Celebrating their years of County service are Child Support Services staff (l-r) Fran Bussone, 5 years; Bertie Simon-Rich, 20 years; Shelly Gales, 25 years; Antonio Sanchez, 15 years.

Child Support Services Honors Staff Years of Service

Monterey County as an employer is fortunate to have dedicated employees who have made a long-term commitment to public service.

Years of service are frequently celebrated by departments. Last month, Child Support Services held an Employee Appreciation Luncheon to recognize employees who have reached milestone years with service pins.
14 staff members in all received service pins at the special event, their combined years of service totaling 245! Eleven recipients are pictured in the photos above. Also honored but not shown are Michelle Perez, 15 years; Norah Boyer, 15 years and Josie Ramirez, 25 years.

The Appreciation Luncheon was sponsored by Department Managers and Supervisors. Congratulations to all!

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EMS Director Recognized for Statewide Service

Congratulations to Emergency Medical Services Director Michael Petrie, who has received the California Emergency Medical Services Authority Distinguished Service Award.

This award, which includes a silver medal, is given to an individual for distinguished service or
achievement which impacts emergency medical services statewide over an extended period of time.

Petrie says he is honored to receive the award.

“This award is meaningful because it was conferred by peers across the state from EMS, law enforcement, fire, ambulance and emergency physicians and was presented by the Director of the California EMS Authority,’ he explains.

While the award recognizes advancing EMS issues and needs statewide, it also considered significant improvements in the Monterey County EMS System, including the introduction of concepts such as the Triple Aim, Just Culture, basing decisions on data and personnel accountability and integrity."

Petrie has also received the State of California EMS Meritorious Service Medal, he is the only person to receive both these prestigious service awards. Congratulations!

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**Natividad’s State-of-the-Art Simulation Lab Earns Provisional Accreditation**

Practice makes perfect, but when it comes to doctors and nurses, how do they get that practice?

Did you know that Natividad has a Simulation Lab which features state-of-the-art technology providing physicians and nurses with real-world experience in a controlled environment?
Helping medical personnel get that important practice are three computer-driven manikins.

The manikins represent an adult male, a pregnant adult female and an infant; using them, the lab can simulate real-world medical scenarios ranging from postpartum hemorrhage, multiple-injury car crashes to pulmonary embolisms. The manikins can mimic human breathing, bodily fluids, convulsions, and blinking. They are programmed to respond to physical care and medications.

The lab itself a simulated-reality hospital room with two beds and patient monitors, a video monitoring system and an observation and debriefing area. Participants gain hands-on experience through simulation training and video playback.

"Simulation is about providing Natividad’s health care providers with the skill level and application knowledge to prepare for low frequency but highly complex medical events," said Susan Saunders, RN, Director of Nursing Education at Natividad.

Tom McKay, PhD, Education and Simulation Coordinator at Natividad says lab staff works very hard to create high quality training scenarios, likening it to baseball’s famous double play.

“All baseball players and fans know what the double play is, yet it takes frequent and repeated practice to complete successfully, especially under pressure like in the World Series," says McKay. “Every day is the World Series in the hospital and we must complete the double play, no excuses.”

Natividad has just received provisional accreditation by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) for its simulation program, only the second hospital in California to do so. SSH Accreditation is a peer-reviewed, customized evaluation examining a program’s processes and outcomes in assessment, research, teaching, education and systems integration.

Staff involved say the provisional accreditation is the result of an intense six-month process detailing aspects such as lab policies, use, procedures and scenario creations; efforts are continuing to bring full accreditation to the program.