

# Homeward Bound

HOMeward BOUND OF MARIN • SPRING/SUMMER NEWS 2021



## Building Housing, Rebuilding Hope at Mill Street Center

**“The building is the first of its kind in Marin, a housing resource desperately needed and gratefully supported by so many community partners.”**

**— Mary Kay Sweeney, Executive Director**

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## DEAR FRIENDS TO THE END...OF HOMELESSNESS,



Who would have thought a year ago that so many facets of our lives would have changed so much? This “diamond in the rough” year has brought shining examples of courage, resilience, tenacity, and, ultimately, hope.

We all have stories of family and friends weathering the past year in whatever ways they could, surviving and sometimes even thriving. In this special newsletter edition, we celebrate heroes in our midst who have managed to create positive change despite pretty challenging circumstances. People who have forged their

way home, some after decades of not having an address, or families who lived in cars for months before moving with support from the state’s Project Roomkey into their own apartments. The Fresh Starts graduate who made his culinary dream come true by starting his own restaurant, or our shelter team moving an entire program to a temporary location so a reimagined Mill Street Center can rise from the dust (and mud!) at our San Rafael property. All this during a pandemic!

With construction under way, we’ve launched a capital campaign sprint to close funding for Mill Street 2.0. Among the challenges created by COVID-19, the rising cost of lumber and steel has been most significant. And we will rise to hurdle that challenge, as we have on every other occasion, with your help! We know you will want to be part of this project for the future: unveiling a new horizon for people who don’t think they have one, providing a purpose-built shelter where lives will be reclaimed, and adding housing where simple spaces will quite magically become “home” for 32 people.

In this crucible year, like a diamond that emerges from the earth’s high pressure and heat, a future full of bright and shining potential has surfaced from the months of trial. Thank you for being partners in keeping hope alive!

**In abiding gratitude,**

Mary Kay Sweeney, Executive Director

## SPRING/SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

- Building Housing & Rebuilding Hope at Mill Street
- Office Building Transforms into Temporary Shelter
- Librado G. Moves Past Homelessness to Outreach Team
- Virus Era Brings Opportunity with Challenges
- Jarie S. Opens Restaurant Amid Pandemic
- Community & Volunteer Spotlights: Marin County Public Health Department Carolyn Flannery & Make It Home



## We're Building for the Future at Mill Street

**As this year began, crews drove helical piles deep into the ground to launch the construction of shelter, housing and hope at our new Mill Street Center in San Rafael.**

The building will rise at the site where we've operated Marin County's only year-round emergency shelter since 1986, but the reimagined center will do much more than replace an aging building.

Along with shelter for more than 40 adults each day, the program will expand with 32 private rooms on two upper floors to offer vital permanent housing for people who have experienced prolonged homelessness.

"The building is the first of its kind in Marin, a housing resource desperately needed and gratefully supported by so many community partners," says Mary Kay Sweeney, Executive Director.

Our new building creates a purpose-built and more efficient space for people taking their first steps away from homelessness. People will find a safe space to sleep, eat, shower, earn income, and apply for housing opportunities with staff support.

Sitting above ground-level parking, the shelter will provide smaller dormitory rooms for peaceful sleep, well-designed staff offices, a gender-neutral bathroom and space to designate rooms for youth.

Tenants in the 32 rooms above will pay affordable rents, with each floor sharing a kitchen and community spaces. Residents of the upper floors will have secure access to their rooms through the second-floor reception area. Staff will be on-site 24 hours a day to provide support.

Planning began three years ago for this vision, which we've dubbed "Mill Street 2.0," drawing on lessons learned from serving people at the site for 35 years. The San Rafael City Council voted 5-0 to approve the 32,000-square-foot building last year.

**The cost of rebuilding Mill Street Center stands at \$19 million, with \$17.6 million raised to date.** Key contributions include \$4.5 million from the California Homeless Emergency Aid Program, \$1.5 million from Partnership HealthPlan, \$4.5 million from the State's No Place Like Home program, \$1.5 million from Marin Community Foundation, and a \$1 million gift from the Nancy H. and James Kelso Fund.



**You can invest in this vital piece of our community safety net when you give online at [hbofm.org/donate](https://hbofm.org/donate) or by check to Homeward Bound of Marin, 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, CA 94949 (write "Mill Street" in the notes field.)**

We're grateful for your partnership to open Mill Street 2.0. Together we can rebuild hope and open new paths for people facing a crisis of homelessness!

## Quick FACTS



- Four stories with two housing floors
- Emergency night-to-night shelter for 40+ adults
- 20,000 shelter meals served per year
- 32 rooms of permanent supportive housing
- Added ground-level parking with bicycle space
- \$19 million in total project costs
- Demolition and site work started Fall 2020
- Reopening scheduled in Summer 2022

# WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH MILL STREET CENTER:



**Do you have questions about this exciting development?**

We would love to tell you more. Please contact us at (415) 382-3363 x216 or at [ckanzenberg@hbofm.org](mailto:ckanzenberg@hbofm.org).



**Schedule a masked and socially distanced tour of the construction site in San Rafael with our team.**

You can see how hope and housing take shape from the ground up.



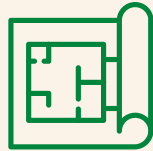
**Adopt part of the building as a business, congregation, group or individual.** From the shelter kitchen to someone's new bedroom, these key

pieces provide a chance to support major elements of the project.



**Arrange a presentation plus Q & A session about Mill Street Center for your group.**

Let's "meet for coffee" via Zoom!



**Visit us online at [bit.ly/MillStreetCenter](https://bit.ly/MillStreetCenter)** to see floor plans, drawings and more details about the new building and services there.

**You can help us down the home stretch to open the doors at Mill Street Center!**

Give online at [HBOFM.ORG/DONATE](https://HBOFM.ORG/DONATE) or by check to Homeward Bound of Marin, 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, CA 94949, with "Mill Street" in the memo.

## Office Building Transforms into Temporary Shelter

Until doors open at the new Mill Street Center, our emergency shelter services have made a new home in a former office building in San Rafael.

The shelter opened in October at 3301 Kerner Blvd., a building that has been purchased by the County of Marin for supportive housing.

Dormitories, dining room and other resident services occupy the top floor, while laundry sits on the ground floor and a trailer with shower facilities is parked outside. Our Fresh Starts team prepares and delivers the daily evening meal.

Operating a shelter in the vastly different space has some advantages, says Gabby Auguste, program director.

"The location is good, very close to transportation, groceries and the community clinic. There's more parking on-site," she says. The third floor has a view over neighboring rooftops with Mount Tamalpais in the distance.

In addition, the former office spaces provide smaller dormitory rooms ranging from two to 10 beds each. The staff can adjust more easily for residents who may need extra room due to mobility challenges or other issues, Gabby adds.

"Choosing not to have bunk beds here was a great decision and we have the space to do that," she says. Most people prefer the bottom bunk and the new arrangement cuts the risk of a fall.

Volunteers assembled furniture last September, bolting together twin beds for 40+ people and underbed storage containers on wheels for personal items. Teen volunteers from Marin Primary & Middle School made up all the beds.



**TEENS FROM MARIN PRIMARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL DONATED TIME TO MAKE UP ALL THE BEDS.**

Most residents arrived after living at an emergency motel shelter opened during the pandemic. All received COVID-19 tests before moving to the new site.

Office living has a few challenges, including lack of a proper kitchen and the large footprint for cleaning. The staff heats the evening meals in the second-floor break room and carries them upstairs to serve, Gabby says.

Her team looks forward to the new building, which will be designed specifically for shelter services. "We do the absolute best we can for everyone we serve," she adds. "The new space will help us do that even better."



## AFTER HOMELESSNESS, LIBRADO G. JOINS OUTREACH TEAM

When Librado G. found himself homeless, his plans were “just to survive.” Now he helps others move past survival on the streets to overcome homelessness as part of a Novato-based outreach team.

“This isn’t a path that I foresaw at all,” says Librado, a San Rafael High School graduate. Working with Novato Police Department, he visits regularly with people camped at Lee Gerner Park and elsewhere to talk about community services and housing options.

“I have a rapport with people because I was out on the streets,” he adds. “The biggest payback we get is seeing smiles from people who get housing.”

His life began to change at Mill Street Center, a program that first welcomed him in 2008.

“Going to Mill Street was an experience that helped me move forward and take steps to get off the streets,” Librado says. He moved to New Beginnings Center and then to a sober living community, working full-time at Best Buy while trying to maintain sobriety.

Eventually he stumbled, losing both his housing and his job. His second visit to Mill

Street Center, however, started a new path toward a year-long treatment program. He also felt galvanized by knowing he would soon be a father.

“It was a big influence for me that I was going to have a son. I realized I needed to get myself right or I wouldn’t see him,” Librado says. “I was sick and tired of being sick and tired.”

“GOING TO MILL STREET WAS AN EXPERIENCE THAT HELPED ME MOVE FORWARD AND TAKE STEPS TO GET OFF THE STREETS,” LIBRADO SAYS.

Through his journey, he recalls the feeling that staff members listened to his individual struggles. “They aren’t there just to see you in the shelter. They are there to see you go forward and pushed me to build expectations for myself,” he says.

The two-sided experience of first living on the streets and now advocating for people without housing makes him a strong supporter of rebuilding Mill Street Center, a project that’s now under way.



He views new housing at the site as a lifeline for people with complex histories of homelessness. “Some people have been out there for decades and moving inside can be a shocker. Having case managers close by can help make a good transition,” he says.

Now a Santa Rosa resident, Librado hopes to train as a minister and potentially get more involved in counseling people fighting addiction. He remains grateful for a place to take his first steps toward change.

“Mill Street was open for me when I needed it. Homeward Bound helped me go forward,” he says.

## MARTY C. STARTS NEW YEAR WITH NEW HOME

“Having a home to come home to after the hospital was great,” he says. “My blood sugars are down. I cut back some medications now. I’ll be much safer here.”

Finding a new home at first looked impossible. After decades as a truck driver and heavy equipment operator, a downturn in the building industry and his health problems left him without steady income to regain his financial footing.

Marty still marvels at his good fortune to move into Novato Village, a new senior apartment complex that opened last year. Based on his good credit, he was accepted using a housing choice voucher that subsidizes his rent.

While living in the truck, Marty made regular visits to the mobile shower trailer that sits near the Novato Village property. “I watched these places being built when I’d visit the showers,” he says.

That’s also where he met people from the Downtown Streets Team, one of our partners in outreach efforts to people experiencing homelessness.

Marty received a referral to our shelter, where he worked with case managers to secure the housing voucher and connect to housing options. “I thought it would be nice to get into these apartments, but I didn’t dream I’d qualify,” he says.

Now he spends lots of time cooking for himself to ensure he sticks to a healthy diet. “I end up making so much that I feed the neighbors too,” Marty adds.

With his housing questions settled, he vows to stop smoking and start swimming to work toward better health. Marty hopes his daughter in Virginia will visit soon to visit with his two grandchildren.

“I’m grateful for all the help from case managers and the resources they have. That helped me make it through,” he says.



Struggling with diabetes, Marty C. lived mostly in his truck after he lost his small Novato rental home in the wake of a zoning dispute five years ago. His “housing-impaired lifestyle,” as he calls it, included several hospital stays.

The most recent hospital episode had a happy new ending, however. Marty was discharged to his own home.



# Virus Era Brings New Routines and Opportunity



MONICA A. STARTED A VEGETABLE GARDEN FOR OMA VILLAGE WITH DAUGHTERS ASHA AND MERCY.

AS COVID-19 REACHES INTO A SECOND YEAR, WE TAKE HEART IN FINDING OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE OUR WORK TO END HOMELESSNESS.

In the past year, we have assisted **251 people** in finding stable housing. This number includes **37 families with 53 children**, many of whom first came for help at an emergency motel shelter, and **151 single adults**.

“Who would have thought at the beginnings of this horrendous pandemic that we would be celebrating housing for so many people?” asks Mary Kay Sweeney, executive director.

“This silver lining was made possible by our diligent staff, committed community partners and the recognition that housing subsidies like the Section 8 program are a blessing for both tenants and landlords,” she says.

## Launching program during pandemic

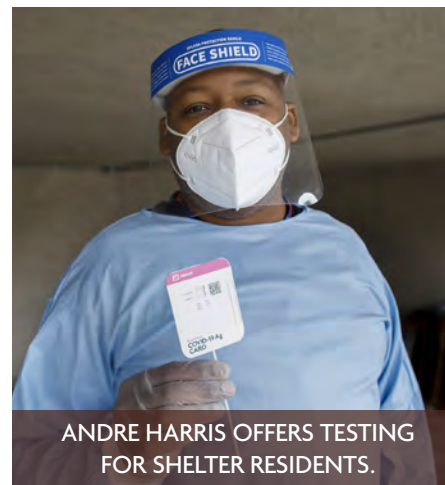
The opportunity to serve families at the motel shelter opened the door to add a new permanent supportive housing program under the Homeward Bound umbrella.

The Families First program secured 10 new Section 8 housing vouchers from the Marin Housing Authority for parents and children who have been homeless. The families lease units from Novato to Marin City and Homeward Bound provides wraparound services to help the families meet their goals.

“The hardest part has been limiting in-person interactions because of the pandemic. Zoom doesn’t work for all my families,” says Maria Granados, program coordinator.

She now meets outdoors with many families to help them pursue priorities like employment and wellness. “Since they’ve settled into their homes, I see they have begun to reach for the next step, even though kids still have Zoom school and work is tricky,” Maria says.

## Vaccination and testing bring hope



ANDRE HARRIS OFFERS TESTING FOR SHELTER RESIDENTS.

As the pandemic wore on, guidelines for COVID-19 testing and vaccinations became a top priority for staff and residents in our shelters. All programs have remained open with mandates for masks, social distance, temperature checks and sanitizing.

The first virus testing occurred in April 2020, with negative results all around. Yet the

waiting period for test results still presented an obstacle for people desperate for shelter.

Rapid-response testing started in November, making it possible once again to admit new people seeking help. Andre Harris, a Registered Nurse on our staff, set up a testing station two days a week at the emergency shelter in San Rafael.

“People sign a Covid agreement at the time of intake that lays out the rules and expectations,” says Gabby Auguste, program director. “It also stipulates that they will accept direction from staff to be relocated for isolation if they have any symptoms.”

Vaccine appointments began in February for residents and staff,



reducing risk and stress levels. “We’re continuing all our protocols. It’s proven to be a very effective process,” Auguste says.

## Culinary team stays active with meals



The need for meals for vulnerable people in our programs remained urgent through the year. Even as stores and restaurants reopened, our team produced up to 10,000 meals per month so staying safe at home remained a viable option.

Since last March, the culinary staff has packed and delivered more than 1,500 grocery boxes for

families and individuals in supportive housing, including many with heightened health risks.

The team continues to make meals for people enrolled in the Great Plates Delivered program, a state-sponsored effort to alleviate hunger for people who face food insecurity in the pandemic but don’t qualify for other assistance programs.

We’ve prepared and delivered more than 12,000 meals, with dinner and breakfast available Monday through Friday in Northern Marin.

## Spending pandemic time in new ways

In our programs, the break from normal routines spawned some creative ideas and new pursuits.

Fireside Apartments and Warner Creek Senior Housing launched rolling-cart events, bringing monthly holiday and birthday celebrations door to door with food and craft projects. For Lunar New Year, the Fireside cart carried dim sum to everyone.



At Fourth Street Center, a supportive housing program for 20 adults, Ron R. challenged himself to learn some knitting and make a blanket. He had the colorful result in less than a month!

Oma Village families pitched in their ideas for a garden project led by resident Monica A., who recently harvested snap peas, radishes and one

leftover tomato. She’s looking forward to spring planting and sharing more produce with her neighbors.

Another resident wrote her second book, using pandemic time to finish the Spanish-language version that recently debuted on Amazon. Author Cecilia Guiter says the English version will appear soon – see her work online with the title “Lazos.”



## AMID THE PANDEMIC, JARIE S. ACHIEVES A DREAM

After graduating from Fresh Starts Culinary Academy, Jarie S. said he hoped to open a restaurant within five years. He never dreamed that he’d achieve that goal in the middle of a pandemic.

“It’s hard. But when you have a chance, you do it,” he says. Though the slowdown in permitting and inspections caused some stressful delays, the doors opened on Feb. 3.

La Esperanza Pupuseria y Comedor brings authentic Guatemalan and Salvadoran food to 916 B St. In San Rafael, where Jarie recently added sidewalk seating. Within five weeks, he expanded business by taking orders for patrons at two bars on the same block.

“I need to hire more help eventually,” Jarie says. “But only someone who can make pupusas like my wife.” Along with giving her name to the restaurant, his wife Esperanza has been selling her homemade and much-loved pupusas – traditional stuffed tortillas – for years.

Jarie arrived at Mill Street Center emergency shelter in 2016, after legal issues led him to lose a longtime position as a cook and he lost his housing. Soon afterward, he enrolled in our culinary training and graduated with the award for “Best All-Around Skills.”

“I knew some things, but I always want to learn,” he says. “After that, with my certification, I started getting better jobs.”

Jarie learned in many kitchens, including as a sous chef and assistant kitchen manager at Sol Food. He’s worked everywhere from McDonald’s and Burger King to Four Points Sheraton, Toast in Novato and the erstwhile Green Chile Kitchen in San Rafael. He’s been a dishwasher, busser, barista and line cook.

Some people advised him to open a place instead in the East Bay, where rents are cheaper. “I’ve been saving and working to stay. Why would I do that? My customers are here,” says Jarie, a Novato resident.

“I KNEW SOME THINGS, BUT I ALWAYS WANT TO LEARN,” JARIE SAYS. “AFTER THAT, WITH MY CERTIFICATION, I STARTED GETTING BETTER JOBS.”

His experience at Homeward Bound gave him encouragement and determination, Jarie says. With support from our staff, he worked step by step to solve problems and pursue his goals. “I say thank you, thank you, a thousand times, to everyone there,” he adds. “I want to be in a position to give back someday.”

## HOMEWARD BOUND PROGRAM MAP – 2021

### Adult Services

#### King Street Senior Housing

Larkspur  
12 beds

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Housing at Last

Multiple Locations  
26 beds

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Fourth Street Center

San Rafael  
20 rooms (20 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

#### Mill Street 2.0

San Rafael  
(32 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Next Key Apartments

Novato  
25 studio units (25 beds)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

#### New Beginnings Center

Novato  
80 beds (including 12 beds for veterans)

SHELTER & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

#### Fireside Apartments

Mill Valley  
Partnership with Eden Housing  
8 senior units (8 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Warner Creek Senior Housing

Novato  
Partnership with Eden Housing. Support services provided for 60 residents

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Meadow Park

Novato  
Partnership with EAH Housing. 13 rooms (13 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Temporary Shelter

San Rafael  
(40+ beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

#### Transition to Wellness

Novato  
3 studio units  
(6 medical respite beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

#### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

#### Mill Street 2.0

San Rafael  
(40+ beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

### Mental Health Services

#### Palm Court

Multiple Locations  
26 beds

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Carmel Program

San Rafael  
26 rooms (26 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Voyager Program

San Rafael  
5 rooms (10 beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

### Family Services

#### Oma Village

Novato  
14 houses (35 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Family Place

Multiple Locations  
10 houses (41 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Next Key Apartments

Novato  
4 studio units (8 beds)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

#### Family Center

San Rafael  
9 rooms (25 beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

#### Fireside Apartments

Mill Valley  
Partnership with Eden Housing. 10 houses (35 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### San Clemente Family Homes

Corte Madera  
Partnership with EAH Housing. 4 houses (13 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Families First

Multiple Locations  
10 houses (29 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Meadow Park

Novato  
Partnership with EAH Housing. 5 houses (14 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Yellow Hallway

San Rafael  
2 families (5 beds)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

### Job-Training Programs

#### Fresh Starts Culinary Academy

Offers intensive 10-week job-training program. Enrolls up to 60 students annually.

JOB-TRAINING PROGRAMS

#### Apprenticeships

Offers paid apprenticeships in Janitorial & Building Maintenance and Landscaping & Gardening.

JOB-TRAINING PROGRAMS



## **Community Partner Spotlight:** *Marin County Public Health Department*

**When the first mention of COVID-19 arose for Marin's public health officials, the strong ties between county officials and Homeward Bound of Marin prepared them for effective action.**

"It became so much more than what we thought, but everyone really was ready to go to the front lines together," says Dr. Lisa Santora, deputy public health officer for Marin County.

Consulting repeatedly as the pandemic grew, public health doctors toured shelters and other programs. They suggested changes and extra elements to solidify prevention plans, including where to add hand-washing stations and how to rearrange dormitory beds.

"Most concerning was how to prevent spread in the most vulnerable settings. It's the nature of shelters that people are coming from all kinds of places, potentially without good hygiene. There was a great risk of outbreak," she says.

Lowering shelter capacity to allow social distancing led to vital efforts by county and Homeward Bound partners to make more

housing available for residents who could move.

As the months went on, an outbreak did not come. When testing became available last April for residents and staff, all results were negative. "It was a huge relief," says Paul Fordham, deputy executive director for Homeward Bound.



DR. LISA SANTORA

The county team advised on health protocols as Homeward Bound got involved with Project Roomkey, a program to provide motel rooms for homeless families and individuals. When our temporary shelter opened in a San Rafael office building, health officials made rapid virus testing a priority.

"The San Rafael building was one of the first programs in Marin to get the quick test," Santora says. "It was urgent to get in front of the risk."

A mobile public health team rolled out in February to bring vaccinations to our shelters, cutting risk further for staff and residents in

our essential programs. All communal living sites at Homeward Bound have held vaccination days.

"At every step, the county team has been so proactive in their support," Paul says. "It's made an enormous impact to have them there."

## **Volunteer Spotlight:** *Carolyn Flannery*

**Making a former office space feel like a temporary home sounded like a good challenge for Carolyn Flannery of San Rafael. She wanted to create homey touches despite the lack of a traditional kitchen and living room to serve our 40+ residents.**

Carolyn led work this spring with volunteers Seema Krish and Laura Jo Wegman to add furniture and murals to our space, along with new desks and cabinets for staff offices. "We want to bring warmth and make the common room a little less business-like," Carolyn says.

Pausing a 20-year career in interior design, she looked for a new avenue for her efforts. Carolyn founded Make It Home Bay Area in October as a "furniture bank," one of a handful in California, and partnered with groups helping families transition to stable housing.

"There's more than enough furniture to go around for people. The focus initially was families or foster kids aging out of the care system," she says. People leaving a shelter or supportive program often move to a new place with nothing to spend on furnishings.

In January, Make It Home took over a former retail space at Northgate Mall as a warehouse and sought out nonprofits like Grateful Gatherings that assist people referred by local agencies. "Everyone that we help has a case manager and a referral. We feel good creating something that can give back to the community," Carolyn says.



DESIGNERS (LEFT TO RIGHT) CAROLYN FLANNERY, LAURA JO WEGMAN AND SEEMA KRISH

With her industry connections, she sources items from designers as well as accepting donations from the public. Make It Home soon will have nonprofit status to make donations tax-deductible.

Her passion remains putting pieces together to create welcoming, useful spaces, Carolyn says. At our San Rafael site, volunteers furnished new seating areas with accent colors like green and chocolate brown for people who enjoy the fourth-floor view. One of the walls got new paint in a warm tone.

"They provided a lot more seating and additional space to relax or enjoy the view," says Gabby Auguste, program director at the shelter. "People like the new look."



## WAYS TO GIVE

### Invest in *housing and hope*

Support paths for individuals and families moving from crisis to stability to housing in our programs. Along with direct financial gifts, we welcome contributions of appreciated stock.

You can remember friends or loved ones with a gift in their names or arrange a monthly contribution to invest in success through the year. Let us know how you want to create impact for people facing homelessness - we're here to help!

**Make a gift online at [hbofm.org/donate](http://hbofm.org/donate) or by check to Homeward Bound of Marin, 1385 N. Hamilton Pkwy., Novato, CA 94949.**

**Thank you for your support!**

### Toast with friends at a *Virtual Happy Hour*

Learn about Lebanese food and meze at a Virtual Happy Hour on Thursday, May 6. Your reservation with Fresh Starts Chef Events includes delivery of the 2017 GSM from Passaggio Wines to sip as Chef Cristina Topham presents a recipe demonstration via Zoom..

Make reservations and join our mailing list at [bit.ly/FSchefevents](http://bit.ly/FSchefevents) or call 415-382-3363 x243.



### Indulge someone special with *Halo HomeMades*

We offer Halo Truffles in several flavors plus gourmet jams, sauces and local honey from our own hives. Pack a basket of gifts for Mother's Day!

Call the Halo Hotline at 415-382-3363 x214 or visit [bit.ly/HaloProducts](http://bit.ly/HaloProducts) to learn what's in stock. All products are made by students and staff at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.



### Stock your pet pantry with *Wagster Treats*

Graduates of Fresh Starts Culinary Academy bake with love to make Wagster Treats, our tasty "life-changing dog treats." Every purchase of these wholesome biscuits supports programs to build employment skills and create opportunity for homeless and low-income adults.

**Find Wagster Treats at Pet Food Express, Whole Foods Markets and independent pet retailers or buy online at [WagsterTreats.com](http://WagsterTreats.com).**







## Gifts of Time and Resources

Meals donated by Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical are organized for delivery by (left to right) Laura Lee, Lydia Blancas Lopez, Chef Eric Lee and Shardae Barb.

### CONGREGATIONS

#### Thank you to:

- **Peace Lutheran Church** for providing a fried chicken dinner to be delivered to the doorstep for residents at Fireside Apartments.
- Youth volunteers from **St. John's Episcopal Church** for a backyard cleanup day at the Family Center.

### SCHOOLS

#### Thank you to:

- **Community Action Leadership Council at Marin Academy** for donating holiday gift cards for our residents.
- Students at **Branson School** for supporting our Wagster Treats social enterprise.
- Eighth-graders at **Marin Primary and Middle School** for labeling Wagster Treats bags and arranging all the dorm furnishings at the new Kerner Boulevard shelter site.

### BUSINESSES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### Thank you to:

- **Deseret Industries** for donating bedding for all the programs.
- **Carolyn Flannery, Seema Krish and Laura Jo Wegman of Make it Home**, for designing and furnishing the community room at the Kerner Boulevard shelter site.
- **Amazon** for donating Christmas gifts, household items and clothing for all our programs
- **The Rotary Club of San Rafael** for donating new bikes, games and play equipment at Family Center.
- **Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical** for enlisting a chef to make dinners for residents in supportive housing and delivering them.
- **Mt. Tam Quilt Guild** for sewing masks and pillowcases for our programs.
- **Rock Flower Paper** for donating kids' masks.
- **Southern Marin Mothers Club** for decorating the Family Center for the holidays.
- **Catholic Daughters of Novato** for making bags with toiletries for our residents.

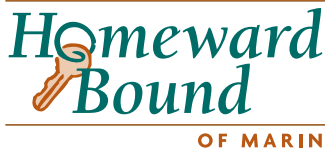
### INDIVIDUALS

#### Thank you to:

- **Dillon Murphy and Riley Berman** for assisting with doorstep deliveries from the food pantry at Fireside Apartments.
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- **Cub Scout Pack 186** from San Ramon Elementary School for donating funds for meal programs.

Homeward Bound of Marin is ending homelessness with housing, training and hope.



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# Build Your Legacy with The Key Circle



**Y**our legacy gift to Homeward Bound of Marin ensures that future generations, when there's nowhere else to go, have access to safe shelter and affordable housing.



An investment from your estate supports vital programs for decades to come. Your planned gift of any size helps secure essential services for individuals and families facing a crisis of homelessness.

Everyone who makes a legacy gift to Homeward Bound receives membership in The Key Circle, with exclusive benefits that include an invitation to a yearly special event. If Homeward Bound already is part of your estate plans, we'd like to honor you as a founding member.

**For more details, contact Patty Earnhardt at [pearnhardt@hbofm.org](mailto:pearnhardt@hbofm.org) or 415-382-3363 x217. Find out more at [hbofm.org/legacy-giving](https://hbofm.org/legacy-giving).**



"There is no organization better than Homeward Bound of Marin at taking a holistic and 'whole person' approach to ending homelessness... I want to support the organization in perpetuity."

— Marion Weinreb, founding member of The Key Circle