Giving Campaign Launches; Continues Legacy of Giving

That fun and fulfilling feeling of giving to a good cause begins Monday, October 14th. And you don’t even have to leave your desk to enjoy.

The 2019 Employee Giving Campaign launches Monday along with the website that will host donation information and those fun online auctions.
Campaign leaders gave the Board of Supervisors a preview of the campaign and its history Tuesday. Did you know employees have been raising money for local charities through the campaign since 1965? And have raised $1.6 million in the last ten years alone?

After the presentation, supervisors and staff got into the spirit by ‘embracing their cape,’ since the campaign theme is ‘Everyone Can be a Superhero.’

This year’s goal for fundraising is $135,000 and participation is purely voluntary. To help get you in the giving spirit, online auctions will kick off Monday with some great items, including the very popular Rancho Cielo Culinary Dinner for Four, tickets to the Monterey Winemakers Dinner and baskets with pet, coffee and movie themes. The campaign page is on the infonet, so be sure to log in early, get your auction bidding name set up and check them out. While you are there, check out the activity calendar for fun events!

Elections Jazzes Up the Vote

Elections staff kicked off the Are You Ready for 2020 campaign at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

The campaign mission is to prepare voters for the upcoming March 3rd Presidential Primary and
November 3rd General Elections. Besides raising youth awareness and participation, a goal of the program is to have voters check their status. This is particularly important for the Presidential Primary, as it’s the only election we vote by party.

This was the first year Elections had a presence at the Jazz Festival and staff really made the most of it, talking with festival goers, answering questions and helping folks check their voter status, sign up to be poll workers or vote by mail.

Registrar of Voters Claudio Valenzuela says participation at the Monterey Jazz Festival was a great start to the 2020 election cycle.

“Currently 75% of voters in Monterey County vote by mail compared to 65% in 2016. This is most likely due to the convenience of receiving the ballot several weeks before the election and voting from home. Also, now all vote by mail ballots returned by mail are postage paid.”
What did folks at the festival want to know? Here are some of their top questions which may answer questions you may have:

**Q. How can I check that I am registered with the party I want?**
A. Visit [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov)

**Q. I'm going to be traveling during that month, how do I get my ballot?**
A. Sign up for vote by mail and let us know you'll be away on vacation; we'll send your ballot directly to you.

**Q. I thought California had an open primary, why does my party matter in the primary?**
A. The presidential contest is still a partisan contest. If you are registered with a political party, you will get that party’s ballot. If you are registered with No Party Preference, you will have the option to vote on a political party’s ballot, if the political party allows you to do so.

Elections staff’s presence at community events throughout the county is an essential part of being accessible to voters. What’s their next stop? Staff will be at the Pebble Beach Zombie Run on October 26th so stop by for a spooky voter selfie! If you like them on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com), you’ll find out more about upcoming events. If you know of an upcoming event or would like to request a speaker at a community meeting, please email [GutierrezA7@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:GutierrezA7@co.monterey.ca.us).

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**Mentor Call Gets Enthusiastic Response**

Who will be the next county leader, executive or project manager? It could be a student at Hartnell Collage.

Have you heard about [Salinas Valley Promise](http://www.salinasvalleypromise.org) which offers tuition assistance to local students to attend Hartnell College?

The County has contributed financial support to this program and now is adding wisdom and experience to the mix, by participating in a Mentor Program in collaboration with the Hartnell College Foundation.

The County has committed to recruit 50 mentors for this program. A call went out for volunteers recently and the response was amazing! 44 employees have expressed interest in becoming a mentor so far but more are needed and welcomed.

Could you be a mentor? Here’s why your colleagues are stepping up:
I have been involved with a few mentorships over the years so I’ve seen and experienced the benefits.

Shortly before graduating, I got to know one of my younger professors that had been working in my field (Anthropology/Archaeology). Her mentorship helped me find opportunities to work in Costa Rica, Alaska and on some of the oldest remote sites in the Rocky Mountains.

After changing careers into IT, I had a friend working in cybersecurity that was able to fill the mentor role for me.

This will be my first formal mentorship role in this industry. I hope that my perspective and experience can help my mentees in the same way that my mentors’ support helped me.

- Bryan Curl, Security Analyst, Information Technology

When I saw the notice about the Hartnell Mentor Program, I reflected on my own undergraduate and graduate experience.

I believe my success in obtaining my degrees was due to the fact that I had a tremendous amount of support and resources from my family as well as the education institutions. I know I was very fortunate and that many students lack a support network.

When I was in college and law school, I was involved in tutoring and mentoring inner-city high school students in Los Angeles and Boston. It was a rewarding experience. It allowed me to give back to my community and focus on my studies when it was time to study rather than goofing off. I believe the Hartnell Mentor Program is an excellent way to give back to the community.

- Lisa Ortiz, Chief Child Support Attorney, DCSS

Mentors should be willing to commit to a year with the program and will work with their mentee in person and online. For more details contact Cynthia Juarez in Human Resources who is leading the mentor recruitment at 755-5228 or juarezc@co.monterey.ca.us,