with an open heart can feel like a living room — broken, buttered, and shared. Homes are built every day without bricks and mortar, their foundations require no retrofit. Homes like these are people who allow their hearts to become easy chairs, whose eyes and ears open doors to strangers, to visitors who may have lost their way. They create a welcome mat, often to the most unwelcomed, providing refuge from life’s harsher elements. Homes are built the way a word is spoken, and homes are made in a mere glance, in the chance meeting with another who enters that sanctuary of welcome.

MARY KAY SWEENEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOMEWARD BOUND

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Trucks Roar as Work Begins on Oma Village Housing

OMA VILLAGE IS BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY FOR THE START OF SPRING!

Oma Village offers a model for the future of affordable housing, providing a small-scale village where low-income families can build savings and develop employment prospects while their children remain in their neighborhoods and in local schools. Things have come a long way — thank you to all involved!

We’re excited to announce our partnership with HomeAid Northern California, the philanthropic arm of the building industry, for this project to create stylish, modern homes for families transitioning out of homelessness. Through HomeAid, skills and materials are pledged to Oma Village at a discount, enabling us to build at the lowest possible cost. This partnership has produced more than $300,000 in savings.

As the “bones” of the buildings take shape, we look forward to seeing the energy-efficient designs for 14 one- and two-bedroom units become welcoming homes with help from the Adopt-A-Room Campaign.

So far, 11 full units have been adopted at a cost of $1,800 each — either room by room or all at once — to be fully fitted with linens, kitchenware, cleaning supplies and other necessary items.

Oma Village now enters the home stretch of the fundraising efforts that began with leading support from the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, Marin Community Foundation, the County of Marin and the City of Novato. We also have raised over $230,000 from investors in our “nonprofit IPO,” an “immediate Public Opportunity…to help end homelessness” with sales of fundraising shares to develop Oma Village.

To see more about the IPO, please visit our online crowdfunding page at: razoo.com/story/Homeward-Bound-Of-Marin-Non-Profit-IPO

Altogether, we have raised $4.75 million of the $5 million cost. If you can help us close this gap, please send your gift to Oma Village, 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, CA 94949 or call 415-382-3363 x211 with any questions.

Join Us at the Marin Human Race on May 9

RUN, walk or roll with our team of residents, staff, volunteers and friends in the Marin Human Race on Saturday, May 9, and your efforts will help maintain programs for homeless families and individuals at Homeward Bound.

The 33rd annual race follows a 5-kilometer course around the Marin County Fairgrounds starting at 8:30 a.m., but participants can arrive early for an optional pancake breakfast. Kids’ races begin at 9:30 a.m.

We’re happy to welcome employees at Kiosk, a Novato search marketing firm, to participate this year with our team! “Our owners really want to be involved with community organizations and have chosen Homeward Bound as the local organization to support this year,” says Susi Lyram, director of operations for the Novato office.

To join us or sponsor our team, please check our page at marinhumanrace.org. Every $35 raised pays for one night of shelter and services for someone in our programs.

As always, we’ll have a table at the Community Fair that continues until 11:30 a.m. after the race. Come visit us to say hello or find out more about our work. Don’t miss the chance to submit a free ticket for our raffle — you might win a box of Halo Truffles made from Belgian chocolate by our culinary students and staff!

This 33rd annual event offers a great way to kick off the outdoor season while joining more than 100 nonprofits in celebrating with the community. We hope to see you there!
When I make my mother’s marinara sauce (we refer to it as “Mominara”), the result just never comes out quite the same as when she made it. But eventually it does come out, after quite a bit of simmering. Kind of like building housing in Marin. The vision, the preparation, the fundraising, the approvals, the permits — all slowly mix together in one big pot or, in this case, on one small plot. The Oma Village site is cooking, at long last, and every one of us will be contented once it is served up for the families who will call this village home.

A wide range of ingredients for home is what we’re cooking up in this issue, mixing community offerings that range from environmentally sensitive lavender personal care products from EO to lemon chiffon tea from The Republic of Tea. Both of these partners help make the mission and vision of Homeward Bound come alive. Also in this newsy mix, we’ve got some real-life monents from people who have found housing, some after many years of lacking a place to call home. You can feel the nourishing power of housing for their children and for themselves — the cozy stability where dreams are dreamed and real plans are hatched for the future.

There isn’t anyone in this country who does not want to see an end to homelessness. We know the recipe — it’s housing — sometimes with a dash of services or a sprinkling of subsidy but, always and simply, a place to call home.

Let’s cook up some more, at long last!

Mary Kay Sweeney, Executive Director

Homeward Bound programs occupy a range of buildings from historic hotel rooms to modern dormitories, but our residents share a touch of luxury: all-natural EO Products body care items made in Marin.

The San Rafael company approached Homeward Bound in 2009 to donate liquid hand soap, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner and hand sanitizer for New Beginnings Center and other programs.

“We don’t like to say we ‘give back’ by doing this,” says Brad Black, co-founder of EO Products, now operating as Small World Trading Co. “We think of ourselves as equal partners with Homeward Bound in serving the community.”

The donations fit with the aim of “intentional” development as a company, says Black, who co-founded EO Products in 1995 with Susan Griffin-Black. Their company is one of Marin’s few registered B Corp. businesses, which define themselves by social and environmental performance as well as profit.

At Voyager Carmel Center in San Rafael, which offers 36 rooms to homeless people living with mental health issues, the products get a warm reception.

“Many people take for granted things like bathing products or even a safe place to shower. Offering these products for our residents has been a true blessing,” says Alison Busk, Voyager Carmel program director.

Black recently toured New Beginnings Center and proposed expanding donations to other communal living programs at Homeward Bound.

“We think what Homeward Bound does is so important and we’re thankful that they do it,” he says. The company has experienced tremendous growth while sticking to its ideals, using 90 essential oils to produce organic body care products carried by retailers like Whole Foods Market and shipped around the world. Please see eoproducts.com to learn more about their products and philosophy.

* Brad Black and Susan Griffin-Black.
After pushing himself past many wrong forks in the road, Reuben S. feels like he’s settled into a spot of contentment.

“There were so many places that I could have made another wrong choice,” says Reuben, who first came to the Mill Street Center emergency shelter in 2006. Now living in Healdsburg and engaged to the mother of his 9-month-old son, Jacob, Reuben credits Homeward Bound with supporting him through a long journey to stability.

“Homeward Bound gave me a new life,” he says. “It wasn’t instant, but they never gave up on me.”

One of the first residents at the Next Key Apartments, Reuben used his time there to finish the auto technology program at Indian Valley College, where he graduated in 2011. “I’ve always been good at mechanics,” he says. Though that makes his education sound easy, Reuben adds, it wasn’t. “There’s a lot of stuff in my life that I never completed,” he says.

His entry at Mill Street began during rootless years when he spent time at a friend’s apartment near the shelter in San Rafael. The shelter staff occasionally offered them food and invited them to check out the program.

“At the time, I really didn’t care about anything because of drugs,” Reuben says. “Finally I went in the door. I was homeless and there was food.”

He admits that he ran afoul of his commitment to sobriety a couple of times and was referred to the Helen Vine Detox Center. “I’d get so mad but those rules really helped me in the end,” he says.

Since leaving the Next Key, he has worked at Safeway and as a security guard, a gig that he continues one or two days a week. Most of his working hours are spent at Sonoma Classic Cars, where he loves giving new life to cherished models.

With support and stable housing, Reuben says, he finally found the road to his future. “I’m staying on the right path,” he says.

Question of the Day:

Our residents talk about what stable housing means to them.

Name: Nicole G.
Program: Fireside Apartments
How long have you lived here: 6 years
How long were you homeless: Six months.
What does stable housing mean to you: It means a lot to have secure, stable housing as I’m a single parent; having an affordable housing unit means that I am able to work and I can afford the rent. My children have a stable home and we don’t have to worry about where we are going to be living from month to month. My kids can keep attending the same school and know where their home is. Homeward Bound has helped me out a lot with resources and support. The staff is very understanding.

Name: Frank V.
Program: Fourth Street Center
How long have you lived here: 9 years
How long were you homeless: I was in and out of homelessness for 20 years.
What does stable housing mean to you: It means a lot to have this housing. I had not lived inside with hard walls and a ceiling for a long time. We all support each other at Fourth Street Center – 20 people live here and we all look out for each other. It’s like a big family. If it wasn’t for Homeward Bound of Marin, I would be dead by now.

Name: Mariana R.
Program: Fireside Apartments
How long have you lived here: 2½ years
How long were you homeless: I was in the shelter system for two years.
What does stable housing mean to you: Living here at Fireside in an affordable apartment has given me the chance to focus on raising my family, to plan beyond day-to-day survival, and to be involved with my children’s schools. By paying affordable rent, I don’t have to work two or three jobs to make ends meet. I work at a restaurant and am planning on going to College of Marin to study nursing. The resources here are great – from kids’ camps, to organic food, yoga classes and bingo. It really is a dream to be here. This place has given me a lot.

George N. Plans for Secure Future

About five years ago, the Great Recession claimed what George N. had left of a bustling business filming high-end weddings.

“I was relying on 70 weddings a year. When the recession hit, they trickled down to a dozen and then none,” says George, who was raised in the Ross Valley and graduated from Marin Catholic High School.

The collapse left him shaken and he felt adrift with his parents living abroad. He stayed with friends and “did this and that” for awhile before a friend finally told him, “You need to raise yourself back up.”

Today he shares a large home in San Marin with five roommates and works for a San Francisco security firm, often in the VIP lounges of high-profile nightclubs or at luxury hotels. Recently a top San Francisco hotel offered him a full-time security job.

“It’s my first $20 per hour job, so I’m happy. They’re interested in my wedding and events background,” he says.

George credits Homeward Bound for supporting him in his transition to stability, which he found hard to recapture on his own.

“My parents always had been my home base,” says George, whose father was a pilot for United Airlines. Upon retirement, he and George’s mother pulled up stakes and headed to the tranquility of Tasmania.

At Mill Street Center, George says, “I learned a lot. I learned where does help come from and how to get it. I learned about living with people of all kinds.”

The staff encouraged him to set goals and “saw me as someone with potential,” he says.

“Jobs were tough to find at that point.”

He moved to New Beginnings Center and, as he began training in security, became a tenant at the Next Key Apartments.

“That really helped me, to have my own little place. It gave me privacy, which I hadn’t had in many years, and a real chance to be with myself again,” he says.

The prospect of full-time work gives him a long-term horizon as well as a chance to reflect on what he gained from his challenges. He has a lot to share when his mom pays a visit this spring: his father recently passed away.

“I knew nothing really about homelessness but now I understand how that situation exists,” he says. “It’s good that agencies like Homeward Bound exist too.”
Homeward Bound of Marin always has operated on the vision that “everybody deserves a place to call home.”

New Funding Opens Doors to 28 Homes

Federal officials invited Homeward Bound to apply for the funding based on its record of success operating supportive housing, Sepahi says. The agency was one of a handful of new programs nationwide to receive funds.

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Homeward Bound also added a program for 2015 called ‘Family Place’ to serve chronically homeless families. Under this program, Homeward Bound has three more units to offer as long-term supportive housing.

“Those are vulnerable families who really need a solid base to stabilize. Family Place will provide that for them,” Sepahi says.

Finding tenants for the ‘Housing at Last’ program will be a more difficult process, Sepahi says. “That disability piece adds to the vulnerability layer for these folks,” she says. "We have a secure place to live, the opportunity to work on other issues will present itself.”

The ‘Housing at Last’ program will be open to vulnerable adults in Homeward Bound programs. “It is a lifesaving opportunity for many people who lack housing resources,” Sepahi says.

A total of $510,796 in funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development have been awarded to Homeward Bound for the program of one- and two-bedroom units. The search for appropriate apartments has begun across the county. Sepahi says.

Homeward Bound of Marin always has operated on the vision that “everybody deserves a place to call home.”

In an April cover story, Mother Jones magazine called it “a shockingly simple solution.” The concept has been debated this spring in The New York Times. Utah leaders have found it’s a magnet for publicity showing their programs as a success story. The discovery: housing people can end homelessness.

Getting a roof overhead has been viewed as the end of a road out of homelessness, but the practice dubbed “housing first” looks at housing as an incubator for stability. Studies show housing opens the door for people to solve other issues and saves dollars spent on public services.

Homeward Bound of Marin always has operated on the vision that “everybody deserves a place to call home.”

Please read on to learn how our programs put that vision into action.

Homeward Bound Recognized for Leadership and Innovation

The collaboration that produces delicious, healthy lunches at Jackson Café in San Rafael won a top award in the first-ever Partnership Prizes awarded by NorthBay Biz magazine!

As a training site for Fresh Starts Culinary Academy, the café last year offered hands-on restaurant experience to dozens of our students who turned out more than 20,000 lunches. In November, NorthBay Biz named the program as the region’s top “nonprofit to nonprofit partnership.”

To kick off 2015, Homeward Bound of Marin received the Heart of Marin Award for Excellence in Innovation. The award came with a $5,000 gift to recognize the life-changing transformations occurring through Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.

The annual awards are celebrated with a gala luncheon for about 800+ people at the Marin Center Exhibit Hall, where Executive Director Mary Kay Sweeney accepted the award, saying she was “especially pleased on behalf of all of our students who have gone through this program.”

Fresh Starts Culinary Academy offers an intensive 16-week course, which expects to enroll up to 100 students in 2015. Last year, 82% of graduates found employment within a month of completing the training.

Also in January, the Marin County Human Rights Commission honored Deputy Executive Director Paul Fordham with a Humanitarian Award, an honor he dedicated “to homeless men and women who show great courage to achieve personal change.”

Fordham, who has been with Homeward Bound for more than 10 years, became deputy executive director in 2010. Some of his favorite projects are development of the Oma Village family housing program and social enterprise ventures like Fresh Starts Chef Events.

Homeward Bound Seeks Landlords

The “housing first” programs operating in Marin depend on landlords willing to participate by signing a lease with Homeward Bound of Marin. Homeward Bound then handles all tasks related to finding tenants, paying rent and arranging for maintenance.

“We provide a rent guarantee,” says Lisa Sepahi, Director of Impact & Operations. “We handle tenant needs.”

Those needs may include fixing plumbing, providing appropriate furnishings, advertising the unit and screening new tenants in case of vacancy. The landlord holds a contract with the organization and is relieved of those tasks.

Any interested property owner can find out more by calling Lisa Sepahi at 415-382-3363 x204.

* Jackson Cafe was honored as an award-winning partnership.
Homeward Bound’s Programs — Founded in 1974 with a single family program, Homeward Bound has evolved to encompass a range of services from emergency shelter to transitional and permanent supportive housing. Funds come from a patchwork of sources that include the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Veterans Administration, the County of Marin, the state of California and private foundations as well as individual gifts.

Many people get to know us through a single program by volunteering to make dinner for Mill Street Center or work in the gardens at New Beginnings Center. This “map” of Homeward Bound programs developed as a way to offer a full view of the continuum of services offered for people to move from the “front doors” of Mill Street Center and Family Center to long-term housing.

Two new programs will open this year: Housing at Last for single adults and Oma Village for families. Our map will expand to a total of 16 programs dedicated to “ending homelessness with training, housing and hope.”
INSALATA’S ITALIAN FENNEL SALAD

INGREDIENTS: For the vinaigrette:

- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 2 teaspoons minced shallots
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/3 cup pine nuts, toasted
- 1/4-inch matchsticks

INGREDIENTS: For the salad:

- 3 heads red endive
- 3 fennel bulbs (about 1 pound, 8 ounces)
- 2 cups seedless grapes, stemmed and halved
- 4 ounces aged Asiago cheese, cut into 1/4-inch matchsticks
- 1/3 cup pine nuts, toasted
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped Italian parsley
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

1. Trim the ends off the endive heads. Separate the leaves and slice them thinly on the diagonal. Remove the core. Cut the halves lengthwise with the grain into thin slices. You may use a mandoline, but avoid slicing the fennel so paper-thin that it lacks texture.
2. For the vinaigrette: In a small bowl, whisk together all of the ingredients. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt, pepper, and verjus if needed.
3. To make the salad: Cut off the stalks and feathery tops from the fennel bulbs (if still attached). Halve the bulbs and cut away the core. Cut the halves lengthwise with the grain into thin slices. You may use a mandoline, but avoid slicing the fennel so paper-thin that it lacks texture.
4. Trim the ends off the endive heads. Separate the leaves and slice them thinly on the diagonal. Put the fennel, endive, grapes, olives, cheese, pine nuts, and parsley in a large bowl and season lightly with salt and pepper keeping in mind that the olives are salty and the vinaigrette contains salt. Drizzle the vinaigrette over the top and toss the salad. Taste and adjust seasoning if needed. Arrange the salad on a platter or divide between 6 plates.

Note: This recipe calls for verjus, the unfermented juice of underripe grapes, which helps to tie the flavors together. Sherry vinegar works well as a substitute. Serves 6.

If your autumn table needs some Mediterranean light, try a recipe that “speaks in the mouth.”

— Contributed by Carol Inkelis with photos by Neely Wang.
Bits ‘n’ Pieces

Award-winners team up to launch “A Little Help”
A music video that will serve as a new ‘open source’ fundraising tool for nonprofits involved in ending homelessness made its debut in April with help from Homeward Bound of Marin.

The video for “A Little Help,” a song arranged and produced by Grammy-winner Narada Michael Walden, was filmed on location at Homeward Bound’s programs by Oscar-winning director John Korty. Artist Karen Littman, who wrote and performed the song, says she hopes organizations can use the video in their fundraising and awareness campaigns “to spread the message of hope.” It can be viewed on YouTube at https://youtu.be/7JsmZHY6Ksc.

Homeward Bone dog treats support K-9 team
Deputy Director Paul Fordham recently delivered the first check from sales of Homeward Bone dog treats to the Novato Police Department to support the K-9 team. Made by Fresh Starts Culinary Academy students and staff, the dog biscuits split their proceeds to benefit the police team as well as Homeward Bound’s job training.

Homeward Bone all-natural treats come in 8-ounce packages and can be purchased at Homeward Bound administration offices. To order, call 415-382-3363 x214.

Sonic Forest brings music to programs
An ensemble of professional musicians called “Sonic Forest” will offer concerts this year for Homeward Bound programs and supporters. The performances, which began Feb. 19, are underwritten by a grant from the San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music with support from The Magic Flute music store. Find out more at www.sffcm.org.

Staff presents at national data conference
Two members of Homeward Bound’s leadership team offered insights at the National Human Services Data Consortium in Denver about using data to outline needs and impact of programs as well as to develop programs serving the community. The conference in April included Deputy Director Paul Fordham and Lisa Sepahi, Director of Impact & Operations, for two presentations. The first covered use of data in seeking grant funding, while the second looked at data-driven program development.

Our Transition to Wellness program served as a case study, showing how data informed creation of the partnership with local hospitals and social service providers to offer shelter to people leaving hospitals without stable housing. Last year, Transition to Wellness served 23 homeless adults, avoided 706 hospital days and saved more than $2.1 million in hospital costs.

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Key Calendar Dates

April 23 – Chef Bryant Terry at Fresh Starts
Chef Events
Author, chef and food justice activist offers menu from his latest cookbook, “Afro-Vegan”

April 30 – A Taste of Sri Lanka
Fundraising dinner in The Key Room
benefits Oma Village, Water for People and Sahasanevaha, an organization that supports Sri Lankan families.

May 9 – Marin Human Race
Walk, run or roll with us to support our programs at this 33rd annual community event at the Marin County Fairgrounds.

May 14 – Laurie Figone at Fresh Starts Chef Events
Cookbook author and contest winner Laurie Figone presents menu of recipes from her new book.

June 25 – Zazu Chefs with Dave the Butcher at Fresh Starts
Chef Events
Chefs Duskie Estes and John Stewart of Santa Rosa’s Zazu present a menu based on local bounty.

July 1 to 5 – Marin County Fair
Look for fresh salads and wraps from our Fresh Starts culinary team in the food court.

July 23 – Chef Tony Gemignani at Fresh Starts Chef Events
World Pizza Toss Champion, restaurateur and author of “The Pizza Bible” shows off his skills.

Aug. 27 – Ziggy the Wine Gal at Fresh Starts Chef Events
Radio and TV personality Ziggy Eschliman presents wine and food.

Sept. 17 – Chef Mark Stark at Fresh Starts Chef Events
Chef and restaurateur presents a menu drawn from his five Sonoma County restaurants.

Ways to Give

Our partners in the community offer some creative ways this spring to support Homeward Bound. Everyone can participate in these “friend-raising” projects.

Smiles for Life
Dr. Julie Young, a Corte Madera dentist, invites patients to get their teeth whitened professionally until June 30 and benefit Homeward Bound. For $99, Dr. Young will make impressions of a patient’s mouth and fabricate the tooth whitening kit. Since her services are donated, half the fee goes to Smiles for Life Foundation to aid children’s charities worldwide and the other half to Homeward Bound of Marin.

Contact Dr. Young at 415-924-5300.

The Big Shred:
The team at Valley Oak Wealth Management throws an annual after-taxes “shredding party” for clients and others who want to rid themselves of unneeded financial records. To join them on Saturday, May 2, bring your shreddable paper and a donation for Homeward Bound to their offices at 2 Ranch Drive in Novato.

Call Valley Oak Wealth Management at 415-898-4419 for details.

Taste Food of Sri Lanka
A dinner of Sri Lankan specialties will benefit three projects offering hope for families, including Homeward Bound’s Oma Village. Novato resident Carmela Chandrasekera has set “A Taste of Sri Lanka” for 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, in The Key Room. The event also benefits Water for People, which operates projects to supply clean drinking water in impoverished places, and Sahasanevaha, which assists families and offers scholarships in Avissawela, Sri Lanka.

For tickets, please email carmelalan@comcast.net or call 415-382-6687.

Shop and Support Homeward Bound
Did you know that everyday shopping can benefit our programs? There’s no extra cost when you shop through Amazon Smile, the charity portal of Amazon.com, or with cards registered on eScrip, which rebates a portion of purchases from Safeway, Woodlands Market and other stores.

To find out more, look for Homeward Bound at smile.amazon.com and check www.escrip.com.

Follow us!

facebook.com/hbomarin
@HomewardBndMarin
freshstartsculinary.wordpress.com
Gifts of Time and Resources

We have such overwhelming support from the community and, with every good intention, we try to keep track of your support. Sometimes we know we inadvertently overlook individuals or organizations that have helped. Homeward Bound in some way. If we have forgotten to list you below, please accept our apology and know we appreciate all that you do. And let us know, so we can include you next time.

Congregations

Thank you to:

- The following congregations for bringing a monthly meal to Mill Street Center: Aldgate United Methodist Church, Village Baptist Church, Unitarian Universalist Parish, Congregation of the Temple, Mill Street Center, St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church, Congregation Rodol’Shalom, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Community Congregational Church of Tiburon, Luther American Lutheran Church, Redwood Presbyterian Church, St. Isabella’s Catholic Church, Hillside Community Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Marin Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church of San Rafael, St. Anselm’s Catholic Church, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church of Novato, Marin Covenant Church, First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael, First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, Cornerstone Community Church, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Congregation Kol Shofar, and Another Way Ministry.
- Peace Lutheran Church for ongoing support of FineArt Apartments program and families.
- Betty Pedget and Mt. Tam United Methodist Church for various driver services and ongoing support of Homeward Bound programs.
- Congregation Rodol’Shalom for housewarming and cleaning supplies.
- Marin Lutheran Church and Sandy Sager for organizing a kitchen renovation and landscaping project at the Family Center.
- New Life Christian Center for collecting and donating helpful items and gifts during the holidays.
- Congregation Rodol’Shalom for volunteering on Mitzvah Day to improve landscaping at the Family Center.
- Marin Asian Community Church for participating in a garden volunteer day at New Beginnings Center.
- First Presbyterian Church Youth Service Team for help in the New Beginnings Center gardens.
- Presbyterian Church Novato for organizing ongoing donation drives.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for donating items on our wish list.
- Golden Gate Center for Spiritual Living for collecting and donating items for our programs.
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Marin and Lindsay Buerger for donating 18 beautiful handmade quilts.
- Marin Humane Society and the Share a Book program for providing Animal Assisted Therapy services to Voyager Carmel Center.
- Vogner Carmel Center.
- Dog Rescue & Adoption Center for collecting holiday gifts for our various programs.
- Cyndie Martel for volunteering at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Elan Fitness Center and Winery Exchange for providing gifts for our various programs.
- Warm 1 Body for providing strollers and a car seat to our family programs.
- All who helped in various ways.
- Everyone who donated items from our wish list.

Schools

Thank you to:

- Dominican University students for supporting our family programs and New Beginnings Center.
- San Domenico 7th grade class for preparing meals for Voyager Carmel Center in our Key Kitchen.
- San Domenico School 4th grade class for cooking meals monthly and baking cookies at Family Center.
- San Domenico School 5th grade class for putting together toyota bags, organizing donation drives, baking cookies and decorating the Family Center.
- Marin Horizons School for distributing chicken noodle soup.
- Reed Elementary School 3rd grade class for donating items on our wish list.
- San Domenico High School students for painting at Fourth Street Center.

Individuals, Businesses, and Organizations:

Thank you to:

- Mayflower Chorus for organizing a drive for items on our wish list.
- Gil Scott Trout #107 for donating birthday cakes, decorations, and gifts for children in our Family Park program as well as volunteering to re-plant our strawberry patch at Key Kitchen.
- Talia Capelli for donating ingredients with recipes for residents at Fourth Street Center to make healthy meals.
- Stone Soup Marin for donating a monthly meal to Mill Street Center.
- Vivian Agra and Marin Catholic High School volunteers for preparing and serving meals at Mill Street Center.
- Lara Peterson and friends for donating gift cards for families in our programs.
- Go Inspire Go, San Valley School and Dixie Elementary School for preparing a delicious meal at Family Center and donating toiletry bags to our programs for a Day of Giving.
- Jennifer Monog for organizing a drive for shampoos, conditioner and other personal care items.
- Bob Cretti for his volunteer service at the Food Pantry at FineArt Apartments.
- National Charity League Mission Belles Chapter for gardening at New Beginnings Center and donating for the Family Center.
- San Francisco-Marin Food Bank for a ‘Party to Plate’ cooking demo at FineArt Apartments.
- Sandra Bed for donating a washing machine and dryer.
- Lauren Arrow and friends for providing holiday music for residents and staff at New Beginnings Center.
- Marin Needle Arts Guild for donating beautiful quilts for our family programs.
- Congregation Rodol’Shalom families for salads, desserts, drinks and a beautiful vegetarian entree for residents at Voyager Carmel Center.
- Marin Humane Society and the Share a Book program for a ‘Read to a Dog’ day at the Family Center.
- Mt. Tam Needle Arts Guild for donating 18 beautiful handmade quilts.
- Marin Catholic High School students and parents for organizing a wonderful carnival with games and prizes at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- E8 Products for donating laundry detergent to our programs.
- The Brockman family for making lunches for Voyager Carmel Center.
- Warm Box for donating socks, scarves, hats and gloves for residents.
- David and Jennifer for donating strawberries and a car seat to our family programs.
- The Republic of Tea for volunteering in the New Beginnings Center gardens and kitchen as well as donating vanilla praline tea and tea for Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- Heath Ceramics for donating furniture for our programs.
- Marin Bee Company for ongoing support and guidance with beekeepers at New Beginnings Center.
- Bank of Marin employees, Julie Torres, Kelly Steddin, Anns Zetts, Ron and Jason Copenhefer, James Simon, Paolo Marcello and Ariya Zohadi for volunteering in our garden at the New Beginnings Center.
- Kendall Jackson Winery and The Ruby Family of Winemas for donating wine for Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- Winery Exchange for gardening, painting, decorating for the holidays and donating holiday gifts for our families.
- Carol Slíka for donating her talavera as aipples for Fresh Starts Chief Events.
- Pat Studder, Normen Haggerty, Jean McKeeschin, Susan Dixon and John Fox for staffing the Homeward Bound Table at the Marin County Farmer’s Market on Thursdays.
- Whole Foods Mill Valley (Mill Valley Avenue) for donating gift cards to support Fresh Starts Chief Events.
- San Rafael Pacifics for donating tickets to baseball games for residents.
- Marin Symphony for donating tickets to performances for residents.
- Wells Fargo Advisors for organizing a donation drive for our programs.
- Patrick O’ Neil for making birthday cake for Warner Creek Senior Center.
- Michael Bason Foundation for donating processes and Easter baskets for residents at Family Center.
- ExtraFood for delivering healthy, delicious food donations to our programs.
- Home Away From Homeness and Beach House for hosting the kids of Home Away From Homelessness.
- Halo Helpers by Cindyl Martin, Bob Puetz and Lynes Downing for helping with sales of Halo Truffles and Halo HomeMades jams.
- Pam Nichols, Mary Frank and Hannah Lafferty for organizing a blanket drive for our 4th graders.
- Indian Princess Group of Ross Valley for collecting donated goods and gift cards for our dolls and other gifts.
- Maureen Hostick for donating acupuncture services at New Beginnings Center.
- Petaluma Seed Bank for donating vegetable seeds for the New Beginnings Center gardens.
- Renata Rohan, Lisa Nicholas, Amanda Mueller, Suzanne Copero and Cyndy Martel for volunteering at Fresh Starts Chief Events.
- Jennyl Winton and friends for donating a Christmas tree and decorating Mill Street Center.
- Neely Wang for donating photo services for Homeward Bound events.
- Kate Mahoney and her team of supporters for a trasnational housing museum.
- Michelle Will for donating hunches at New Beginnings Center and Mill Street Center.
- Deseret Industries for meat, sheets, mugs, dishes, towels and clothing.
- Paul Gumpalow for volunteering at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Ambrose Concepts for organizing parking permits and parking right for our Family Center and other holiday activities for our family programs.
- The Farr family for monthly donations of groceries.
- Tricia Slocum for volunteering to lead a support group focused on Sighna and Mental Illness at Voyager Carmel Center.
- Jenni and Peter Pizzuti for a monthly meal at Mill Street Center.
- Mike Dukansky, Nancy McCarthy and Herbko Robinson for volunteering in New Beginnings Center kitchens.
- The Pajama Project for sending new pajamas for kids in our programs.
- Fresh Starts Chief Events culinary superintendent John Ai, Mei Ibach, Tony Najria and Kathleen and Aaron Weber for donating their time to appear as guest chefs.
- Jamie and Olivia Thomas for making beautiful cakes for kids at Family Center.
- Susan Orna, Nancy Elberg, Renata Bihan, Helen Cameron and Iris Larsen for volunteering at the New Beginnings Center front desk.
- Mary Wright for coordinating Fresh Starts Chief Events flyers.
- Natalie and Daria’s Flowers for donating flowers to New Beginnings Center.
- Josh Chasanam and friends for preparing and serving a holiday meal at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Ophelias Brothers for donating staff hours and use of a backhoe for the New Beginnings Center garden.
- Bob Tanen for his ongoing garden guidance.
- Volunteer gardeners, Linda Kurtz and Tamala Smith for regular classes at Warner Creek Senior Housing and FineArt Apartments.
- Lighthouse Singers of Marin for performing a holiday show at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Elen Fitness Center and Winery Exchange for collecting holiday gifts for our various programs.
- Marin Humane Society, Tara Ssekis and Huck the Dog for bringing Animal Assisted Therapy services to Voyager Carmel Center.
- St. John’s Episcopal Church, Congregation Kol Shofar, St. Stephen’s Presbyterian Church, Community Congregational Church of Tiburon, Dominican University students and Lindy Buerger for donating a washing machine and dryer to the New Beginnings Center.
- Michael Basso Foundation for making birthday cakes for Warner Creek Senior Housing.
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