Home at Last – Let there be homes!

Let there be homes! That’s the motto for our latest program to end homelessness, called Housing at Last, which has begun moving 25 chronically homeless adults to new homes around Marin.

Homeward Bound of Marin was one of 25 organizations in the country to receive federal funds to provide a “housing first” program that supports some of Marin County’s most vulnerable residents.

“These are people who are in survival mode for awhile,” says Liz McCann, the program manager for Homeward Bound. “It’s really challenging for some of them to accept help.”

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded a renewable $510,000 grant for the program, which allows us to rent one- and two-bedroom apartments around the county for the program. Twelve tenants have been placed so far, with all 25 expected to be settled by March 1.

While Homeward Bound of Marin holds the lease, residents sign an occupancy agreement. The contract requires them to follow standard rules: abide by community regulations, pay 30 percent of income for rent, and stay in contact with program staff.

All residents are chosen from our shelter programs. To be eligible, they must have a documented disability and have been homeless for at least a year or four times in the past three years, meeting the federal definition for “chronically homeless.”

Though tenants already have been part of our shelter services, McCann sits down with each applicant to discuss the opportunity and responsibility associated with the program. “These folks already have been meeting with a case manager,” she says.

Housing at Last aims to connect people with benefits, health care, food assistance and other support, McCann says. Her role is helping people solve their complex issues so they can maintain their housing and shift back into mainstream life.

“One resident who has a terminal illness has connected with hospice care. One is working with a nonprofit employment service now. Quite a few have chronic health problems,” she says.

“They’re taking care of themselves in a way that they haven’t been able to while living outside,” McCann adds. “The goal is to get our most vulnerable folks off the streets.”

As the program manager, McCann says, she’s available as a “point person” so tenants may never need to contact the landlord for anything.

As the lesee, Homeward Bound takes responsibility for paying rent on time, filling vacancies and refurbishing units for new residents. Landlords interested in renting to Homeward Bound are invited to contact McCann for information.

Leigh D. Moves from Camping to College

Leigh D., who recently moved to a San Rafael apartment as part of the Housing at Last program, says Homeward Bound’s shelter services helped him survive homelessness, but his new home will put him back on his feet.

“I’ve been going to Mill Street Center off and on since 2004,” says Leigh, who camped out around Marin in good weather and came to the shelter in the rainy season. Alcohol abuse perpetuated the camping lifestyle, he says. “I realized when I was younger, as a business owner, I already was an alcoholic, but a functioning alcoholic,” says Leigh, who opened a pizza restaurant while still in high school with help from a family friend.

His alcohol use got out of control after his second marriage broke up, he says. Then he suffered a broken back as a passenger in a car crash six years ago. “I was lying there in bed for nine months watching daytime TV,” Leigh says. “My daughter said, ‘Dad, you could go back to school online.’ “Having stopped drinking, he took up the challenge.

“I finished two semesters at Foothill College before I could get out of bed,” Leigh says, adding that his pace is slow since he types one-handed. A fall several years ago broke his wrist in two places and left him with lingering nerve damage.

Leigh earned an A.S. degree in Internet Technologies with an emphasis in eBusiness, and now has enrolled in math classes at College of Marin to complete his prerequisites for Sonoma State University. He plans to major in anthropology and hopes to teach classes online after graduation.

“At first, I just wanted to continue coming to Mill Street in the rainy season, rather than go to New Beginnings Center. Now I wonder why I didn’t go earlier,” he says. “And now, having an apartment, I know all this will be a lot easier to accomplish.”

Having a home base also has let him start connecting again with his six children – five daughters and a son – and six grandchildren. “I’m glad to get out of that camping lifestyle and be planning for the future,” he says.
Dear Friends to the End... Of Homelessness,

Housing is health, the foundation for building physical, mental, and social well-being. It astonishes us to realize that so many men, women, and children still languish without it and therefore, must struggle ever to be healthy.

Frankie V. Sets Anchor at Fourth Street Center

Twelve years ago, Frankie V. still worried at night about tides, wind and anchors as the owner of a 50-foot cement boat tethered in Richardson Bay. “I couldn’t sleep at night without knowing what’s holding me down,” he says.

These days, he’s anchored partly by the community of his neighbors at Fourth Street Center, one of Homeward Bound’s supportive housing programs, and partly by his daily meetings with a community of local AA members.

“It’s been a really nice journey since I got to Mill Street Center,” says Frankie, who recalls arriving at the emergency shelter after “making myself real sick” with drug use. “I couldn’t see myself going back to Sausalito and I was ready to stop,” he adds.

A native of San Francisco’s Potrero Hill, Frankie says he grew up running with a neighborhood gang and became a merchant sailor when the city’s waterfront was a busy place.

He later started driving big rigs for waterfront hauling and joined the Teamsters Union, an occupation that kept him busy until 1996, when he lost his brakes on Interstate 680 and his loaded big rig rolled over. He suffered head injuries and a broken neck that left him in the hospital for a year.

Working for fishermen in Sausalito after that, Frankie says he lived happily aboard his boat in the anchorage. “We were quite the crowd down there,” he says.

Though he spent years without traditional walls and a roof, Frankie says, he was glad to find Homeward Bound when he needed it.

Way. It’s beautiful,” he says.

Frankie allows for an occasional Sausalito visit, but says he’s settled nicely at the Fourth Street Center, one of Homeward Bound’s supportive housing programs, and partly by his daily meetings with a community of local AA members.

“Everyone at Fourth Street Center watches out for each other,” he says. “Since I got there, I’ve got new teeth, I’m still sober and I have a lot of new friends in the sober community,” he says. Frankie works on our maintenance team at the New Beginnings Center.

He celebrates the end of summer every year with 10 to 20 friends who make a weeklong trip to the Inyo County desert near Boundary Peak, where all the participants break up to spend three days alone on a vision quest. “You can see the whole sky and the Milky Way. It’s beautiful,” he says.

Though he spent years without traditional walls and a roof, Frankie says, he was glad to find Homeward Bound when he needed it.

“All in all, this time with Homeward Bound has been a good thing for me. It’s up to the individual to decide the right time for a change,” he says. “Once you do that, you get support for every step after.”

Believing in someone until they believe in themselves: this forms the foundation of our work and our practice. Because you believe in Homeward Bound, you provide resources for us to create opportunities for people to find themselves. We can create housing options where families begin to craft a better future for their children. Because you believe in Homeward Bound, veterans and seniors can live in dignity. Because you believe in our work on behalf of the community, you support individuals starting a new path filled with potential.

Thank you for sustaining our collective mission!

Gratefully,

Mary Kay Sweeney
Executive Director

Local Tea Purveyor Pairs Well with Chef Events

Extraordinary food prepared this year at Fresh Starts Chef Events has a new partner – premium beverages from The Republic of Tea.

The Novato company has signed up as premier sponsor for 12 months of celebrity chef events, underwriting costs and offering delicious teas matched to each menu.

“Homeward Bound gives us a way to give back and enrich people’s lives as well as involve our Ministers (employees) in the community,” says Kristina Richens, Minister of Commerce for the company founded in Marin in 1992.

Since The Republic of Tea offices sit less than a mile from Homeward Bound’s headquarters, it’s been easy to arrange employee volunteer days in the gardens or kitchen. Each employee receives two days off per year for volunteering.

“Both The Republic of Tea and Homeward Bound share a philosophy of Taushan – the Great Harmony – when people naturally care about the world and depend on each other for the well-being of the whole,” Richens says. That “collective concern” has led The Republic of Tea to support several national nonprofits by developing tea and tea-inspired items that raise funds for specific projects, such as a watermelon-hibiscus tea for Action Against Hunger.

Partnering with a local program that trains people for food-service jobs is a natural fit with the wide array of premium teas and herbs offered by The Republic of Tea. And staff members love attending the events, Richens says. “Seeing the residents in the Fresh Starts program collaborating with the guests and the chef is inspiring,” she says.

“We feel like every single chef event we have attended has been its own unique and rewarding experience and we are grateful for all the amazing work Homeward Bound does to help people in our community.”

Find out more about The Republic of Tea’s goods and good works at republicoftea.com. 

Commumity Spotlight: The Republic of Tea
Culinary Training Gains National Certification

Fresh Starts Culinary Academy, our flagship job-training program at the Next Key Center, has been recognized as a Quality Program by the American Culinary Federation. Seven programs in California have been awarded this nationally recognized status.

This recognition continues the evolution for Fresh Starts, which began 14 years ago with two to three students in a 500-square-foot shelter kitchen. Homeward Bound now provides a 3,000-square-foot training kitchen and enrolls up to 80 students per year. The Quality Program status follows an extensive review of curriculum, assessment of staff and an on-site visit to observe classes as well as inspection facilities. In a statement, the federation says, “Fresh Starts adds depth and great value to culinary education.”

“Achieving this status highlights our commitment to quality training and support services,” says Homeward Bound Executive Director Mary Kay Sweeney. “We’re thrilled to have this hard-won recognition.”

For Fresh Starts graduate Lyvette Gallegos of Marin City, the training offered a path to success when she felt unsure of her future. She enrolled at 17 while still a student at San Andreas High School, where she was not certain she’d graduate.

“It was the best thing for me. I didn’t know much about cooking but I had a dream of being in culinary arts,” she says. Now 18, she graduated from San Andreas and has recently moved from prep cook to line cook at Sausalito Yacht Club.

“It’s so exciting. What’s been valuable was I learned communication, how to follow recipes and follow up what the chef wants,” she says. “Fresh Starts puts you in the actual setting of working. It’s really helped me.”

Fresh Starts Culinary Academy has been named a Model Member of Catalyst Kitchens, a nationwide network of organizations involved in culinary training and social enterprise. Fresh Starts accepts students from the community as well as Homeward Bound residents.

“Our goal is building skills for people who are looking for employment,” says Training Director Steve Cohen, who formerly was a chef instructor at Contra Costa College and dean of the culinary arts program at Santa Rosa Community College. “Our students have that goal whether they’re veteran, youth, men or women.”

In January, the culinary academy received a Heart of Marin Award for Innovation, recognizing the transformations that occur among students as they learn skills to advance their futures.

Fresh Starts offers an intensive 16-week training program with training in three different kitchens, as well as front-of-the-house classes and workshops in communication, conflict resolution and other “life skills.”

Students take exams to earn both the Food Handler and ServSafe Manager certifications. Last year, 71% of graduates found employment within a month of completing the program and reported an average 150% increase in income as a result of their training.

The culinary academy accepts new students every nine weeks. To learn more or apply as a student, please see www.homewardbound.org/Culinary-Academy or contact Training Director Steve Cohen at 415-382-3363 x231.

Teachers Promote Health Through Gentle Exercise

At Warner Creek Senior Housing in Novato, Homeward Bound includes healthy activity in the services provided for 60 low-income residents. A primary volunteer in that effort is Yayoi Nagano-Lewis, who comes once a month to lead a Feldenkrais movement group that draws up to 10 participants.

Formerly the activity director at a senior center, Yayoi has studied Feldenkrais since 2003. The movement practice founded by Israel Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais after a knee injury aims to improve “kinesthetic sense,” allowing mindful and effective movement for mobility and health. A San Rafael resident and native of Japan, Yayoi learned about Warner Creek through teaching at Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato.

“It’s quite a diverse group. Some people move like experienced yoga students, already and others are recovering from injury or go a bit slower,” she says. “I’ve started slowly to get to know the students.”

Her work dovetails with groups led by Abby Cunningham, who visits Warner Creek three times a month to lead yoga classes. Also a personal trainer, Abby plans to introduce activities with free weights and mini-training sessions in the community’s small gym room.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: YAYOI NAGANO-LEWIS

She has led exercise groups for three years at Fireside Apartments in Mill Valley. Like Warner Creek, that community is owned and operated by Eden Housing with Homeward Bound staff on-site to coordinate services and support for residents.

“At Fireside, we have a core group that’s dedicated. We work on balance, weight training, yoga and gentle stretching. I really enjoy doing something that’s beneficial for the community,” says Abby, a San Anselmo resident.

Monina Hamilton, who coordinates services at Warner Creek, says residents share their appreciation. “They feel grateful to have such diverse gentle exercise. They’re feeling energized and relaxed afterward,” she says. “We are so blessed to have talented instructors willing to share their expertise.”

Yayoi sees her goal as helping residents enjoy their abilities. As they get older, she says, the Feldenkrais practice can improve the enjoyment of walking, gardening and other varied activity. Her groups include exercises for the floor or using a chair.

“If you are alive and have a body, it works. It’s about going slowly and learning to move well,” she says. “It can help people prevent falling, or if they fall, they can learn to fall well so they don’t have injuries.”

Journey Continues Upward for Celestina and Family

When her oldest daughter was 17, Celestina T. began a journey with Homeward Bound in a single room at our family emergency shelter in San Rafael.

“All six of us were in the same room. We were trying to stretch money for everything,” says Maria, now 22, who is the second of Celestina’s four daughters. They rented a room together until their landlord lost the home to foreclosure. Their hopes back then centered on finding a place for the whole family — mom, daughters and one granddaughter — where the girls could finish high school.

Celestina working part-time in elder care, the girls expected to work after graduation. They settled in a three-bedroom apartment at San Clemente Family Homes, a Corte Madera site built and managed by EAH Housing, with support services coordinated by Homeward Bound.

All four of the daughters attend college, the first in their family to do so. In her native Guatemala, Celestina explains, there were no opportunities for advanced education and most girls marry as teenagers.

Maria and her older sister, Maura, attend College of Marin. Maura will complete her certificate in medical assisting this year, while Maria will apply to the nursing program at San Francisco State University.

The two younger daughters, 18 and 20 years old, are enrolled already at San Francisco State. “We do a lot of homework here,” Maria says.

Celestina, meanwhile, found a full-time position at an elder care home on a shift from 11 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. On Saturdays, she continues studying English at College of Marin.

“My family had been struggling, trying to stretch money, living in a single room,” Celestina recalls. “All of a sudden, we have our own place.”

“I’ll still work. I would like someday to have my own house,” she says. This improbable prospect sends her and Maria into a burst of laughter.

“In five years, Celestina says, the girls could be going off to work each morning with employment that will permit them to plan for their own children’s futures.

“T’ll still work. I would like someday to have my own house,” she says. This improbable prospect sends her and Maria into a burst of laughter.

“We’ve done a lot with help from Homeward Bound,” Maria says. “I think somehow we’ll keep going together.”
**Adult Services**

- Housing at Last
  - Multiple Locations
  - 25 beds

- Warner Creek Senior Housing
  - Novato
  - Partnership with Eden Housing
  - Support services provided for 63 residents

- Meadow Park
  - Novato
  - Partnership with Eden Housing
  - 6 houses (15 beds)

- New Beginnings Center
  - Novato
  - 80 beds (including 16 beds for veterans)

- Transition to Wellness
  - Novato
  - 3 studio units (6 medical respite beds)

**Mental Health Services**

- Palm Court
  - Multiple Locations
  - 26 beds

- Carmel Program
  - San Rafael
  - 26 studio units (26 beds)

- Voyager Program
  - San Rafael
  - 5 studio units (10 beds)

**Family Services**

- Fireside Apartments
  - Mill Valley
  - Partnership with Eden Housing
  - 8 studio units (8 beds)

- Fourth Street Center
  - San Rafael
  - 20 studio units (20 beds)

- Family Place
  - Multiple Locations
  - 3 houses (12 beds)

- Oma Village
  - Novato
  - 14 houses (51 beds)

- San Clemente Family Homes
  - Corte Madera
  - Partnership with EAH Housing
  - 4 houses (8 beds)

- Family Park
  - Multiple Locations
  - 12 houses (40 beds)

- Next Key Apartments
  - Novato
  - 23 studio units (23 beds)

- Family Center
  - San Rafael
  - 3 houses (12 beds)

**Job-Training Programs**

- Fresh Starts Culinary Academy
  - Offers intensive 16-week job-training program.
  - Enrolls up to 80 students annually.

**Apprenticeships**

- Paid apprenticeships also are offered in janitorial & building maintenance and landscaping & gardening.

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**2014-15 Operating Budget / Total Agency Expenses and Revenue**

**Expenses**

- Adult Services ........................................... 34%
- Mental Health Services ....................... 17%
- Family Services ........................................ 14%
- Job Training/Social Enterprise ......... 21%
- Administration/Development ........ 14%

**Revenues**

- Gifts .............................................................. 16%
- Foundation Grants ................................. 7%
- Government Grants ............................... 44%
- Program Revenues .................................. 19%
- Social Enterprise ..................................... 12%
- Other Income ........................................... 2%
Thank you for your donations, your volunteer hours, and your interest in our programs. With your support, we continue to help people working to leave homelessness behind. As the infographic illustrates, we provided shelter, housing, and training to 1,364 people last year.

The tragedy of homelessness continues to shadow Marin County — in January, the one-day Point-In-Time Count found a 40% increase in Marin's homeless population, and the un-affordability of rental housing compounds this problem for vulnerable people trying to move from crisis to stability.

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition’s Out of Reach 2015 study identified Marin as the least affordable county in the entire United States! Marin tied with San Francisco and San Mateo counties for that dubious honor, requiring a “housing wage” of $39.65 per hour to rent a typical two-bedroom apartment.

Despite these factors, homeless people in our programs push to rebuild their lives, regenerate hope and re-create resilience on a daily basis. Last year, a remarkable 86% of families exited our programs for housing opportunities!

Homeward Bound of Marin continues to operate the county’s only year-round homeless shelter for families (the Family Center in San Rafael) and for single adults (Mill Street Center in San Rafael). Homeward Bound also operates three other shelters — the Transition to Wellness program, the Voyager Program, and the New Beginnings Center — to offer a total of 176 shelter beds every night of the year.

Mill Street Center — the entry point to services for homeless single adults — sheltered 539 people last year. Almost half continued their progress in our transitional or long-term housing programs. And last year, 58% of the single adults who exited our programs left for a housing opportunity!

We know the cure for homelessness — it is homes! Homeward Bound provided 322 beds of long-term supportive housing last year. Many of these programs have no exit date for residents (permanent housing), while others provide housing for a designated time. Most recently, we added Family Place, a program offering three homes with support services to homeless families.

We’ve also been laying the infrastructure for two more housing programs in the current fiscal year: Housing at Last — 25 beds of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless vulnerable adults (see the cover story for details); and Oma Village — up to 35 beds for 14 homeless families.

A large portion of effort also goes to training and employment opportunities for homeless and low-income adults in Marin County. We offer a handful of building maintenance and landscaping apprenticeships, but the bulk of training occurs at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.

In addition to being certified last year as an American Culinary Federation Quality Program and a Model Member of the Catalyst Kitchens networking group, Fresh Starts offered training to 79 people. Of those enrolled, 54 people graduated from Fresh Starts and 71% found employment within four weeks of graduation. This program shows sustained success for its students, who retain jobs and increase their incomes over the 18 months following graduation.

Our social enterprise businesses continue to thrive, offering paid employment to students and generating revenue to support our programs. These enterprises — The Key Room event venue, Fresh Starts Chef Events, the Jackson Café at Whistlestop, Halo Truffles and Halo HomeMades products, our shelter meals program, and commercial kitchen rental — earned over $800,000 last year!

In the past 12 months, Homeward Bound of Marin has received significant awards, including the Heart of Marin Award for Innovation, the MLK Jr. Humanitarian Award from the Marin Human Rights Commission, the International Association of Sufism’s Humanitarian Award, and the North Bay Biz Partnership Prize. The most important rewards, however, grow from our mission to end homelessness: the remarkable achievements and endorsement of people that we serve on behalf of the community.

WHO WE SERVE:

1,364
PERSONS SERVED

239
PEOPLE IN FAMILIES

1,125
SINGLE INDIVIDUALS
Including students

SENIORS (62+)
171

VETERANS
142

CHILDREN (UNDER 18)
130

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Exited for housing: 86%
Market Rate Housing: 17%
Subsidized Housing: 66%
Living with Family/Friends: 17%

ADULT PROGRAMS

Including mental health programs

Exited for housing: 58%
Market Rate Housing: 26%
Subsidized Housing: 35%
Living with Family/Friends: 39%

*Exit figures do not include MAV Street Center

JOB TRAINING

FRESH STARTS CULINARY ACADEMY

Number of Students:

79

Number of Graduates:

54

Graduates Employed within 1 Month:

71%
Homeward Bound of Marin

Marian County Fair lineup includes Homeward Bound

Homeward Bound of Marin made its debut this year at the Marin County Fair with a booth selling made-to-order salads and wraps, plus hibiscus iced tea and lemonade. Our crew of Fresh Starts culinary students and staff made the food while volunteers took orders, poured drinks and worked the cash register.

We loved being part of this fantastic event! We hope to return in 2016 to grow our profits and have more fun.

Homeward Bound also won multiple prizes in the fair’s exhibit hall for the eye-popping onions grown in our garden. They won a blue ribbon, a Best Vegetable in the Bulb & Tuber category and overall Best in Show for vegetables.

We give thanks for all the ribbons to Bob Tanem, a founder and ongoing mentor for our garden, and garden supervisor David Jordan. Bravo!

New website launches with help from Novato firm

We’re launching a new mobile-friendly website and a Facebook page for The Key Room with pro bono help from Kiosk, a Novato marketing agency. Look for our improved and responsive design at www.theykeyroom.com.

With customers increasingly using their smartphones, we needed a cleaner and more vibrant presence to deliver information in a highly visual way. Thanks to Kiosk, we’re better prepared than ever to meet our customers online and show them how we help create wonderful and delicious events.

Executive Chef Eric Magnani brings new expertise to kitchen

The many culinary projects at Homeward Bound of Marin have a new executive chef, Eric Magnani, who joins us after experience in restaurants and catering plus creation of his own line of Pig & Squirrel gourmet products.

Chef Eric spent six years leading San Francisco’s second-largest catering company, Global Gourmet, with responsibility for menus, staff and operations for events with up to 25,000 guests plus daily food service at two comedy clubs and four concert venues.

He was the opening chef at San Francisco’s Barchus restaurant and has worked in kitchens at the Camerino Inn, Lodge at Pebble Beach, Auberge du Soleil and Timberhill Ranch.

Look for his new catering menus in The Key Room to offer diverse options, from Grilled Beef Bulgogi and Scallion Bites to Oaxacan Chicken Mole with Green Chile Tamale to Togarashi Seared Tombo Tuna with Forbidden Rice.

His role includes overseeing production of Halo Truffles plus jams and jellies made by Fresh Starts students and staff, along with supervising our New Beginnings Center kitchen.

Looking forward to his contributions to our kitchen, we’re excited to introduce a new Executive Chef Eric Magnani.

Question of the Day: Residents talk about rebuilding their futures.

Name: Sandy W.
Program: Fresh Starts Culinary Academy
How did you become homeless?
My living situation became unsustainable. I am couch-surfing right now.

How has Homeward Bound helped you?
I was able to update my knife skills and to gain more self-esteem in the Fresh Starts Culinary Academy. I ride 5 miles on my bicycle to get here every morning. I always think more positively when I’m here.

Where do you see yourself in the future?
With a good-paying baking or cooking job and a place to call home where my heart belongs.

Name: Richard W.
Program: Palm Court Permanent Supportive Housing
How did you become homeless?
Substance abuse was a part of my life at that time and I was in poor health.

How has Homeward Bound helped you?
I came to the shelter and was then able to secure housing. It was still a struggle, but I kept my head above water and stayed focused; now I’ve been housed for 3 years and have stayed clean and sober.

Homeward Bound also gave me a job as a dishwasher.

Where do you see yourself in the future?
I am going to keep my housing and my job for the long haul. Any chance I can, I want to help open the door for others.

Name: Ben P.
Program: Transition to Wellness Medical Respite Shelter
How did you become homeless?
Through addiction, I ended up in the hospital.

How has Homeward Bound helped you?
Realizing that I didn’t have a stable place to go, Homeward Bound’s Transition to Wellness program offered me a place to heal and to feel safe and to start my recovery both physically and spiritually.

Where do you see yourself in the future?
Becoming independent with employment, housing, and helping others.

Name: Robert F.
Program: New Beginnings Center Homeless Shelter
How did you become homeless?
My family kicked me out. I worked in construction for awhile but the cost of housing is just so high that I’ve not been able to get on my feet.

How has Homeward Bound helped you?
They gave me food in my belly and a roof over my head. They help to meet the basic needs while I figure out the next step.

Where do you see yourself in the future?
I am going to find some housing I can afford and in the meantime, I’m going to save as much money as possible.

Donate to Build a Future

Your gift supports homeless men, women and children as they gather resilience and build an independent future.

Make a difference today by giving online at www.hbomf.org or by check to: Homeward Bound of Marin 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway Novato, CA 94949

Plan Your Event in The Key Room

Let us host your holiday events, business meetings or celebrations in The Key Room, our flexible event space with on-site catering.

Call now for your preferred dates! 415-382-3363 x214 or www.theykeyroom.com

Ways to give
Oma Village Moving Toward Fruition

For four years, Homeward Bound has been raising awareness and funds to build Oma Village, a critically needed supportive housing program for homeless families in Marin County. Our village will create 14 new units of affordable housing in a county ranked as the least-affordable rental market in the country.

Initially we partnered with Blu-Homes, a favorite of Dwell and Sunset magazines, to come up with a stunning modern design that re-imagines the look of affordable housing.

We purchased land on Nave Drive in Novato, then demolished the existing decrepit buildings. The approvals process closed last year and construction began in earnest this summer. While we’re no longer working with Blu-Homes, our designs retain the clean, modern flavor of their proposals.

Ghilotti Construction (San Rafael), SWA Landscaping (Sausalito), CSW Stuber/Stroeh Engineering Group (Novato) and Axis Architecture (San Francisco) made significant pro-bono or reduced-fee contributions to Oma Village. HomeAid Northern California, the charity arm of the home building industry, has pledged to solicit and coordinate participation from a range of sub-contractors to add more savings.

Over 90% of the funding for Oma Village has been raised and we look forward to working with our generous supporters in the community to get through the $500,000 home stretch of the capital campaign.

The operational model for Oma Village involves fully capitalizing the project upfront to eliminate the need for ongoing fundraising and debt service. Below-market rents fixed rents monthly amount that’s affordable even to families with jobs in the low-wage service sector of Marin’s economy (e.g., construction, food services, or retail.) Fixed rents encourage families to increase their incomes without fear of rent increases, to build assets and savings as their careers progress, and ultimately to make the leap to market-rate housing.

Across the nation, 37% of homelessness involves families with children under 18 years old. Families in poverty families facing a domestic upheaval, families challenged by illness, families looking for a way to build resilience and a brighter future. Oma Village will help Marin families find their way out of homelessness. With your help, we're building a new model for modern, green affordable housing.

Services at Oma Village will focus particularly on children. Homework clubs and tutoring will be essential elements of our programming to emphasize academic success and opportunities to help end the cycle of generational poverty.

We look forward to completing construction in 2016 and welcoming 14 homeless families and their children to their new homes!

If you would like to make a donation to Oma Village, or to don a hard hat and take a tour of the construction site, please call us at (415) 382-3363 x211.

Fresh Starts CHEF EVENTS

Proceeds from Fresh Starts Chef Events support shelter and job-training programs at Homeward Bound. See bit.ly/FScchefevents to make reservations online or call 415-382-3363 x243.

CELEBRATE FALL WITH A HARVEST MENU
Thursday, November 5
6:30 to 9 p.m.

Chef Tracey Shepos Cenami, chef at Kendall-Jackson, shares harvest recipes and expertise in pairing food with wine for holiday celebrations. To accompany the menu, we’ll offer a choice of Kendall-Jackson selections.

Tickets cost $60, including dinner.

EMBRACE THE HOLIDAYS WITH CHEF JOHN ASH
Thursday, December 10
6:30 to 9 p.m.

Launch your festive season with Chef John Ash, whose namesake restaurant plowed new ground in creating seasonal dishes to match the region’s wines. He’ll present recipes to carry through the holidays.

Tickets cost $60, including dinner.

REVEL IN THE MAGIC OF MUSHROOMS
Saturday, January 16
6:30 to 9 p.m.

A luxurious evening featuring exotic mushrooms from Mycopia in Sebastopol, supplier of the nation’s premier kitchens. Chef John Ash and Chef Mei Ibach will demonstrate an East-West menu in this exclusive event paired with wines from Merry Edwards Winery.

Tickets cost $725, including dinner and wine.

CHEF JOANNE WEIR PRESENTS “GYPSY” MENU
Thursday, February 18
6:30 to 9 p.m.

Hear about and taste the culinary inspirations leading PBS-TV Chef Joanne Weir, founding chef of Sausalito’s Copita restaurant, as she presents a menu from her new book, “Kitchen Gypsy.”

Tickets cost $80, including dinner and a copy of “Kitchen Gypsy.”

MEET A DAIRY SUPERSTAR WITH JANET FLETCHER
Thursday, March 24
6:30 to 9 p.m.

Janet Fletcher, an award-winning food writer and one-time Chez Panisse chef, introduces a menu featuring yogurt, the star of her latest cookbook that includes dishes from Greece, Iran, Turkey and Lebanon.

Tickets cost $60, including dinner.

WAYS TO GIVE

Wrap a Halo for Your Angel

Give our Halo Truffles and delight your special angels, whether they’re friends, family, colleagues or teachers.

Call the Halo Hotline at 415-382-3363 x244 or see www.hbom.org for details.

To offer a Halo sale at your church or office, please call us for information. Take a bite out of homelessness!

What’s Your Legacy?

Include Homeward Bound of Marin in your legacy plans through your will or trust and ensure our vital programs will continue to provide emergency shelter and long-term housing for homeless families. Join our Ending Homelessness Legacy Society today.

For more information, contact Paul Fordham at (415) 382-3363 x211 or pfordham@hbom.org
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 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: All Saints’ United Methodist Church; Village Baptist Church; Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin; Spirit Rock Meditation Center; St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church, Congregation Rachel Shalom, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church; Community Congregational Church of Tiburon; Trinity Lutheran Church, Redwoods 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 Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church.
- Peace Lutheran Church for ongoing support of Fireside Apartments programs and families.
- First Congregational Church of San Rafael for an annual toy drive that delivered 800 toys.

Schools Thank you to:
- San Domenico School 4th and 5th graders for cooking meals monthly, baking cookies and decorating for holidays at the Family Center.
- Marin Country Day School families for volunteering in the New Beginnings Center gardens.
- Marin Academy students for a volunteer day in our garden.
- Our Lady of Loretto School students for harvesting and shelling peas for our kitchens.

Individuals, Businesses, and Organizations: Thank you to:
- Nugget Market for donating pallets of new toiletries, vitamins and other personal care products.
- First Republic Bank staff members for making breakfast burritos and granola for Voyager Carmel Center.
- Electrical contractor Shawn Reyes for helping with energy-efficient lighting at the Next Key Center.
- Restoration Hardware for nugs, one large leather sofa, an outdoor sofa, a love seat and other furnishings for our programs.
- Sunrise Home for donating two sofas to our programs.
- Nancy McCarthy for donating a refrigerator.
- FLOR Carpet Tiles for donating their products to our Family Center.
- Lindsey Martins for delivering birthday cakes for residents at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Fran MacDonald for supporting fundraising efforts at the Marin Human Race.
- Kiosk in Novato for launching a major volunteer project to upgrade our websites and supporting us at the Marin Human Race.
- Vine Solutions employees for volunteering in a painting project at New Beginnings Center.
- Friends and family of Tyler Lorenzi for their annual volunteer day in the New Beginnings Center garden.
- Anabell’s Gifts for organizing pizza and game night at Family Center plus donating Easter baskets.
- Stone Soup Marin for donating a monthly meal at Mill Street Center.
- Kevin Breakstone for help with bingo at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Michael Basour for organizing a monthly “Board Game Social Hour” for Warner Creek seniors.
- Bob Cretti for his volunteer service at the Food Pantry at Fireside Apartments.
- Occidental Arts & Ecology Center and Marin Master Gardeners for donations of vegetable starts for our gardens at New Beginnings Center.
- Patty Tysoh for organizing art workshops for residents at Fireside Apartments.
- National Charity League Mission Bellas Chapter for gardening at New Beginnings Center and donating back-to-school backpacks for young residents.
- Marin Needle Arts Guild and Mt. Tam Quilt Guild for donating beautiful quilts for our programs.
- BD Products for donating organic personal care products to our programs.
- Overflow for donating furnishings for residents in our programs.
- E.B. Stone Organics and Kellgton Supply for donating fertilizer for our gardens.
- My New Red Shoes for providing new shoes and gift cards for children in our programs.
- Mill Valley Parks & Recreation Summer Service Camp for spending a volunteer day in our gardens.
- Gail Schreuder and Jamie Gill for providing move-out baskets filled with useful items for residents transitioning to new homes.
- Planet Bee Foundation for ongoing support and guidance with beehives at New Beginnings Center.
- Jewish Family and Children’s Services Summer Camp for volunteering in our gardens.
- Michelle Mill for donating huaruets at New Beginnings Center, Mill Street Center and Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Mary Claire Barker for donating new toiletries and other useful items.
- Katherine Randolph for donating items from our wish list.
- The Republic of Tea for donating herbal prises and tea for Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- Mel Doguotoris, Via Giusti and Joseph Swan Vineyards for donating wine for Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- Winery Exchange for volunteering in our gardens and donating backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies.
- Carol Inelkoffa for donating her talents as a blogger for Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- San Rafael Pacifics for donating tickets to baseball games for residents.
- Marin Symphony for donating ticketing for performances to residents.
- Patrick O’Neil for making birthday cakes for Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Michael Brown Foundation for donating pizzas and Easter baskets for residents at Family Center.
- ExtraFood for delivering healthy, delicious food donations to our programs.
- Home Away From Homelessness and Beach House for hosting the kids of Homeward Bound.
- Renata Bihun, Lisa Nichayeva, Amanda Mueller, Susanne Caprio, Cyndie Martinez and Julie Sweeney for volunteering at Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- Neely Wang for donating professional photo services for Homeward Bound events.
- Desert Industries for donating new sheets, blankets and pillows.
- Ene Silva for volunteering to lead a support group focused on Sigmia and Mental Illness at Voyager Carmel Center.
- Mike Dunkar, Nancy McCarthy and Hirobo Robinson for volunteering in New Beginnings Center.
- Culinary superstars Bryant Terry, Duskie Estes, John Stewart, Dave the Butcher, Tony Gemignani, Sands Bonetana and John Toulouse for donating their time to appear at Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- Jimie and Olivia Thomas for making beautiful cakes for kids at Family Center.
- Susan Oma, Nancy Elberg, Renata Bihun, Helen Cameron and Lisa LaRosa for volunteering at the New Beginnings Center front desk.
- Mary Wright for creating Fresh Starts Chef Events flyers.
- Genworth Financial employees for a volunteer day in the gardens at New Beginnings Center.
- Natalie and Daria’s Flowers for donating flowers weekly to New Beginnings Center.
- Bob Tanen for his ongoing garden guidance.
- Yayoi Nagano-Lewis for teaching classes in Felderines movement at Warner Creek Senior Housing.