

Cold Case Project of Monterey County

MEDIA RELEASE

Photo: Christina Williams Memorial Site

The Cold Case Project of Monterey County recognized by Othram Inc. for multiple donations to DNASolves

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Prepared by: Ann Kern, President

Monterey County, CA – The Cold Case Project of Monterey County (CCPMC) is publicly thanked for three donations to Othram Inc. DNASolves. Othram Inc. is the leading provider of forensic genetic genealogy services. Their DNASolves database is used exclusively to aid human identification investigations.

David Mittelman, PhD, Chief Executive Officer of Othram states:

“We want to give special recognition to the Cold Case Project of Monterey County, a nonprofit that has now contributed to three DNASolves cases involving unidentified individuals in Monterey County. Their support has helped move each case forward, and two of the three are now fully funded.

Here are the cases they helped advance:

Salinas John Doe (2023)

An unidentified man who was discovered in a homeless encampment in Salinas in 2023 and whose identity could not be confirmed through traditional investigative methods.

<https://dnasolves.com/articles/salinas-john-doe-2023/>

Monterey County Jane Doe (2023)

Partial remains consisting of a jawbone with two teeth that were found by fishermen in Moss Landing, providing only a very small amount of DNA to work with and now fully funded for advanced testing.

<https://dnasolves.com/articles/monterey-county-jane-doe-2023/>

Monterey County John Doe (2024)

A man who was found deceased inside a tent in Salinas with no identification and no personal belongings to provide clues, and this case is now fully funded.

<https://dnasolves.com/articles/monterey-county-2024-john-doe/>

Cold Case Project of Monterey County

Thank you to the entire team for helping bring these cases closer to answers.”

These three cases were submitted directly by the Monterey County Sheriff’s Office Coroner Unit to DNASolves, which uses national crowdfunding, volunteer data and cutting-edge genomics to solve “unsolvable” cases.

Launched on June 11, 2025, the CCPMC was established to support law enforcement agencies by funding advanced forensic testing and other modern investigative methodologies to help generate leads in unsolved cases, including those involving unidentified human remains.

While emerging forensic tools—such as DNA analysis and investigative genetic genealogy—hold immense potential to crack cold cases, their high cost often prevents agencies from utilizing them. Without financial support, many investigations stall indefinitely, leaving families and communities without the answers they deserve.

The Cold Case Project of Monterey County is currently a recognized nonprofit in the Monterey County Gives! campaign. Through December 31, 2025, donations will receive a match, furthering the impact of your gift. To donate or learn more about us: www.montereycountygives.com/coldcase

Thank you for giving voice to the voiceless and hope to the heartbroken.

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