



## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

# COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

Submitted to the Board of Supervisors on March 11, 2014

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), founded in 1982, seeks to improve the quality of life for women of all ages in San Mateo County. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration, the Commission identifies women's needs, advises the Board of Supervisors, and educates the community on matters concerning women. The Commission also honors the achievements of women through the annual Women's Hall of Fame, now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year. Supervisor Carole Groom is the Board of Supervisors' Liaison to the Commission. The actions of the Commission contribute to Shared Vision 2025 of a Collaborative Community.

### II. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission consists of 17 adult and 2 youth members who are residents of San Mateo County. Six commissioners were appointed in 2013; one position remained vacant, and two additional vacancies developed by year end. The outreach and selection process will be conducted during the Spring of 2014. Current members include:

Christine Padilla, *President*  
Carrie Gann, *Vice President*  
Becky Abens  
Katie Ferrick  
Ruth Fullmer  
Elsie Gufler  
Tanisha Hughes

Kristy Koberna  
Linda Koelling  
Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i  
Marguerite Machen  
Keesa Ocampo  
Sandra Schuster  
Anisha Weber

Mana Anvar,  
*Youth Commissioner*  
Bharathi Chinnakotla  
*Youth Commissioner*

### III. COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

In 2013, commissioners were involved in a number of activities that will be outlined briefly in this section.

#### **Permanent Women's Hall of Fame Exhibit**

Considerable planning went into the development of a permanent, iPad- driven, digital exhibit at the San Mateo County History Museum featuring the Women's Hall of Fame and Young Women of Excellence Honorees. Museum patrons are now able to search biographical information about honorees and view their photos.

#### **Gender Analysis of Boards and Commissions**

The Commission is in the process of completing year three of an analysis of the gender composition of County Boards and Commissions that will be conducted annually to assess whether involvement in County advisory bodies is reflective of the gender demographics of the County.

#### **Women's Political Leadership Development**

The Commission continued its support of efforts to encourage and train women to seek appointed and elected positions through its collaboration with the Women's Community Leadership Network, a non-profit that was formed in 2013 when California Women Lead eliminated its local chapter model.

#### **Women's Clothing Drive**

The Commission organized a successful clothing drive involving generous donations from more than 150 County employees for women's work attire to benefit women in need who are entering or re-entering the workforce.

#### **Human Trafficking**

The Commission has been educating itself about the growing issue of human trafficking, connecting with local organizations that focus on human trafficking response and developing a plan to raise public awareness.

#### **Women's Correctional Center**

Members of the Commission took a tour of the Women's Correctional Center, attended the CHOICES women's holiday event and Commission President, Christine Padilla attended a Jail Planning Kick Off Meeting. Commissioners are researching gender-responsive programming options to recommend for the new Maple Street Correctional Center.

#### **Legislative**

A legislative work group analyzed bills related to women's health, human trafficking and women's criminal justice issues.

#### **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Hall of Fame**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Hall of Fame was celebrated with 375 attendees and included an unveiling of the new Hall of Fame exhibit at the San Mateo County History Museum. The event has recognized 276 extraordinary women since its inception and continues to be a time-honored San Mateo County tradition. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Assembly Member Fiona Ma and Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson were inducted on March 22, 2013.

#### **Women's Art Exhibit**

During the month of March (Women's History Month), the Commission co-sponsored with the Arts Commission a Women's Art Exhibit in the Hall of Justice showcasing the work of local women artists and focusing on the theme, "The Female Gaze".

#### **Facebook Page**

A Facebook page, available at [www.facebook.com/SanMateoCountyCSW](http://www.facebook.com/SanMateoCountyCSW), has more than 160 followers and continues to be used for community outreach.

## IV. PLANS FOR 2014

The Commission established its 2013-2015 goals at its June 2013 annual retreat. Key projects and events anticipated in the upcoming year include:

- celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Women’s Hall of Fame on Friday, March 21, 2014 which will include a keynote by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor (ret.) who began her legal career in San Mateo County;
- education and advocacy on the issues of Human Trafficking, conditions in the Women’s Correctional Center, and developing recommendations regarding gender responsive programming for the new Maple Street Correctional Facility;
- continuation of an annual gender analysis of County boards and commissions;
- evaluating legislation for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors;
- continued collaboration with organizations that encourage and support the involvement of women in appointed and elected positions;
- development of a new commission website including resources relating to human trafficking; and
- coordination of an annual clothing drive for women’s work attire;

## IV. FISCAL IMPACT

All activities undertaken by the Commission are covered by profits from the Women’s Hall of Fame Awards Celebration. Staff support is provided by the San Mateo County Human Resources Department.

## V. MORE INFORMATION

Additional information about the Commission on the Status of Women of San Mateo County is available from Commission Director, Honora R. Miller, MSW, at [hmillier@smcgov.org](mailto:hmillier@smcgov.org), by calling 650-363-4872 or on the Commission webpages at [www.smcgov.org/csw](http://www.smcgov.org/csw).

Commission meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of most months and the third Tuesday in November, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at 455 County Center in Redwood City, conference room 101 (first floor). The 2014 meeting schedule is listed below:

January 28

February 25

April 22

May 27

June 24

September 23

October 28

November 18

