

## MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

<b>MEETING:</b> May 24, 2011 - Consent	<b>Agenda No.:</b> S-2
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Receive report from the Community Foundation of Monterey County entitled First Glance: Quality of life of Women and Girls	
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Department of Social and Employment Services-Commission on the Status of Women	

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors receive a report from the Community Foundation of Monterey County entitled First Glance: Quality of life of Women and Girls.

### **SUMMARY**

In 2004, The Women's Fund of Monterey County and Tellus/Díganos Center for Community Research published *First Glance: Quality of Life of Women and Girls*, a multi-dimensional report on the status of local women and girls. Key statistical data from the 2004 report were updated in 2008. In 2011, the Women's Fund of Monterey County joined with local researchers to refresh the data and convened focus groups and conducted key informant interviews as the basis for the present report. Input from dozens of local girls, adult and elder women, representatives of service agencies and public officials helped to provide both focus and context for the findings.

### **DISCUSSION**

Women and girls make up half of population of Monterey County (numbering more than 194,000 in 2009), and account for 43.7% of the local civilian workforce.

The status of women and girls has improved in several areas since *First Glance* was originally published. However, there are still areas where further progress can be made. The report highlights key indicators of the wellbeing of Monterey County women of all age groups – girls, adults and elders – and calls out opportunities for further action and investigation.

Several main themes emerged from our findings:

- **ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY** is crucial for the long-term wellbeing of local women and girls. Poverty is a pervasive problem for women and girls in Monterey County who are trapped in low-paying jobs without the means to support themselves and their families.
- **EDUCATION** is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, but many low-income women face serious obstacles to realizing their educational goals and hopes of stable, higher paying jobs.
- Despite progress on many **HEALTH** indicators, serious disparities persist along socioeconomic and demographic lines, particularly for low-income and immigrant women.
- **SAFETY** continues to be a concern for women of all ages who are vulnerable to violence, harassment and bullying and don't feel empowered to speak out and seek assistance.

The Community Foundation of Monterey County offers the information and recommendations in service to our vision of Monterey County as a place that supports all women to the fullest extent in leading healthy, productive and fulfilling lives.

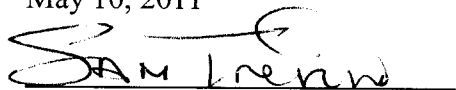
### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

None

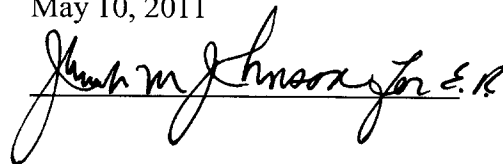
**FINANCING:**

Acceptance of report has no impact to the County General Fund.

Prepared by:  
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May 10, 2011

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May 10, 2011

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