



CALTRANS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2010

In This Issue...

- [Front Page](#)
- [Director's Corner](#)
- [Calendar Highlights](#)
- [From the Editor](#)
- [News](#)
- [Getting to Know Caltrans](#)
- [Hats Off](#)
- [Health & Wellness](#)
- [Award Honorees](#)
- [Exams & Recruitment](#)
- [Who's New](#)
- [Trivia Contest](#)
- [Off the Beaten Path](#)
- [Archived Newsletters](#)
- [All Pages](#)
- [Next Page](#)

Director's Corner

Caltrans employees are amazing. This is evident through our world-class transportation system and our leading innovations. However, Caltrans employees' talents, dedication, and generosity extend far beyond the Department and into the community.

One of the most recent events Caltrans was involved in was the American Heart Association's Annual Heart Walk, which you can [read about](#) in the news section of this issue. Even with the challenges of furloughs, employees still give generously to the California State Employees Charitable Campaign to various organizations that help our communities throughout the state. Our employees also collect donations for holiday food and toy drives. During the 2009 holiday season, employees in District 3 raised \$14,000 cash and 917 pounds of food for the Yuba-Sutter Chapter of the Salvation Army



**Director
Cindy McKim**

Outside of Caltrans, our employees coach youth sports, and volunteer at churches, museums, and schools. For example, employees in some of our districts raise money to fund annual scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to high school students pursuing careers or studies in transportation-related fields.

District 6 employees have adopted a 1.4-mile stretch of State Route 168 through the Adopt-A-Highway program. The time they spend combating the litter problem on our highways not only helps the community, but it also builds camaraderie among the employees.

But, these are only some of the more widely known events.

Some employees literally give of themselves and help save lives by being blood, bone marrow, and organ donors.

Our employees' humanitarian efforts are so far reaching that they sometimes help people in other countries, such as when several Caltrans employees joined to form Haiti Engineering, Inc. to help rebuild Haiti following the devastating January earthquake. And one District 12 employee has been working with an orphanage in Tecate, Baja California, to help orphaned children find loving homes.

And we cannot forget our many military reservists who often risk their lives to ensure the safety of all Americans and help with humanitarian missions around the world.

In addition to their work in the community, Caltrans employees generously contribute to the numerous workers memorial and

assistance accounts the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) establishes to assist Caltrans employees and their families in times of loss or crisis.

Speaking of CTF, after 22 years, Heinz Heckeroth is retiring as CTF executive director. Heinz helped create CTF after his 32-year career at Caltrans, where he retired as chief deputy director. Heinz originally designed CTF to support Caltrans and its employees in times of crisis with career development and workers assistance and memorial grants, but it has since expanded to support California's transportation community as a whole with sponsorship of events and much more.

You can find more information on Heinz's retirement celebration at the [CTF](#) Web site.

I want you to know how proud I am of your dedication to your communities and to each other. Even during the challenges of the state budget, the national economy, and furloughs, you continue to prove that Caltrans employees are exceptional people who refuse to let difficulties stop them from achieving their goals. Keep up the good work.

[Front Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Copyright © 2010 California Department of Transportation. All Rights Reserved.