



Employee Continuous Service Recognition
September 26, 2023

COUNTY OF VENTURA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Cecille Angeles

25 Years

Health Care Agency

Senior Registered Nurse - Hospital

Cecille Angeles started working with the County in 1995 as an Extra Help Nursing Assistant. As an immigrant from the Philippines, she studied hard and challenged her nursing boards and has been working as a MED-Surg/Tele nurse for 21 years. She was promoted to Senior RN because of her leadership on the unit. She provides a wealth of knowledge and experience to her team and new graduates.

She has also done an excellent job raising her two beautiful daughters and grandson. When she isn't working, she enjoys watercolor painting, traveling, and trying out different foods with her husband, Alan.

Her colleagues agree that it has been a pleasure working alongside Cecille and they look forward to many more years together.

Congratulations on reaching this service milestone.



Kevin Braver

25 Years

Health Care Agency

Senior Registered Nurse - Hospital

Kevin Braver started in the Ventura County Medical Center as a newly graduated Per Diem RN. He entered the Preceptorship Program and worked the night shift on the old 3-West. He then took a full-time position in Pediatrics, working the night shift for 12 years while also working in the NICU and ICU. For three years he served as Clinical Manager of Pediatrics and helped plan the birth of VCMC's first PICU.

Kevin missed his bedside role, so returned to work in Peds/PICU/NICU/ICU, shifts in the ER, and eventually transitioned into the Adult ICU as his dedicated area.

In 2019, he became the Clinical Manager of the ICU, DOU, and TELE. COVID brought on some very scary and unencountered challenges. Today, he is back working as a bedside nurse.

Kevin is thankful for the opportunities, the many patients and families he has had the good fortune to help, and the great friends he has made along the way.

Congratulations and thank you for your care in service to our community.



Elaine Martinez

25 Years

Human Services Agency

Deputy Director Human Services Agency

Elaine Martinez has provided 25 years of service with HSA in a variety of roles, starting as a Child Welfare Social Worker in the Family Services Department, then promoting to positions of Child Welfare Supervisor, Program Administrator, Program Manager, and Senior Program Manager.

She has also worked in the Adult and Family Services Department and is currently the Deputy Director of the Community Services Department. Elaine's superpowers are leading systems and operational change, advocating for clients' rights, working collaboratively with community partners and multi-disciplinary teams, implementing policy and practice change, and developing, coaching, mentoring, and supporting high-performing teams.

Elaine has been a major contributor throughout her 25 years of service to furthering the Agency and County Mission of opportunity for improved well-being and quality of life for all.

Congratulations and thank you for your years of service and dedicated leadership.



Jenny Medrano

25 Years

Department of Child Support Services

Accountant II

Jenny Medrano joined the County workforce in 1991 as a Fiscal Assistant II with the Child Support Division of the District Attorney's office. In 1997, she continued as extra help while pursuing her education. She returned to regular status in 1998 as a Fiscal Assistant III. In her career with the Department of Child Support Services, she steadily promoted up to Accountant II with the Fiscal/Admin team, responsible for budget and projections for the state and County, and training and mentoring of her colleagues and team members.

Jenny embodies the Department's core values of Integrity, Innovation, Courage, and Communication. In 1995, she was named Employee of the Year. With her great sense of humor, curious nature, and bright personality, it is a joy to work with Jenny.

Jenny's happiness is in her family: her husband of 30 years and two sons. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Congratulations on this milestone in your County service career.



Jeremy Paris

25 Years

Sheriff's Office

Commander

Jeremy Paris has dedicated his career to serving the residents of Ventura County. He has held a variety of assignments and received numerous promotions within the Ventura County Sheriff's Office. He currently holds the rank of Commander and for two years has been the Chief of Police for the City of Thousand Oaks.

Jeremy gives excellent service to our communities and because of his experience, character, and skills, he provides outstanding leadership to our sworn and professional staff. Jeremy continually strives to improve community service and has a deep passion for helping our residents with special needs. Jeremy recently teamed up with the City of Thousand Oaks to create a service program for adults with special needs. Those in the program perform various duties at the police station and in the community to help them develop skills and increase their confidence in a work setting.

Jeremy is involved with the Thousand Oaks Rotary and countless community events to promote relationship building and strengthening between law enforcement and residents. He has an excellent relationship with our Volunteers in Policing program in Thousand Oaks. The Sheriff's Office is very proud of Jeremy and looks forward to his continued public service and his never-ending pursuit to improve the quality of life for all in Ventura County.

Congratulations and thank you for 25 years of dedicated service.



Lana Powers

25 Years

Human Services Agency

HS Child Welfare Supervisor

Lana Powers is known to be a kind, caring person who loves music and life in general.

She has strong case review skills and is often nominated by her peers to create written proposals. She worked in several programs within Child and Family Services, and it was evident she cared about the families she worked with as a social worker.

In the supervisor role, she has been a strong advocate for the workforce and families. Lana will be missed as we know retirement is in the very near future.

Congratulations Lana for providing 25 years of public service.



Briana Crikelair

30 Years

Health Care Agency

Behavioral Health Clinician IV

Briana Crikelair started in Behavioral Health in 1992 as a Mental Health Associate with Adult Residential Services. She then moved to the Youth and Family Division as a Community Services Coordinator and a Marriage and Family Therapist III. During this time, she worked with emotionally challenged youth at Ventura High School.

Then Briana returned to the Adult Division as a Behavioral Health Clinician IV at the Ventura Adult Clinic. She promoted to Clinic Administrator and then transitioned to Clinic Administrator for the Transitional Age Youth Program. She is currently a Behavioral Health Clinician IV at the North Oxnard Adult Clinic.

Briana has been married for 25 years and has a 19-year-old daughter attending UC Santa Cruz. She loves soccer, making stained glass windows, cultivating joy, and leaving chocolate goodies for employees around the office. Her colleagues are grateful for her contributions, wisdom, playful sense of humor, and strong work ethic.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone in your County service.



Maria Montenegro

30 Years

Health Care Agency

WIC Nutrition Assistant III

Maria Montenegro's loyalty and commitment to the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program in the County of Ventura has exceeded 30 years of service. She stands out as someone who consistently demonstrates the traits of compassion, acceptance, and encouragement to the community she serves.

For more than nine years, Maria has led the Ventura WIC site Peer Counseling Breastfeeding Program. As a peer counselor, Maria has supported nearly 700 women and their babies to achieve their goals of breastfeeding. Her passion for this work is evident on a daily basis. It would be impossible to quantify the number of WIC families she has served during her entire career with success in guiding them toward their health goals with warmth and respect. She is a model to her peers and her years of dedication to excellent service have been highly valued by our WIC Team.

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to the health of mothers and babies in our County.



Rosa Valladares

30 Years

Human Services Agency

HS Client Benefit Supervisor

Rosa Valladares started with the Human Services Agency in 1993. During her career, she has been a staple in both HSA and our community. Rosa coordinated participation in the Sathya Sai Baba Organization of America Medical, Dental, and Vision Screening Camp. She is an advocate and encourages staff to volunteer in the community.

As HS Client Benefit Supervisor, Rosa wears many hats daily as a broker, advocate, case manager, educator, mentor, facilitator, and an organizer, who is concerned for those who are vulnerable within HSA's assigned scope of business. Adapting to change and COVID-19, Rosa maneuvered to use new methodologies to continue to serve and assist clients.

Rosa values the heartwarming interactions with all staff and clients and thrives for client success in her leadership role. She is appreciated for her subject matter expertise and commitment to the community. Her second passion has been maintaining her prized best office decorator award.

Congratulations for 30 years of public service to our community.



Krista Macias Barajas

35 Years

Department of Child Support Services

Supervising Child Support Specialist

Krista Macias Barajas began her County career in 1988 as a Typist Clerk. In 1990, she was promoted to Office Assistant II and then IV. Krista swiftly proved she was a talented and reliable employee, earning two temporary promotions in as many years, before being permanently promoted to Clerical Supervisor in 1994.

Although Krista has spent her entire career with DCSS, she began more actively working for the children and families of our County when she became a Family Support Officer II in 1999. In 2002, she promoted to Child Support Services Specialist IV, and in 2003, Krista earned a promotion to her current position. Krista is known for her warm personality and generous heart, as well as the thoroughness she brings to every task. Many families in Ventura County have benefited from Krista's compassion, work ethic, and dedication to her job.

Congratulations, on reaching this milestone anniversary and 35 years of service.



Melissa Livingston

40 Years

Human Services Agency

Director Human Services Agency

Melissa Livingston started with the County of Ventura as a student worker in 1980, becoming a regular employee in 1983. She has held many positions but most notably the past 23 years in executive leadership as Senior Administrative Manager, Deputy Director Administrative Services, Deputy Director Adult & Family Services, Chief Deputy Director, Interim Workforce Development Board Executive Director, and Director of HSA.

She has dedicated her career to serving our County's most vulnerable residents, grounded in an Agency mission to "work together in every community to offer support, hope, and opportunity for improved well-being" to strengthen the health, safety, and well-being of the community by addressing food insecurity, healthcare access, child and elder abuse, family stability, homelessness, unemployment, and career pathways to self-sufficiency and independence.

Melissa was an original DEI Task Force member, graduate of the first LEAP cohort, and trainer for the County's Nuts & Bolts Leadership and Management Development Program. Melissa and her current Leadership Team have just collaborated in developing an Emerging Leaders Program. Melissa has also served on many boards, committees and commissions during her years of service including the American Red Cross, Food Share, and currently Casa Pacifica and Women's Economic Ventures.

Thank you for the many lives you have touched and congratulations on 40 years of service to our community.



Joel Miller

40 Years

General Services Agency

Fleet Customer Service Supervisor

Joel Miller was in high school when he started in 1980 as an extra help student worker assisting the Motor Pool Program by cleaning and filling up vehicles at the Government Center Garage. In 1983, he was hired as a Service Worker, maintaining vehicles when the majority of Fleet's repairs were performed at the El Rio location in Oxnard. During this time, he continued his education in mechanics through programs at Ventura College and Oxnard College and became an ASE Certified Master Mechanic.

In the 1990s, Joel used his time away from work to coach youth football for the Ventura Packers and the Buccaneers. Later, this passion led to 10 years coaching his daughter Ella's fast pitch softball teams.

Joel's work ethic, dedication to his community, and prowess as a mechanic earned him several promotions and in 2006, he became the Automotive Shop's Senior Mechanic. That same year he married his beloved wife Alejandra and purchased a home in Ventura. For the last 13 years in his current job as Customer Service Supervisor, Joel has overseen all work performed in the Communications shop, Body Shop, and Parts Department. He is a vital member of our organization and a valued friend to his coworkers.

Congratulations and thank you for your service and dedication to our community.





To date, the careers of these 12 dedicated individuals represent a total of 355 years of County service.

Thank you and congratulations to all.
