and the level of care he provides to those he serves. In a role where details matter and compassion is key, Ben has set a high standard for excellence. His dedication to ensuring that each customer feels heard, valued, and well-informed is truly commendable.

It's clear that Ben is not just fulfilling his duties—he's making a meaningful impact on the lives of those he works with. His commitment to providing exceptional service is a testament to his character and his passion for helping others. The praise from Mr. Smith is a reminder of the positive difference one person can make, and it's a well-deserved recognition for Ben's outstanding work.

*Building Brighter Futures Together*



# Trust in Elections



**CONTRA COSTA**  
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

[Home](#) [Get the Facts](#) [Observe Elections](#) [Ambassadors](#) [Resources](#)

[County Elections Home Page](#)

[Español](#)  
[Spanish](#)

[中文](#) Chinese



## Elections — More Secure Than Ever

Contra Costa residents are encouraged to visit the [secure-election.org](https://secure-election.org) site often to look more closely at our County’s handling of elections and the exhaustive efforts to protect them.

Contra Costa County is home to one of the safest, most secure, and transparent election systems in the nation. This is the premise of [secure-election.org](https://secure-election.org), the Elections Division’s recently launched website for reassuring voters of election integrity and security.

The website includes a comprehensive collection of videos, fact sheets, Q&As and social media graphics illustrating how Contra Costa County protects its elections. Opportunities for the public to observe election

activities and the county’s award-winning Certified Election Observer program complement the site.

The County Elections Division is using this voter education tool to dispel myths and replace them with solid facts and information, helping residents

understand the many steps and precautions are in place to ensure that only eligible voters vote, every legitimate vote is counted, and the county’s election system is secure from fraud.



Click on the arrow to view this video to learn more about secure elections in Contra Costa County.



## SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

### SERVICE AWARDS

#### 35 YEARS

Bernadette Rees, CalWIN Help Desk Specialist, Admin

#### 15 YEARS

Karina Eddy, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS

#### 25 YEARS

Jennifer Dodson, Medical Program Assistant, WFS  
John Galvin, Social Casework Assistant, CFS  
Martha Hankins, Soc Svc Program Assistant, AAS  
Malou Lyttle, Acct Clerk Supervisor/ASA III, Admin  
Meuy C. Saechao, Soc Svc Appeals Officer, Admin  
Neisha Spratt, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

#### 10 YEARS

Joshua Dominguez, Clerk-Senior Level, WFS

### NEW EMPLOYEES

Miki Abe, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Woodman Aldine, Teacher Assistant Trainee, CSB  
Janet Araysa, Intermediate, CSB  
Gavin Baker, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Vanessa Baskerville, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Joleen Berrios, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Sujay Bhaskar Kashyap, ISPA IV, Admin Information & Systems  
Nadia Bhatti, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Michelle Buzas, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Fatima Davis, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Tonya Dean, Site Supervisor II, CSB  
Cynthia DeCastro, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Julie Deemer, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Adriana De Sousa, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Cierra Dunn, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Aaron Gallo, Translator, WFS  
Evelyn Gonzalez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Lizzeth Gonzalez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Noorullah Haidari, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Claudia Haley, Intermediate Clerk, CSB  
Jessica Hanlon, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Jonesha Harris, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

KiYanna Harrison, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Kyle Hicks, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Rocio Jacobo, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Mia Jacobs, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Darnell Jones, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Ashleigh Kimlinger, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Svetlana Lapina, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Jovana Lara, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Charles Lopez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Martha Martinez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Sonia Martinez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Kayla May, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Claire Michaels, Workforce Services Specialist, WDB  
Ana Miranda, Social Worker, WFS  
Bianca Moore, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Shaukat Mubarak, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Dominick Myers Silva, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Evelyn Nawabi, Associate Teacher, CSB  
Christina Nelson, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Hoshang Noory, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Mary Orduno, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Malu Palma, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

*Continued on next page*

## SERVICE AWARDS | NEW EMPLOYEES | RETIREES

### NEW EMPLOYEES

*Continued from previous page*

Araceli Perez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Lilian Perez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Trina Peterson, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Angelique Picot, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Precious Powell, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Tamika Powell, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Delilah Prater, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Nicole Ramey, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Ann Ridge, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Karla Riley, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Adilene Rodriguez, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Amanda Rodriguez, Clerk-Specialist Level, WFS  
Cecil Ross, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

Anjana Singh, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Kieley Singh, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Emerald Spain, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Kimberly Stack, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Jessica Steggall, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Jillian Stone, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Ebubechukwu Uzoukwu, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Priyanka Vidushi, Accountant III, Admin  
Miranda White, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Mohammad Yosofy, Intermediate Clerk, CSB  
Sparkle Young, Social Casework Assistant, CFS  
Chenyi Yuan, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Htet Htet Zin Oo, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

### RETIREES

Danette Bonner, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS  
Angela Shakenside, Soc Svc Program Assistant, WFS

*Building Brighter  
Futures Together*

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

## September 2024

- HEALTHY AGING MONTH
- INTERGENERATIONAL MONTH
- NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH
- SEPTEMBER 2 – Labor Day (holiday)
- SEPTEMBER 8 – Grandparents’ Day
- SEPTEMBER 19 – National IT Professionals Day
- SEPTEMBER 22-28 – National Employ Older Workers Week
- SEPTEMBER 22 – Fall Prevention Awareness Day
- SEPTEMBER 23 – National Family Day

## October 2024

- HEAD START AWARENESS MONTH
- NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
- NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH
- OCTOBER 2-4 – Rosh Hashanah
- OCTOBER 14 – Indigenous People/Columbus Day
- OCTOBER 16 – National Boss’s Day
- OCTOBER 17 – The Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill
- OCTOBER 31 – Halloween

**We Care... You Care**  
 CLICK here to learn more about nominating a  
 coworker and see page 9

### 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**  
 September 5 or 19 • 4 to 6 p.m.  
 October 3 or 17 • 4 to 6 p.m.  
 November 7 or 21 • 4 to 6 p.m.



For more information about becoming a Resource Parent visit us at [www.ehdsd.org](http://www.ehdsd.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](mailto:ResourceFamilies@ehsd.cccounty.us)

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

Facebook and X @ContraCostaEHSD  
 Instagram @HumanaCosta  
 Like us on Facebook



### Election Security Safeguards

Contra Costa County takes 48 steps to ensure election security, including:

- Secure technology
- Secure processes
- Secure facilities
- Secure people

[Learn more](#)



The next Issue of *Headlines* will publish in early October. Email EHSD *Headlines* at [Headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:Headlines@ehsd.cccounty.us), by **Tuesday, September 17th** if you have an upcoming event, article, or idea you would like to submit.