“Yellow Hallway” Program Welcomes Two Families!

The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael measured, painted and lugged furniture to welcome two families in a new transitional housing program at the Our Lady of Lourdes Convent near Dominican University.

Monica A. Puts Life in Balance with Oma Village

After two years of living outside, Monica A. says just having a clean bathroom and shower filled her with gratitude.

Now she has a home for her family at Oma Village, Homeward Bound’s newest supportive housing program. The Novato site offers 14 small rental homes, shared playgrounds and a community room for a homework club and holiday parties. “Things have fallen into place beautifully since I came to Oma Village,” she says. It’s a complete turnaround from 2015, when the Novato native and graduate of Novato High School came to the family emergency shelter while expecting her second child, Asha.

Her bout of homelessness began with a relapse into drug use after 10 years of sobriety, forcing Monica to turn over care of her older daughter, Mercy, to her mother and Mercy’s father. “I lost everything quick,” Monica says. “I wasn’t a hustler, I wasn’t a stealer, so for two years, I was just broke and hungry. Mostly I was looking for a safe place to sleep.”

Pregnancy galvanized her willpower, propelling her to rebuild her life and come to Homeward Bound. The search for housing, however, left her near despair although she works full-time in pool care at Indian Valley College, building on experience gained from her father’s pool care business.

“I followed up so many housing options, but most that I could afford turned out to be scams,” she said. “A studio apartment in Vallejo was my backup plan. I worried how we were going to do it.”

With a two-bedroom apartment at Oma Village, Monica has room for both girls. Mercy has continued in her same Novato school with after-school care from her grandmother, who lives nearby, Asha. Now almost two years old, goes to the Head Start program on-campus for day care.

“I’m so grateful for Oma Village. The playground’s great, the parents can come out to socialize, the kids are super-cute to watch and they run in and out of each other’s houses sometimes,” she said. — Monica
DEAR FRIENDS TO THE END...OF HOMELESSNESS,

Across the country and throughout our county, a transformation is taking place. It’s a transformation not just of individual lives and futures, but also a conversion of the systems we’ve harnessed in the work of ending homelessness.

At Homeward Bound, we have always celebrated the homecoming of each individual who finds a way home with committed assistance from our staff and community partners. We share some of these compelling stories with you regularly. Thanks to your support, these stories continue to unfold.

Now we have something broader to add to the celebration. With others in the private and public sectors who provide services, we’re developing a better partnership to identify, assess, and house the folk in our community who suffer with multiple barriers to maintaining housing.

Certainly we all embrace the proven solution to ending homelessness — HOMES! For some individuals and families, a housing voucher or a temporary housing subsidy provides a viable pathway out of homelessness.

For others, the solution lies in permanent supportive housing, that is, bringing ongoing services to individuals and families in their homes to help them remain housed for good. While various organizations, like Homeward Bound, have created programs on this concept, we’re now breaking new ground to mold a system of all providers working collectively toward our common goal.

We’re grateful to know you are not only behind these efforts, but you are beside us as we continue to evolve the services that you’ve graciously and generously supported for over 40 years. Thank you, partners!

P.S. As we go to press with this issue, we are deeply aware of another transformation that has taken place, swiftly and complete out of control – the fires in our surrounding counties. This devastation has affected everyone in the Bay Area, further emphasizing the compelling need for us to come together to create homes!

Sandy has been connected to Homeward Bound of Marin for more than 10 years, beginning as a volunteer in our family shelter in 2004. The retired nurse and Mill Valley resident answered phones, took in food deliveries and helped with office tasks.

Currently head of the Social Action Committee at Marin Lutheran Church, she says the twice-yearly work days offer a fun way to get acquainted with others in the congregation as well as fulfill the mission to get involved in the community.

“We like the before and after, the feeling of accomplishment,” says Rod, whose handyman skills play a big role in planning the work. Eight to 14 people attend the fall work day at the Family Center, our year-round emergency shelter for nine families.

This year, the team plans to put a new fiberglass roof on the garbage enclosure, add succulents to the garden, and rebuild a 15-foot planter box. The group returns each spring to make breakfast burritos for Homeward Bound residents.

The Family Center occupies a 3,800-square-foot home built in 1920, so there’s a constant need to update and retrofit things. Volunteer Coordinator Andrea Rey says the congregation members have become “repair fairies” for the house.

Last year, the group put two coats of non-skid paint on the front and back exterior stairs. They’ve also added shelves to the linen closet, rebuilt a downstairs pantry and repainted bathrooms.

“For people who have no instant gratification in their work life, this offers instant satisfaction,” says Rod, who worked 31 years as head of spiritual counseling at Sacramento’s Veterans Administration.

“The assessment tool gives us strong agreement on which people need the most help and they can be at the front of the line for what’s available,” says Paul Fordham, Homeward Bound’s Deputy Executive Director. The teamwork also simplifies the process of finding help for people in crisis.

In September, Fordham attended a meeting of Built for Zero, a national program that puts similar concepts into action to reduce chronic and veteran homelessness. Marin County is one of 70 communities involved this year, including Chicago, Phoenix and Montgomery, Alabama.

Volunteer Spotlight – Rod and Sandy Seeger Organize Fix-It Brigade

“Overgrown palm trees, mismatched drawer pulls or greasy stove hood — no job falls outside the lines for Sandy and Rod Seeger, who organize service days at our Family Center for Marin Lutheran Church.”

Rod and Sandy Seeger organize the “Repair Fairies” for Homeward Bound’s Family Center.
Marty C. Tackles Diabetes and Homelessness

For years, Marty C. managed his diabetes by eating carefully. Though he lived in small quarters—a second unit behind another home in Novato—he shopped and cooked with care on a modest budget. Things changed last year, however, when a neighbor’s complaint led to findings that his landlord wasn’t permitted to rent the unit under current zoning. He was evicted from the place he’d lived since 2002 and took up residence in his truck last December.

“I call myself ‘housing impaired’ but really it’s health impaired also,” says Marty, now at Transition to Wellness, a shelter program operated by Homeward Bound of Marin in partnership with local hospitals. Since December, Marty has been hospitalized three times for cellulitis and infections in his legs due to diabetes. “A month into being homeless, I had to go back on diabetes medication,” he says.

Marty moved to Transition to Wellness after a week in the hospital this past August. He shares a double room and has regular visits from a nurse, along with help to reach appointments with a primary care doctor and a podiatrist. The medical respite program launched in 2008 in collaboration with Marin General Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, Novato Community Hospital and Ritter Center. In 2016-17, it served 62 people, avoiding 831 days of hospital care for a savings of $2.5 million. A total of six beds are available, with 84 percent of residents last year leaving for a stable housing opportunity.

With a calm environment and consistent care, Marty says his health is improving. He loves being able to cook his own meals and vows to cut his smoking habit. “My stress level has been cut dramatically. This place is amazing and offers what you need to get on a healthy path,” he adds.

After decades as a truck driver, equipment operator, carpenter and mechanic, Marty has lacked consistent work since the construction industry crashed in 2010. He’s applied for government assistance, but says, “I call myself ‘housing impaired’ but really it’s health impaired also. I only get housing if I have health.”

With a calm environment and consistent care, Marty says his health is improving. He loves being able to cook his own meals and vows to cut his smoking habit. “My stress level has been cut dramatically. This place is amazing and offers what you need to get on a healthy path,” he adds.

After decades as a truck driver, equipment operator, carpenter and mechanic, Marty has lacked consistent work since the construction industry crashed in 2010. He’s applied for what he considers “not great roommate material,” Marty tries to stay optimistic about his future.

“I’m so grateful for this place and having all these resources,” he says. “I’m hoping some housing that I can afford will come through.”

Career Paths Open for Janie S. as Culinary Graduate

He works two jobs that keep him constantly moving, but Janie S. says he’s got every reason to smile.

“I’m happy: I have a place, I have work, I have my health,” says Janie, who graduated last fall from Fresh Starts Culinary Academy. A full-time sous chef at Sol Food in San Rafael since January, Janie also works three nights a week for Toast, a restaurant at Hamilton Marketplace in Novato. The location is convenient since Janie lives nearby at our Next Key Apartments.

His outlook has changed since 2015, when he lost a longtime position at a Vallejo restaurant plus his housing due to legal issues. He spent a month sleeping in his car before being directed to Mill Street Center, our year-round emergency shelter for adults.

“One door closed, but that opened 10 or more new ones for me,” Janie says. It wasn’t long before he applied to Fresh Starts Culinary Academy. Homeward Bound’s flagship 10-week training program for cooking and front-of-house skills.

A native of Guatemala, Janie grew up in the workers’ community at a coffee farm where garden-to-table eating was a way of life. His culinary career began after coming to the United States almost 15 years ago, when he got promoted from dishwasher to pizza cook at his first restaurant job. “I like too many kinds of food. I love the kitchen and trying new things,” Janie says. In Marin, he also has worked at Boca Pizzeria in Novato and Green Chile Kitchen in San Rafael.

Chef instructors at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy honored Janie with an award for “Best All-Around Skills.” At his graduation, recalling him as a student who asked question after question. “The thing that impressed me about Janie: he entered the class with a very well-developed skill set but his humility was remarkable. He just wanted to learn as much as he could,” Director of Training Steve Cohen says.

The program advanced his career by letting him earn the ServSafe Food Protection Manager certification and exposing him to new techniques, Janie says. He also developed resolve to reach personal goals and build savings, which he’s spending to send his son through aviation training.

At Sol Food, Janie has been able to take on-site classes offered to key employees. His most recent workshop covers supervisory techniques that will help him as kitchen manager, a role that gives him added responsibilities in working with the staff. He hopes within five years to see his son finish aviation training, then to open his own restaurant. “I have plans and I’m not stopping for anything,” Janie says.

Community Spotlight – Novato Babe Ruth League Partners with Wagster Treats

Novato’s Babe Ruth Baseball League scored fundraising success with sales of Wagster Treats, the all-natural dog biscuits made in our training kitchen.

“Our 167-pound dog ‘Bear’ was one of the original taste-testers for Wagster,” recalls Toni Shroyer, a Novato realtor whose son plays in the league. “So we know dogs approve.”

The Babe Ruth community likes the fact that Wagster Treats are baked locally as a social enterprise that supports shelter and job-training programs at Homeward Bound of Marin, Shroyer says.

Players in the league have sold them in the Snack Shack at the field, to neighbors and to friends and family. A generous donor was so inspired by the project that he offered a $1 match per bag sold! The league buys Wagster Treats at a discount, then sells them at the retail price of $10 per bag.

All the funds raised are going to field upkeep and equipment Shroyer says, a “home run” for the league budget.

Fundraising partners like the Babe Ruth Baseball League give a boost to the business of Wagster Treats, which also are available at more than 120 grocers and pet stores like Woodlands Pet Food & Treats and Pet Food Express. Wagster Treats also can be found at dog-friendly wineries and events, including Woodstock and the Bay Area Pet Fair.

As a social enterprise, the business brings in revenue to support shelter and job-training programs at Homeward Bound while providing supportive employment and training opportunities for graduates of Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.

To find out more about fundraising sales of Wagster Treats:
Please contact Emma Arnold at 415-382-3363 x218 or email woof@wagstertreats.com.
COMMUNITY REPORT

2016 - 2017

In partnership with our amazing donors and volunteers, Homeward Bound has sustained the growth of our programs to help homeless families and adults in Marin County. Together, we have paved pathways out of homelessness for hundreds of people this past year, and offered essential services to more than 1,200 people. Thank you!

While homelessness is a complex social issue, we believe there are various solutions that, of course, have housing at the core. Just as individual pitfalls bring people into crisis, we’re creating a variety of routes leading back to stability and resilience.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, Homeward Bound served a total of 1,242 homeless men, women and children, with 81% in our adult programs. We also helped 88 families last year, including 126 children experiencing homelessness.

It isn’t unbelievable in this modern era, when satellites talk to phones in our pockets, that so many people struggle to meet basic needs: a roof over their heads, a safe place to wash, and nourishing food? Many of the children and adults who arrive at our shelters have lived in cars, under freeways, in garages, and other places not fit for human habitation.

Our Family Center continues as the year-round emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Marin County. Though demand still outpaces our capacity, we take heart in the progress of our residents. In 2016-17, 84% of families in our programs exited for stable housing.

Homeward Bound focused intently in 2016-17 to create new housing avenues for families. Our biggest step forward came in partnership with the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, who approached us to help create a transitional housing program for two single mothers and their children. We look forward to welcoming new residents in this “Yellow Hallway” program. (See the full story on page 1.)

As 2017 began, we cheered the first families moving into Oma Village in Novato after five years of planning, fundraising, and construction. Fourteen families now have a chance to reimagine their future in our community. We’re now hearing stories of new jobs, rising opportunity, and multi-generational academic success. It’s amazing what stable housing can do!

We also expanded housing options with funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, adding seven families in our “Family Place” program for a total of 10. Family Place offers subsidized housing and supportive services to chronically homeless families.

For single adults, Homeward Bound offers shelter and supportive housing programs that served 1,000 people. In 2016-17, 73% of exiting adults left for a housing opportunity.

A main focus this year has been working with community partners to refine the system of care and prioritize help for chronically homeless adults. Several initiatives target this goal, including design of a countywide “coordinated entry” for services. We also participate in Built for Zero, a nationwide effort to evaluate and redesign services to eliminate chronic homelessness.

Fresh Starts Culinary Academy continues to provide pathways out of poverty, both for people in our programs and low-income adults in the community. Now in its 16th year, the academy served 63 students last year. A survey of graduates shows 85% secured employment within a month of completing the training. Many found positions with members of our robust advisory committee like Sol Food Restaurant, Good Earth Natural Foods and Genji Sushi.

With Fresh Starts Culinary Academy recognized as a leader in workforce training, we gladly responded last year to help nonprofits from Mendocino, San Jose and Contra Costa counties develop their own culinary programs. Our team also presented at the national Social Enterprise Alliance Summit in Los Angeles.

Homeward Bound operates six social enterprise businesses that continue gaining strength, including Fresh Starts Chef Events, The Key Room event venue and production of Wagster Treats dog biscuits.

In 2016-17, these businesses generated over $800,000 in revenues. Our businesses now offer 11 supportive employment positions for graduates of Fresh Starts Culinary Academy, as well as on-call paid work in catered events. We continue to believe in the “double bottom line” – providing jobs for people striving to enter the workforce while generating revenues to support our programs.

The Wagster Treats business grew significantly as we pivoted from selling at local farmer’s markets to becoming a wholesale vendor to pet food and grocery stores. Two distributors now help deliver Wagster Treats to more than 120 stores, including Pet Food Express across California, while online sales continue at WagsterTreats.com. If you’re fundraising for a project, we can work with you to sell Wagster Treats to support your cause! All our sales support the mission of ending homelessness through training, housing, and hope! For sales information please contact Emma Arnold at 415-382-3363 x218 or email woof@wagsterpets.com.

WHO WE SERVE:

1,242 PERSONS SERVED
242 PEOPLE IN FAMILIES
1,000 SINGLE INDIVIDUALS Including students

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Exited for housing: 84%

Market Rate Housing: 24%
Subsidized Housing: 32%
Living with Family/Friends: 23%

ADULT PROGRAMS

Including mental health programs

Exited for housing: 73%

Market Rate Housing: 26%
Subsidized Housing: 33%
Living with Family/Friends: 31%

Charity Navigator Four Star Charity

Wagster Treats business grew significantly as we pivoted from selling at local farmer’s markets to becoming a wholesale vendor to pet food and grocery stores. Two distributors now help deliver Wagster Treats to more than 120 stores, including Pet Food Express across California, while online sales continue at WagsterTreats.com. If you’re fundraising for a project, we can work with you to sell Wagster Treats to support your cause! All our sales support the mission of ending homelessness through training, housing, and hope! For sales information please contact Emma Arnold at 415-382-3363 x218 or email woof@wagsterpets.com.

FALL/WINTER 2017

The average cost for Homeward Bound of Marin to provide someone with a place to sleep and wraparound support services is just $40 per day.
Moled on “Humans of New York,” a Photoblog by photographer Brandon Stanton, this project by fifth-graders at Marin Country Day School interviewed 20 people involved with Homeward Bound of Marin. Some have been edited for brevity – get the full stories at a gallery show this winter at our Novato headquarters.

When you support our social enterprise ventures, the proceeds benefit shelter and training programs at Homeward Bound of Marin.

“The longer you live, the more you discover how flexible you can be. For example, when I was a teenager, the thing I was most proud of was just being stubborn. But you get older, and you discover what you’re really good at.”

– Gina, Fresh Starts Culinary Academy graduate

“I grew up in Marin, was born in Marin, and never moved. I want to be here my whole life. I work here now at Homeward Bound. I love it.”

– Andre Harris, nurse and coordinator of Transition to Wellness medical respite program

“The reason for my work, the purpose of my life, I found it here. We are working with people who are needing support in their lives, and we want to treat them with beauty and dignity.”

– Mary Kay Sweeney, Executive Director of Homeward Bound

“Life is all opportunity, and make sure you never forget that there is always a tomorrow, and you can always change something that you don’t like. But, the only person who can make that change is you.”

– Chef Mei Ibach, instructor at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy

“I work as a bartender at Applebee’s. I also produced my own record. I want to be remembered in a very positive way. My family has kept me going.”

– Will, Fresh Starts Culinary Academy graduate

“I stopped drinking and that has absolutely changed my life. I don’t have a lot of possessions. I don’t have a car, but I finally have a good life. Thus I can learn to love myself.”

– Kim, New Beginnings Center resident

“Before Homeward Bound, I did not have a home. I was staying with friends...just kind of floating around. Now I wake up every morning, excited to see what will come of the day.”

– Steve, Next Key Apartments resident and Homeward Bound maintenance worker

“Working here...there’s so many amazing people who really care about you, and care about your success. And that’s super-important, when you want to be around people who are positive influences in your life.”

– Dalaina, Wagster Treats baker and Ona Village resident

“What I want to do is become a drug and alcohol counselor and help younger people, stop them from getting into trouble, hanging around the wrong people, or getting involved with alcohol and stuff.”

– Kim, New Beginnings Center resident
SHOP FOR GOOD WITH AMAZON SMILE
Doing some holiday shopping online? Use the portal at Smile.Amazon.com to place orders and every purchase supports Homeward Bound of Marin. Shop with compassion to send gifts, decorate your home or even to stock your office while helping to end homelessness!
Visit Smile.Amazon.com and choose Homeward Bound of Marin from a list of charities.

YOUR GIFTS OPEN NEW DOORS
Open doors to transformation for homeless individuals and families with a donation to our programs. Give a gift to honor your family and friends at the holidays while making a brighter future for people in our programs.
Make a difference with a gift online, a gift of stock, or a check to Homeward Bound of Marin, 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, CA 94949.

YOUR DOLLARS MAKE CHANGE!

Chef Events: The most delicious nights in town happen at Fresh Starts Chef Events, our monthly series of celebrity chef evenings. Learn from a culinary star, celebrate Bay Area talent and enjoy a tasty meal.
Call 415-382-3363 x243 or book online at bit.ly/FSchefevents

Wagster Treats: The “life-changing” dog biscuits made in our kitchen offer three tasty flavors free of soy, wheat and corn. They’re baked in small batches by people moving out of homelessness and changing their lives with employment skills for a sustainable future.
Find us in local stores or buy online at wagstertreats.com

The Key Room: Book now to hold your next event in The Key Room! Our full-service venue with on-site catering offers a modern, flexible space with delicious food by our professional chefs plus students and graduates of Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.
Call our event coordinator, Viki Card, at 415-382-3363 x214 or visit online at thekeyroom.com

WHEN YOU SUPPORT OUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE VENTURES, THE PROCEEDS BENEFIT SHELTER AND TRAINING PROGRAMS AT HOMeward BOUND OF MARIN.
We have such overwhelming support from the community, and we encourage you to keep track of your support. Sometimes we inadvertently overlook individuals or organizations that have helped Homeward Bound in some way. If you 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:
    - Aldergate United Methodist Church, Village Baptist Church, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin and Spirit Rock Meditation Center
    - St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church, Congregation Kofel Shalom, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Community Congregational Church of Tiburon, Trinity 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 Marin

  - Christian support of Sarah’s House, an apostolate Church of San Rafael, First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, Conscetence Community Church, Congregation Kol Shofar, and Natividad of Christ Greek Orthodox Church

  - Peace Lutheran Church for their ongoing support at the Freestone Apartments.

  - First Congregational Church of San Rafael for donating new blankets & sheets.

  - Marin Covenant Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Mt. Tam Methodist Church for helping with furnishings at Oma Village

  - Marin Lutheran Church for beautifying the Family Center.

  - TNT Club of Trinity Lutheran Church for a dinner drive for the Family Center.

  - Warner Creek Senior Apartments “W” Group from Hillside Church of Marin for cooking meals for the Family Center.

Schools
Thank you to:
  - San Domenico School 4th graders for cooking meals monthly
  - San Domenico School 5th graders for art pieces created for the Family Center
  - San Domenico School 7th graders for working in the gardens at New Beginnings Center
  - San Domenico School 5th graders for staffing a food pantry at Freestone Apartments.

  - Marin Academy students and Marin Country Day School students and families for working in the gardens at New Beginnings Center

Businesses and Organizations:
Thank you to:
  - Coke4Kids for donating birthday cake to our programs.
  - Stone Soup Marin for donating a monthly meal at Mill Street Center.
  - ED Products for donating organic personal care products to our programs.

  - Planet Bee Foundation and the Marin Beekeepers Association for ongoing support and guidance with beehives at New Beginnings Center.
  - The Republic of Tea for donating tea for chef events as well as volunteering in the garden.
  - Residents of Novato Healthcare Center and San Rafael Healthcare
  - Wellness Center for making meals for Mill Street Center.
  - CommuniTyler for working in the gardens at New Beginnings Center in memory of Tyler Lorenzi.

  - Berkosnack Midtown for donating shows for Fresh Starts Culinary Academy graduates and staff.

  - Klokk for ongoing support with websites and digital marketing.

  - Sausalito Women’s Club for donating food at New Beginnings Center.

  - Joy Love Server for ongoing support of families in our programs.

  - Desert Industries Store in Sacramento for donating sheets, blankets and pillows.

  - Realtors at Coldwell Banker in Novato and employees at Ultragreen for organizing donations of backpacks and school supplies.

  - V. Sattui Winery, Mantra Wines, P&J Vineyards, Sequoia Sale, North Coast Brewing Co., and Jackson Family Wines for donating to Fresh Starts Chef Events.

  - Michael Basso Foundation for back-to-school donations for our students.

  - Pongyral Farm and McSudden Farm for donating refill gifts for chef events.

  - Miyosha for donating gourmet mushrooms for chef events.

  - Novato Mothers’ Club for donating diapers for our families.

  - Wells Fargo employees for labeling bags for Wagster Treats.

  - Napa Valley Wine Train for donating a raffle prize for fresh Starts Chef Events.

  - Robert Simskey Vineyards, Gundlach-Bundschu Winery and Bartholomew Park Winery for donating raffle prizes for chef events.

  - Three Twins for donating ice cream for a father’s Day party.

  - SauceCakes for donating pies and cakes for our programs.

  - Doce Community Heroes for cooking meals for Mill Street Center.

  - Youth First from Jewish Family and Children’s Services for a garden work day.

  - Grateful Gathering for the living room renovation at Family Center.

Individuals
Thank you to:
  - Renata Bihun, Lisa Nichiyarea, Amanda Mueller, Susanne Caprio, Jane Sweeney and Cyndie Martel for volunteering at Fresh Starts Chef Events.

  - Suzy Foster and Rosie Tesscott for volunteering for our chef events.

  - Neely Wang for professional photo services for Homeward Bound events.

  - Michelle Wall for donating fresh at New Beginnings Center, Mill Street Center and Warner Creek Senior Housing.

  - Wei and Julia Murray for donations of diapers to the Family Center

  - Equator Coffee and Hopmonk Tavern for donating raffle prizes for our Volunteer Appreciation Party

  - Georgia Westfall and classmates at Tam High for organizing a STEM summer camp at Freestone Apartments.

  - Allianc USA employees for donating blankets and pillows for our programs.

  - Carol Eade, Jodi Skinner, Nancy McCarthy, Janet Celmles, Michael Bello and Mary Miller for volunteering in the New Beginnings Center kitchen.

  - Joy Nickinson and Christopher Detalla for volunteering in the chaplaincy program at Warner Creek Senior Housing

  - Susan Oms, Nancy Ellery, Renata Bihun, Hilary Shelley and Julie Whitely for assisting at the New Beginnings Center front desk.

  - Carol Inekilea for donating her talents as a blogger for Fresh Starts Chef Events.

  - Mary Wright for creating flyers for Fresh Starts Chef Events.

  - Natalie & Dania’s Flowers for weekly flowers to New Beginnings Center.

  - Betty Pajet, James and Zachary Ollerton, Carl and Rhett Krawitt, Judy Safford, Bobby Bradford, Noel Robertson and Peter Burchard for organizing an Oma Village barbecue.

  - Bob Tatum for his ongoing garden guidance.

  - Sherri Rogers for offering help in the garden.

  - Amanda Weitman and Chris Heffelfinger for delivering Saturday lunches at Family Center.

  - Gayle Schroeder and Jennie Gill for giving away or lending to residents.

  - The Thomas family for cooking a meal for Family Center.

  - Sumajayla, Deonna, and Maracena, teenage childcare volunteers, for helping with improntu staff days as our employees coped with the effects of North Bay fires.

  - Sara Henry for offering art workshops at Warner Creek Senior Housing.

  - Robert Schnebke for staffing backpacks with school supplies in back-to-school season.

  - Adelina Gowy and Family for cooking once a month for the Family Center.

  - Aidan O’Neill for baking cakes for our families.

  - Marcie and Donald Leach for volunteering in the chaplaincy program at Warner Creek Senior Housing.

  - Mary Wright for giving away or lending to residents.

  - Jane Sweeney for volunteering at Fresh Starts Chef Events.

  - Cyndie Martel for volunteering in the chaplaincy program at Warner Creek Senior Housing.

  - Mary Wright for donating flowers to New Beginnings Center.

  - Mary Wright for volunteering in the New Beginnings Center kitchen.

  - The Thomas family for cooking a meal for Family Center.

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  - Mary Wright for volunteering in the New Beginnings Center kitchen.

  - The Thomas family for cooking a meal for Family Center.

  - Elizabeth Austin for 20 years of delivering from the Food Bank to Family Center.

  - I N  M E M O R I A M

  - Homeward Bound of Marin mourns the passing of Rosie Basso, a longtime supporter of our programs. She and husband Dave Basso of San Rafael founded the Michael Basso Foundation in memory of their son to bring their compassion into action by supplying grocery boxes, back-to-school supplies and holiday gifts to our residents through the past decade. The Point of Light Foundation honored her generosity in 2014; we continue to be honored and inspired by her service.

In Memoriam
Homeward Bound of Marin mourns the passing of Rosie Basso, a longtime supporter of our programs. She and husband Dave Basso of San Rafael founded the Michael Basso Foundation in memory of their son to bring their compassion into action by supplying grocery boxes, back-to-school supplies and holiday gifts to our residents through the past decade. The Point of Light Foundation honored her generosity in 2014; we continue to be honored and inspired by her service.