Census Volunteer Experience Positive for County Staff

Dawn hadn’t broken yet as the entire staff from the Monterey County District 1 office joined other volunteers for the Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey on January 31st.

“Our team arrived at the Central Labor Council in Salinas at 4:30 a.m. to begin our in-person training,” says Supervisor Luis Alejo. “We were split into two teams and covered areas near San Juan Grade Road and Chinatown.”
The District 1 team joined volunteers who fanned out throughout most of Monterey County’s 3,771 miles to get much needed data. Survey guides helped volunteers gather critical information about encampment locations, age, gender and number of individuals who are living in a wide variety of situations such as a tent, shed, car or makeshift shelter.

Those living in shelters and transitional housing situations were counted separately, but it is the big picture that is most important. The last count in 2017 found 2,837 homeless residents in Monterey County.

“During my time in the State Assembly and now as a Monterey County Supervisor, I promised to make homelessness one of my top priorities,” explains Alejo. “When the 2019 Homeless Census was scheduled, our team jumped at the opportunity to help gather data to get a clear snapshot of the number of homeless people living in the community. The federal and state government provides funds through various programs including grant opportunities based on this homeless point-in-time census, so a lot of future funding depends on getting a most accurate count.”

This year’s information will be compiled and released in a few months.
Employee Engagement Webpage Offers Survey Results, Next Steps

Whether or not you took last year’s Employee Engagement Survey, you might be interested in what your colleagues had to say on a variety of subjects and how the County as an organization is responding.

The first Employee Engagement Survey was offered in May of last year and was designed to assess employee morale, satisfaction and engagement in the workplace.

What were those results and what has happened since then?

You can now easily find the answer to those questions. This week, the Monterey County Employee Engagement website went live. It offers lots of information: survey results, updates on how departments are progressing on their action plans - addressing the concerns that are important to you - and employee engagement resources for departments. The website is available on the County Infonet or via the Human Resources website.

While the website offers survey results, which you can review by department or countywide, the site itself is actually an outcome from the survey. Your responses do matter! Communication was the #1 SMART Goal theme brought forward by employees throughout the action planning process.

Human Resources in collaboration with Information Technology put the website together. Many thanks to the website project team:

Wendell Sells – Human Resources
Arturo Roque – Human Resources
Eduardo Urena – Information Technology

Gabriel Cortes – Information Technology
Nicholas Drinovsky – Information Technology
Kourtney Brewster – Information Technology

You can monitor the progress on survey issues on the website and in your own department through the SMART Goal process so you’ll be ready for the next employee survey, which will be offered this coming October.
Sheriff’s Promotion Coincides with International Women’s Day

International Woman’s Day had a special significance at the Sheriff’s Office last week.

On International Women’s Day, which was March 8th, the timing couldn’t have been better to announce the promotion of Sergeant Kathy Palazzolo to Commander.

Hired in 1987, Palazzolo has worked her way up the ranks, first as a Patrol Deputy in the Salinas and Monterey Stations. While in Monterey, she was on the Search and Rescue Team and a Crime Scene Investigator.

After being promoted to Patrol Sergeant, she worked the Monterey Coastal Station and South County Station. She was also a Hostage Negotiation Team Sergeant and her most recent assignment was in Internal Affairs.

Her new assignment will be in the Professional Standards Division where she will oversee Training and Internal Affairs. Congratulations Commander!