

# Cold Case Project of Monterey County

## MEDIA RELEASE

Photo: Christina Williams Memorial Site

### **Cold Case Project of Monterey County Announces Press Conference to Share Milestones and Expanded Vision**

Prepared By: Ann Kern, President

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Salinas, CA — December 2025 — To celebrate its commitment to advancing cold case investigations and to update the community on recent progress, the Cold Case Project of Monterey County (CCPMC) will host a press conference on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at the Salinas Police Department Community Room, located at 312 E. Alisal Street, Salinas.

Presenters will include Chief Hober (Monterey Police Department), Chief Wise (Gonzales Police Department), Chief Borges (Seaside Police Department), Chief Acosta (Salinas Police Department), and Sheriff Nieto (Monterey County Sheriff's Office and Coroners Unit), all representing agencies that have benefited from CCPMC grant funding. CCPMC Board Members will also be in attendance.

CCPMC, a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer nonprofit, was created to expand access to advanced forensic tools, including new technologies, scientific advancements, forensic genetic genealogy, and modern investigative methodologies. The organization is dedicated to supporting all local law enforcement agencies by removing financial barriers that prevent the use of cutting-edge forensic resources.

Now six months since its official launch in June 2025, CCPMC has fully or partially funded 12 cold case investigations, representing 13 victims. With each case, the organization continues to learn, refine its approach, and expand its vision.

“Cold case homicides in Monterey County pose a significant challenge for local law enforcement agencies, which often find it difficult to allocate resources for their resolution. The slow and costly nature of DNA testing forces many departments to prioritize other pressing needs. The Cold Case Project of Monterey County serves as a vital resource for agencies like Seaside, which currently has 33 unsolved homicides. Without the support of organizations like this project, funding for investigating these cases would be nearly impossible. I wholeheartedly support The Cold Case Project of Monterey County, as their dedicated efforts can bring justice to families and enhance community safety.” Chief Nick Borges, Seaside Police Department.

Board Member and Cold Case Investigator, Bill Clark: “When we are able to remove financial barriers and limitations inherent in previous grants, agencies can reassess cold cases with new eyes. This is exactly what the nonprofit was hoping to encourage.”

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“Our donors create a remarkable ripple effect,” said Ann Kern, President of CCPMC. “We are witnessing a level of excitement and engagement within our local police agencies that will meaningfully strengthen our ability to resolve these cases and make real progress.”

## Agencies assisted by CCPMC grants\* to date include:

Monterey County Sheriff’s Coroner Unit: \$1,500 — (3) unidentified human remains cases

Monterey County Sheriff’s Office: \$8,250 — (3) homicide investigations, including one that led to an arrest

Monterey Police Department: \$1,000 — (1) homicide investigation

Seaside Police Department: \$1,000 — (1) homicide investigation

Gonzales Police Department: \$4,320 — (1) sexual assault/homicide case

Salinas Police Department: \$6,150 — (3) homicide investigations

\*Grants paid directly to technology vendors

CCPMC Treasurer Mike Bruno reported, “The CCPMC has received \$25,643 in donations and granted \$22,220 during the same period. We are committed to using community donations to further cold case investigations, maintaining only a small balance to cover necessary administrative costs.”

Another way the CCPMC delivers value to the community is through its ability, as a nonprofit organization, to secure volume-based, law-enforcement, and other contract-level discounts from trusted vendors. CCPMC is pleased to announce its first such agreement with the nationally recognized Serological Research Institute (SERI) of Richmond, California—an accredited, private laboratory specializing in a broad range of forensic biological services. “Our local law enforcement agencies have maintained a long and highly respected relationship with SERI, and we are grateful for their technical expertise, ongoing support, and dedicated partnership” stated President Kern.

CCPMC was selected as a McGives 2025! Campaign nonprofit and continues to be inspired by the outpouring of community support. Donations through McGives! are eligible for matching funds, which will be released to participating agencies by mid-February 2026. For more information on the McGives 2025! Campaign please visit: <https://www.montereycountygives.com/nonprofit/cold-case-project-of-monterey-county/>

“The CCPMC wants donors to know that we invest in case investigations as quickly as we receive their support,” Kern emphasized. “Many cases identified by local law enforcement are waiting for the funding necessary to create new leads, and we are eager to move them forward.”

For more information, please attend the press conference. Law enforcement leadership will be available for questions.

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