



NOVEMBER 2016

*Giving Thanks*

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# Thank You for Your Leadership and Service

*Supervisor Don Knabe and Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich*



**Supervisor Don Knabe** served as Supervisor of the 4<sup>th</sup> District with distinction from 1996-2016. His remarkable accomplishments include:

- Establishing the Safe Surrender program, which allows a mother to safely and anonymously hand over her baby at any hospital or fire station. Since 2001, over 145 babies have been safely surrendered.
- Leading County efforts to combat child sex trafficking, including launching multiple public awareness campaigns, testifying before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, leading a bipartisan legislative package of bills aimed at cracking down on sex buyers, establishing a dedicated courtroom and advocating for the rights of victims.
- Establishing the 10,000 Jobs Program which created subsidized employment opportunities for businesses impacted by the Great Recession.
- Launching “Operation Libraries,” an initiative to invest over \$45 million to build and refurbish County libraries in the 4<sup>th</sup> District.
- Rancho Rising 2020: Fought to keep Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center open and led effort to invest \$418 million to build a new wellness center, a new outpatient care center and transform the Rancho campus.
- Appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the Homeland Security Commission.
- One of only a few leaders to serve on the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, the Southern California Rapid Transit District and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.
- Establishing the Arts Education Partnership Program to provide grants to schools and community based organizations to fund art programs for students.
- Hosting annual Knabe Cup Golf Tournaments for boys and girls high school golf teams.



**Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich** served as Supervisor of the 5<sup>th</sup> District with distinction from 1980 to 2016. His numerous accomplishments include:

- Initiated the Quality and Productivity Commission which has saved the County \$4 billion and Economy and Efficiency Commission which helped to reform our civil service system and consolidated over-lapping departments and redundant programs.
- Expanded access to justice with new courthouses in the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys.
- Built new Sheriff stations to enhance law enforcement services in Lancaster, Palmdale, and San Dimas; a new station is in the works for the Santa Clarita Valley.

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Visit <http://hr.lacounty.gov> for information on employment opportunities with the County of Los Angeles

**Los Angeles County Museum of Art**

(323) 857-6010  
[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)

Through January 2 – The Serial Impulse at Gemini G.E.L.  
Through January 2 – Toba Khedoori

**The Music Center**

(213) 972-7211  
[www.themusiccenter.org](http://www.themusiccenter.org)

**Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**

Through November 27 – Akhnaten

**Center Theatre Group**

(213) 628-2772  
[www.centertheatregroup.org](http://www.centertheatregroup.org)

**Ahmanson Theatre**

December 4 through January 15 – Amelie, A New Musical

**Kirk Douglas Theatre**

Through November 20 – Vicuna  
December 2 through December 11 – The Wholehearted

**Mark Taper Forum**

Through December 18 – The Beauty Queen of Leenane

**Grand Park**

(213) 972-8080  
[www.grandparkla.org](http://www.grandparkla.org)

November 28 through December 25 – Grand Park Lights Up the Holidays

December 31 – Grand Park + The Music Center’s N.Y.E.L.A.

Through May 31 – Lunchtime! Yoga Retreat

**Walt Disney Concert Hall**

(323) 850-2000  
[www.laphil.com](http://www.laphil.com)

November 22 – Alice’s Adventures

November 25 through November 27 – Mozart & Brahms

November 26 and December 3 – Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker Suite featuring Barak Ballet

December 1 through December 4 – Dudamel & Russian Masters

December 8 through December 11 – Dudamel Conducts Haydn’s Creation

December 15 and December 17 – Handel’s Messiah

December 17 – Holiday Sing-Along



**Members of the Board**

**Hilda L. Solis**  
Chair  
First District

**Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
Second District

**Sheila Kuehl**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District



**Lisa M. Garrett**  
Director of Personnel

**Carla D. Williams**  
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Check out the DIGEST at  
<http://hr.lacounty.gov/county-digest/>

**LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

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- Increased patrol deputies throughout the County.
- Initiated the DISARM program which has been successful in removing guns from the hands of convicted felons.
- Expanded services and outreach to victims by increasing the number of victim services representatives in the DA’s Bureau of Victim Services.
- Established the Child Abduction Regional Emergency Alert program, a model for the nationwide Amber Alert system.
- Supported the continued leasing of the Helitanker and the Superscooper aircraft every year to protect homes and property.
- Collaborated with state and federal lawmakers to extend the age of foster youth care from 18 to 21 to improve outcomes for emancipated youth.
- Led initiatives to include foster youth self-sufficiency as a Countywide goal and initiated a series of programs to support individual success.
- Created a Countywide Career Development Internship Program and partnership with more than 30 cities, school districts, and government agencies to establish similar career training programs.
- Offered free MTA bus passes for transitional aged youth to get to school and work.
- Opened employment opportunities through countywide work-source centers.
- Hosted job fairs for foster and community youth.
- Initiated the “All for the Love of Children” event to raise funds for the unique needs of foster children.
- Provided funding for mentoring partnership and employment programs for at-risk youth in local communities.
- Created the County multi-agency child sex trafficking task force to compile various recommendations to address this vile crime.
- Fathered the County’s successful restaurant grading system which has become a national model for protecting public health.
- Initiated legislation requiring all nursing homes in California to post their 5-star federal ratings helping families make informed decisions on care facilities.
- Fully implemented Laura’s Law in the County to significantly improve the lives of the mentally ill, protect their families, reduce incarceration and homelessness, and enhance public safety.
- With Caroline Ahmanson, co-founded the award-winning L.A. County High School for the Arts and funded new state-of-the-art amphitheater.
- Expanded the County’s trails system to more than 200 miles Countywide.
- Set aside thousands of acres of open space and parkland for future generations.
- Led the effort to push for clean fuel technology to replace all MTA diesel buses to Clean Burning Natural Gas.
- Through our Pet Adoption program at each of our Board meetings, over 1,000 dogs, cats, a horse and other pets have found loving homes.
- For the past 18 years, hosted annual the “Salute to Veterans and their Families” outreach program at Arcadia Park.
- Initiated the L.A. County Veterans Internship Program, creating additional employment opportunities for veterans.
- Streamlined the County permitting and procurement processes thru technology and e-government and provide incentives for small businesses to be competitive.
- Implemented a governance structure that enhances our ability to serve and achieve the goals we have set.
- Oversaw consolidation of our health/public health/mental health departments under the new health agency.

**We honor and celebrate the many contributions of Supervisors Don Knabe and Michael D. Antonovich, that have changed outcomes for millions of Los Angeles County residents.**

**WE MAKE  
A LIVING  
BY WHAT WE GET,  
BUT WE MAKE  
A LIFE BY  
WHAT WE GIVE.**

winston churchill



# Meet Scott Minnix

*Director, Internal Services Department*



On November 4, 2016, Scott Minnix was sworn in as Director of the Internal Services Department. Prior to his appointment, he was the Director of the General Services Department (GSD) for the City of Houston since November 17, 2010 with oversight of Building Design and Construction, Property Management, Real Estate, Security, and Employee Development. He

had responsibility for nearly \$600M annual budget/spending and oversaw the day-to-day building operations of nearly 400 facilities representing over eight million square feet of occupied space. Prior to joining the City of Houston, he held an executive position for the City of Seattle as a director of facility operations in the Fleet and Facility Department.

GSD was named “City of Houston Outstanding Department of the Year” by Mayor’s Office of Business Opportunity. Minnix received the “Pinnacle Award” for Outstanding Business Advocate of the Year in 2014. In 2015, he achieved the Facility Management Professional designation from the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) and attended the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education Program at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA receiving his Certification in Driving Government Performance.

An adjunct Professor at Houston Community College and the University of Houston-Downtown, Minnix is recognized nationally as a powerful educator and motivational speaker. He has a unique ability to coach and get positive results using best practices, and optimizing team and individual performance. He has performed as a high-impact strategist throughout his 20-plus years of executive, operations, education/academic, and HR leadership.

He is actively engaged in the community and serves on the Boards of the Ensemble Theatre (Co-Chair); Texas Southern University’s College of Science Engineering And Technology (Board of Advisors); IFMA (President); and Rice University’s Design Alliance Board. Previously, Minnix served on the Board of the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Additionally, he is an advisor to the World Youth Foundation and the Houston Communication, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program.

A former officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Minnix earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration/

Management from the University of Puget Sound and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington. He is an avid tennis player and golfer and attends Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church.

## Working for You

### *Department of Public Health*

Protect your loved ones and guests this Thanksgiving by preparing your foods properly and cooking your turkey and other meats to appropriate temperatures. Here are some health and safety tips to keep the holiday festive and avoid foodborne illness.

#### **Food Handling Tips**

Each year, Public Health investigates cases of foodborne illness during the holidays that are the result of undercooked food and poor food handling practices. Typical symptoms of foodborne illness (sometimes known as food poisoning) include stomach pain, vomiting, and diarrhea, all of which can start hours or days after consuming contaminated food or drink.

Raw or undercooked turkey, chicken, or meats can contain *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, or *E.coli* bacteria that cause diarrhea and other problems. These bacteria can multiply rapidly when poultry is taken out of refrigeration and before it is thoroughly cooked. Freezing does not kill these bacteria, but they are destroyed when food is cooked to the proper temperature. Bacteria from raw poultry can contaminate anything that it touches. Thoroughly wash your hands, utensils, and work surfaces to prevent the spread of bacteria to your food and family.

#### **Thaw a turkey any one of three ways (refrigerator, cold water, or microwave):**

- **Refrigerator:** Place frozen turkey in original wrapper in the refrigerator (40° F or below). Allow approximately 24 hours per five pounds of turkey. After thawing, keep turkey refrigerated for only 1-2 days before cooking. A turkey that has been thawed in the

**FOOD HANDLING TIPS**  
*continued on page 5*

# Meet Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D.

*Director, Department of Mental Health*



Dr. Jonathan Sherin is a psychiatrist and neurobiologist by trade with a wide range of professional experience. Most recently, he served as both the chief medical officer and executive vice president of military communities for Volunteers of America, an organization with a vast national network that serves a full spectrum of vulnerable clients including at-risk youth

and family, intellectually disabled, veteran, frail elderly, and prison re-entry populations. In these posts, he brought key clinical, research, and systems, as well as policy expertise to the organization as a whole and oversaw a massive expansion of its services to military community members, particularly homeless veterans.

Dr. Sherin is a leading authority on the care of veterans struggling with trauma and reintegration challenges. He has testified in Congress on veteran homelessness and suicide. Prior to joining Volunteers of America, he had a distinguished career in the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) where he held various clinical, teaching, research, and administrative leadership positions. In his last VA post, he served as chief of mental health for the Miami VA Healthcare System. He has also held a variety of full academic appointments, most recently as professor and vice chairman for the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami.

Dr. Sherin is an accomplished neurobiology researcher with notable achievements including his work discovering a core sleep circuit in mammals, published in “Science” magazine that garnered international recognition. In addition, he is a recipient of the prestigious Kempf Award from the American Psychiatric Association for his conceptual model of the psychotic process. More recently, his efforts have focused on developing access programs to dismantle myriad barriers facing vulnerable populations, as well as methods for measuring wellbeing (and human flourishing) as an outcome.

Dr. Sherin completed his undergraduate studies in neuroscience at Brown University, his graduate work at the University of Chicago and Harvard, and his postgraduate training at UCLA. He is a volunteer clinical professor, as

well as a member of the Center on Aging at the University of Miami and a volunteer clinical professor at UCLA.

## FOOD HANDLING TIPS

*continued from page 4*

refrigerator can be re-frozen. It is not recommended to refreeze a turkey that has been thawed using other methods.

- **Cold Water:** Place securely wrapped turkey in cold water and change the water every 30 minutes. Allow about 30 minutes defrosting time per pound of turkey. Cook immediately after thawing.
- **Microwave:** Check to see that the turkey is not too large and fits comfortably in the microwave. Check manufacturer’s instructions for the size of turkey that will fit in your microwave oven, the minutes per pound, and the power level to use for thawing. Cook immediately after thawing.

### To cook a turkey:

- When roasting a whole turkey, use a food thermometer to make sure it cooks to 165° F or higher. Insert the thermometer in the thickest part of the thigh, but not against the bone.
- For safety and uniform doneness, cook stuffing separately in a casserole dish.
- For pre-cooked turkey dinners, eat within two hours or refrigerate components separately, then reheat to a temperature of at least 165° F.

Other ways to have a healthy Thanksgiving are to reinvent traditional family recipes by using healthier ingredients and incorporate physical activity into your day by taking a walk before or after the meal. The Department of Public Health wishes you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

Visit [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov) for more information.

# Out of Homelessness and Into Public Housing

## *Public Housing Homeless Initiative Program*

Crystal Beacham, homeless since 2015 and a single mother of two young boys, found herself living at a shelter operated by the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC). Due to funding constraints, the shelter closed in September 2016. While at the shelter, Beacham learned about the County's Public Housing Homeless Initiative Program. On September 16, 2016, she and her two boys received a referral for permanent housing at the South Scattered Sites Public Housing Development, owned and operated by the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA). Through the collaborative efforts of HACoLA and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Beacham was leased in to a two-bedroom public housing unit on October 24, 2016.

On July 1, 2016, HACoLA implemented the Public Housing Homeless Initiative Program as an additional means of addressing the area's homeless crisis. HACoLA has historically given priority to homeless families, veterans, and victims of domestic violence seeking placement in public housing by reserving 30% of its available units for these populations. However, under the Initiative Program, all HACoLA units that become available in the South Scattered Sites Public Housing Development are offered to a homeless family first.

Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director said, "Prior to the Initiative Program, public housing units were not offered to homeless families first, but HACoLA prides itself in being forward thinking, and using all available resources to ensure that families like Ms. Beacham's have a safe and suitable home."



*Beacham Family*



*Left to right: Jose Macias, South Scattered Sites Maintenance Supervisor; Crystal Beacham; nine-year-old Deshon Beacham; Toni Lopez, South Scattered Sites Property Manager; and Nicole Boyd, WLCAC Case Worker.*

Nicole Floyd, her WLCAC case worker, describes Beacham as a person who does not let hard times get her down. She further adds that Beacham would cheer up other women in the shelter by doing their hair. Floyd will provide two years of continued case management services to Beacham to ensure she thrives in her new permanent living environment.

Through its Public Housing Homeless Initiative Program, HACoLA continues its mission of "Building Better Lives and Better Neighborhoods." As in the words of Floyd, it took a village of resources to provide a stable living environment to the Beacham family, and HACoLA is proud to have been proud of that effort.





## Ask Dr. Carissa Jones, DVM

*Department of Animal Care and Control*

### Holiday Toxicities

*My 2- and 5-year-old nephews and 8-year-old niece are coming from Florida this holiday season to visit. They don't have any pets at home. How should I handle my pets during this chaotic time?*

Holidays can be a fun and exciting time where families come together. But it's also quite a busy time for the animal emergency clinics. Here are some hazards to watch out for with your pet during this holiday season:

#### Eating "people food"

- Holiday foods, especially in excessive amounts, can lead to stomach ache or pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas which can be life threatening).
- Leaving food on the counter or in an open trash bin sets up an invite for your pet to indulge. Make sure to put food away immediately!
- Be cautious of the bones in your food. Pets love this but their intestines do not.

#### Some of our holiday favorites can also be toxic to pets

- Chocolate, grapes, onions, garlic, raisins, or alcohol are highly toxic to animals.
- Family members with prescription medications should keep the medications locked up and doors closed, in case pills drop to the floor.

- Plants such as mistletoe and lilies are poisonous.
- With any concern, please contact your local veterinarian and ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.

#### With all the holiday visitors, homes tend to be left open

- Keep your pet secure with a closed door or crate or in a room. This helps with the nervous pets, as well.
- Make sure to update identification for your pet. Microchips should be updated (contact the microchip company to ensure your information is correct). Make sure your pet's tag contains current contact information.

#### Holiday decorations can be hazardous to your pet

- Ornaments, such as tinsel, Christmas tree needles, ribbons, and bows, can be dangerous if broken and ingested.
- Extension cords can get chewed on by puppies, kittens and rabbits. Unplug when not in use.
- Holiday tree water can sometimes include chemicals to keep your tree healthy. This can be toxic to your pet. Ensure you use pet friendly water.

Keeping your pet safe this holiday season will prevent a trip to animal ER. If you have any concerns about your pet, contact the other family doctor, your veterinarian.

## United Latino Fund

### *Charitable Giving Campaign*

Centro de Alegria is an early childhood education center run by Proyecto Pastoral, a United Latino Fund-funded partner serving low-income Latinos in Boyle Heights and founded by Father Greg Boyle. The center offers relevant and culturally sensitive low- and no-cost childcare and preschool services to children ages 18 months to five years. It also holds workshops to help parents gain skills they need to help their children flourish academically and socially.

The United Latino Fund (ULF) is a philanthropic organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Latinos and other groups. ULF's Community Grant Program funds nonprofit organizations like Proyecto Pastoral that deeply impact the communities they serve. For nearly 30 years, ULF has invested in more than 600 nonprofits.

With over 49% of the population, Latinos make up the largest ethnic group in L.A. County. As a result, the demand for ULF dollars and services is extremely high. Compounding this demand is the wave of recent immigrants from Central America & Mexico, many of whom are unaccompanied minors. These children and families have a new set of needs driven by the harsh realities of the ongoing gang and drug wars raging in their motherland. More than ever before, ULF needs your love and support to continue helping organizations like Proyecto Pastoral.



# The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

## *The Emmy Award-winning L.A. County Holiday Celebration*

There is no better way to experience L.A.'s rich cultural diversity than by watching the Emmy Award-winning **L.A. County Holiday Celebration**. Now in its 57<sup>th</sup> year, the Holiday Celebration is the County's largest holiday program. Produced by the Arts Commission and sponsored by the Board of Supervisors, this free seasonal music and dance spectacular takes place at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and is simulcast live on PBS SoCal KOCE. Choirs, music groups, and dance companies from around the County take to the stage, creating a one-of-a-kind experience that honors the spirit of many cultures and holiday traditions.



Highlights for this year's show include **Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company** with a folklórico dance from the regions of Tabasco, Mexico; holiday songs sung by the **Palmdale High School Choral Union and Sunday Night Singers**; and the **Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble**, which will perform a classical handbell piece that celebrates Christmas and Hanukkah. Performers new to the program include the Grammy-nominated ragtime, Dixieland blues and early swing band **California Footwarmers**; **Cuba L.A.**, performing Latin jazz renditions of holiday standards; Filipino dance company **Kayamanan Ng Lahi**, with festive dances from the provincial lowland/coastal region of the Philippines; the **Los Angeles Chamber Choir**, which will sing the 16th century advent hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming;" and **QVLN (Q-Violin)**, bringing his "Brazil meets Jimi Hendrix on an electric violin" stylings to perform an upbeat Latin fusion of a Christmas classic.

The Holiday Celebration takes place on Saturday, December 24, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and is broadcast live on PBS SoCal KOCE, with live streaming on [pbssocal.org](http://pbssocal.org). For an artist line-up and information for the live event, please visit [HolidayCelebration.org](http://HolidayCelebration.org).

Don't miss this beloved event! If you cannot make it to the live version of the show, PBS SoCal KOCE rebroadcasts the Holiday Celebration on December 24 from 9 p.m. through midnight and again on Christmas day at noon.

## Variety the Children's Charity

### *Charitable Giving Campaign*

75 Years in the making! Variety the Children's Charity of Southern California kicked off its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the **biggest Mobility Grant in the Charity's history**. On September 25, 2016, 75 children with disabilities each received a brand new customized adaptive bike. **75 Kids + 75 Adaptive Bikes = COUNTLESS Smiles!** The generous donations from L.A. County employees through the County's Charitable Giving Campaign is what makes events like this possible. Thank you L.A. County employees!



*And they're off! 75 kids test out their new customized bikes.*



## L.A. County Foster Youth

### Filmmakers Honored at White House Film Festival



Left to right: KITS Executive Director Tige Charity, Jevonne Davis, Leanne Caldejon, DCFS Manager Dominique Robinson, Angel Velasquez, and actor Ty Burrell.

Despite the many challenges that Leanne Caldejon, Angel Velasquez, Jevonne Davis, Marquies Drake, and Danny Avelar have faced as foster youth, on October 2, their short film, “Time for Change,” was selected and screened as a finalist entry out of 700 submissions at the South by South Lawn White House Film Festival. The young filmmakers were ecstatic after meeting President Obama. “This weekend taught me to never stop pursuing my dreams,” said Caldejon. It’s still hard for Velasquez to believe she actually met the President and was inside the White House. Davis, an aspiring actor said, “Getting to meet the President was historic as he’ll be leaving office soon.”

“Time for Change” depicts historical characters and poses the question, “What world do you want to live in?” Their film was made in collaboration with Kids in the Spotlight (KITS), a unique filmmaking program that works with foster youth to script, cast, and star in their own short films made during an intensive three-week period. For the past seven years, KITS, a nonprofit organization of film professionals, has worked with over 250 foster youth to produce over 50 films. KITS Executive Director Tige Charity stated, “My job is to provide an outlet for our kids to express themselves and a platform for them to shine, and there is no better place to shine than at the White House!”

Department of Children and Family Services Director Philip L. Browning stated, “Kids in the Spotlight has allowed our youth to do something remarkable—create finished personalized films that are screened at their own Oscar-like ceremony. We are extremely proud of what these young filmmakers have accomplished, knowing that their message of change was well received at the White House.”

## Share Your Heart Share Your Home

*Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent  
Dept. of Children and Family Services*



November is a time for family, a time for tradition and especially a time to give thanks for all we have in our lives. Our youth in foster care often have mixed feelings about the holiday season; especially when, year after year, they hope to have a loving family to sit with at the Thanksgiving table.

**Jesus**, age 16, has been patiently waiting for his forever family for many years. Life has not been easy for this young man due to a history of abuse and neglect. But Jesus still holds hope of being adopted by a family who can see past his hurt and help him reach his full potential. Jesus is a great teen! He loves, loves, loves animals and hopes to care for pets of his own in his forever home. Like many teenagers, Jesus likes football, pizza and Chinese food. The ideal family for Jesus is one who is patient, active, and ensures that Jesus receives plenty of attention. They say that it is in giving that we truly receive, so let’s be his village and share his story and picture with your family and friends. Let’s be sure that Jesus gets to sit around that Thanksgiving table with his own family next year. **Let’s find a family for Jesus!**

## Remember Safe Practices This Holiday Season

Although November brings an end to daylight saving time, it welcomes the holiday season. To celebrate the holidays safely, check your smoke alarm, remember kitchen safety, and be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning.

When you change your clocks for daylight saving time, it's a good time to remember to check your smoke alarm and change the batteries. Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep. Having a working smoke alarm reduces the number of fatalities by half

during home fires. To quote the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), "Hear the beep where you sleep. Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm!"

Keeping kitchen fire safety in mind during this joyous but hectic time is important, especially when there's a lot of activity at home. According to the NFPA, U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 162,400 home fires that

involve cooking equipment each year. It's important to supervise children in the kitchen; not leave cooking food unattended; avoid wearing anything that can catch fire easily when cooking; and clean cooking surfaces on a regular basis to prevent grease buildup.

Did you know heating is the second leading cause of home fires followed by cooking? Space heaters are big contributors in causes of carbon monoxide poisoning, often called the "invisible killer." To prevent most heating-related carbon monoxide poisoning occurrences, never use your oven or stove to heat your home; place heaters on a level surface; make sure there is three feet between the heater and any combustible items; and always turn off heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.

As you prepare your holiday schedule, the Fire Department urges you to follow these safety tips to protect you and your family from fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. For more information on fire safety, visit [www.fire.lacounty.gov](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov).



Photo: Los Angeles Family Housing

*Fara and her family*

## United Way of Greater LA Charitable Giving Campaign

The day her first daughter was born was the day financial instability and homelessness began for Fara. The teen mother's husband lost his job. The couple could no longer make ends meet. This began the cycle of poverty which lasted years until the couple split. The husband took two of their eldest children, bouncing from shelter to shelter. With nowhere to go, Fara and her two babies survived by living in a car for over a year.

This continued until Fara found her way to Los Angeles Family Housing (LAFH), a United Way of Greater Los Angeles (UWLA)-funded partner. There, she became one of over 30,000 people UWLA and partners helped move off the streets and into permanent homes since 2011. Fara was reunited with her eldest children and established a safe home for her family. Fara also received mental health support and life skills coaching, which helped her build a new life with her kids. Her children finally felt safe and stable for the first time in their lives. LAFH offered programs like theater and crafts workshops, which helped the children to come out of their shells. Today, the kids are excelling in school, and homelessness is not in their future.

Like you, UWLA believes in a world where everyone has access to a quality education, stable housing, and a steady job. We believe there can be more stories like Fara's, and that's why we are creating pathways out of poverty. Through partnership with a carefully selected group of more than 140 L.A. County organizations like LAFH, and support from people like you, UWLA can create lasting, permanent solutions that can end poverty and homelessness in L.A. County.



# Retirees

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after their many years of service to the County of Los Angeles:*

45+ Years

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Thomas P. Higgins

40+ Years

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE:** Anna E. Cervantes  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Lorraine Johnson  
**FIRE:** Cruz Covarrubias  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Craig O. Brown, Gwendolyn A. Hall, Cheryl Lovan, Christine C. Rodriguez, Connie U. Trippy, Betty J. Wallace-Gordon  
**PARKS & RECREATION:** James Sorrell, Sr.  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Debra A. Adams  
**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Julio Fernandez

35+ Years

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** James L. Blaydes, Carrol A. Harris  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Yvonne J. Hernandez  
**FIRE:** Lawrence R. Collins, Kent W. Dowey  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Rita Delgado, Patricia Gonzales, Elmer L. Green, Shelia M. Irvine, Joseph C. Keys, Jr., Conchita A. Mojica, Araceli C. Petrasanta, Rosie M. Stevenson, Larry Turner, Soon Yoo  
**LACERA:** Elvia M. Gonzalez, Brenda J. Grundy  
**PROBATION:** Michael Young  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Hyacinth V. Carter, Etzer Charles, Barbara P. Hairston  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Carolyn M. Bentley  
**PUBLIC WORKS:** Joseph A. Bistline IV  
**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Nancy M. Gellor  
**SHERIFF:** Lorraine K. Grant  
**SUPERIOR COURT:** Leonida Y. Berry, George R. Fierro, Dean C. Jenkins  
**TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:** Terry A. Wilson

30+ Years

**ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Fay M. Etheridge  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Rebecca N. Valdez  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Martha C. Esparza, Elisea B. Gabot, Dixie D. Havard  
**PROBATION:** George A. Jones, Sheilah I. Lindsey  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Nyla M. Johnson  
**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Choong N. Song

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Silvia D. Pascual, Daniel Smith

**SHERIFF:** James C. Bald, Brian S. Dunn, Anthony P. Esquivel, William E. Gordon, Anthony Navarro, Rosalinda P. Pineda, Troy C. Royer, Mary H. Salazar

25+ Years

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Ana M. Lievano Ruiz, Kathy A. Madison, Yene L. Mejia-Martin, Dorothy Ng, Brenda J. Spates

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Khalil Abdul-Aziz, Dalmacia S. Almanza, Tessie A. Escobar, Estrelita R. Flores, Bertha S. Jaramillo, Josephine C. Khoo, Belen Rua, Carmelita Vinuya

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Michael C. Boonrat, Lilia H. Wallace

**PROBATION:** Sharon L. Grossman, Joaquin B. Mitchell

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Lida Abcarians, Zenaida T. Helms-Miller, Consuelo M. Hernandez, Cathy Lewis

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Gary W. Mahle, Abedalwahwed K. Mohsen

**SHERIFF:** Toni Chittun, Aubrey D. Cottrell, Jr, Rada L. Grimes, Boris I. Nikolof, Placida O. Paloma, Gregg B. Plamondon, Hector M. Rodriguez, Neil S. Thomas, Josephine G. Valdez, Thomas P. Whalen

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Angela Hicks, Ruby N. Ross, Joyce Schmiesing

## Rideshare L.A. County!

*from Workplace Programs and Marketing*

Ridesharing is a good way to save money and time. If you wanted to try Ridesharing this year, but didn't know where to find the resources, then finding a Ridematch may be for you. All it takes is a visit to [www.ridematch.info](http://www.ridematch.info) to sign up. The free service will match you with commuters who live in your area and travel to work near you. When you Rideshare, you reduce solo commutes to work and your carbon footprint which helps the environment. You can also use [www.go511.com](http://www.go511.com) for local resources to find a Ridematch to carpool, vanpool or to ride the bus or rail. Take Pride and Share the Ride.

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**1 (800) 87-FRAUD**



# 30th Annual PQA Ceremony

## Supervisor Antonovich Honored and Projects Recognized



2016 Gold Eagle Award Winner represented by DCFS Director Philip Browning and the project team.

With estimated benefits to the County in excess of \$84 million, the Quality and Productivity Commission, Chief Executive Officer, and the Board of Supervisors honored departments and project managers at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Productivity and Quality Awards (PQA) ceremony on October 19.

KCBS/KCAL anchor-reporter Rick Garcia returned as master of ceremonies for the PQA, held in the Grand Hall, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center.

Supervisor Hilda Solis, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, and CEO Sachi Hamai delivered remarks in support of the County's program to enhance productivity, efficiency, and improve the quality of public services. Supervisors Solis and Kuehl also commended Supervisor Michael Antonovich for creating the Commission and the PQA program, which recognizes innovative projects, developed by County employees that result in cost savings, revenue, or cost avoidance.

Among the projects recognized at the event were an innovative Aquaponics/Urban Farming Project at a public housing community in Long Beach and a unique partnership between Parks and Recreation and the Public Library that offered summer lunch and summer reading programs for low-income children.

CEO Hamai said, "The Commission identifies these innovative and efficient projects and publishes them in an annual "Best and Shared Practices Report," which is distributed to County departments and related agencies." See the report at <http://qpc.lacounty.gov>.

### 2016 Eagle Award Winners/Top Ten Projects

**Gold Eagle** – Foster Care Search System – Finding a Home That Fits (DCFS)

**Silver Eagle** – Jury Management Information System (Superior Court)

**Bronze Eagle** – TGE Resource Center – More than Just Urban Farming (CDC/Housing Authority)

**Assessor Portal** (Assessor)

**Dependent Eligibility Verification Program** (DHR, CEO, RR/CC)

**Delivering Mental Health Services Without Walls** (DMH)

**Lunch @ the Library: Healthy & Engaged Youth** (Parks and Recreation, Public Library)

**Youth Opportunity Program** (DPW, Probation, CSS, DHR, DMH)

**County Services Kiosk** (RR/CC, DMVA)

**Avatar Assistance for the Traffic Web Page** (Superior Court)

### 2016 Commission Special Awards

**Changemaker Award** – From "Lost in Translation" to "Beyond Spanglish" (DRP)

**Commissioners' Legacy Award** – Improving Cancer Care through Patient Navigation (DHS)

**County Image Enhancement Award** – My Health LA (DHS)

**Creative Technology Award** – Countywide Collaboration to Office 365 (ISD, CEO)

**Customer Service Award** – Staying Alive: CPR Anytime Public Education Program (Fire)

**Mega Million Dollar Award** – Point of Service Scanning (DPSS)

**Outstanding Teamwork Award** – Healthy Pet Expo (DPH, ACC, Parks and Recreation, ISD, DHR, CEO)

**Performance Measurement Award** – Dependent Eligibility Verification Program (DHR, CEO, RR/CC)

**Process Enhancement Award** – Going Once, Twice Sold! Property Auction Redesign (TTC)



Left to right: KCBS/KCAL anchor-reporter Rick Garcia, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, and QPC Chair Rodney C. Gibson.