# Homeward Bound

Homeward Bound of Marin • Fall/Winter News 2022



# FALL/WINTER SPOTLIGHT

- Veterans Housing Sets Groundbreaking for Nov. 10
- Albert G. Paints Peaceful Life at Casa Buena
- Veteran Takes New Turn into Housing
- Tarryn A. & Kharter Set Goals for Family Progress
- Community Report: Outcomes for FY 2021-22
- Volunteer & Community Partner Spotlight: Sharon & Jim Sides Southern Marin Mothers' Club

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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Paul Fordham
Co-Chief Executive Officer
LaSaunda Tate
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Anna Hurtado
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### **NEWSLETTER**

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On the cover:

Raising their hats to our new veterans housing project are (L-R): LaSaunda Tate, Chief Operating Officer; Mary Kay Sweeney and Paul Fordham, Co-Chief Executive Officers; and Anna Hurtado, Chief Program Officer. Photo by Paige Green.



# DEAR FRIENDS TO THE END... OF HOMELESSNESS



The symbol of the phoenix seems particularly fitting for this year - a time of renewal, rebirth, and rebuilding.

We are basking in the glow of the exhilarating openings for our new programs at Casa Buena in Corte Madera and Jonathan's Place in San Rafael. What sparks of hope they bring for people who never thought housing would be possible for them! What sparks of commitment we saw from amazing community partners who supported these projects with determination! And what sparks of

generosity ignited our funding campaigns to create these amazing homes!

Glimmers of life beyond the pandemic continue to spread as we embrace the reopening of The Key Room, the relaunch of our Fresh Starts Culinary Academy training, and return of our crowd-pleasing Fresh Starts Chef Events. Volunteers are eager to renew their activities in myriad service projects as we enjoy the pandemic retreat.

In the midst of this renewal, we feel extraordinary gratitude for the community vision and collective efforts to end homelessness in the lives of so many people, all deserving of a place to call home.

Thank you for the many and varied ways that you further our shared mission. Let's celebrate this rare, invigorating time in joy and abundant gratitude!

Mary Kay Sweeney, Co-Chief Executive Officer



hbofm.org • thekeyroom.com • wagstertreats.com

New Veterans Housing Advances with Novato Vote

We're taking big steps in our march to end veteran homelessness in Marin! In August, our new supportive housing project for unhoused veterans received unanimous approval from the Novato City Council.

Thanks to your support and this key vote, we will break ground to end veteran homelessness in Marin with a celebration on Thursday, Nov. 10!

The 24-unit veterans building will be Phase 1 of a larger development on 2.6 acres adjacent to Homeward Bound headquarters in Novato. With their vote, the City Council also gave the green light to 26 more supportive housing units and space to expand our culinary social enterprise ventures.

After casting his vote at the meeting, Novato City Councilmember Mark Milberg told our team: "We have faith in you. Your resourcefulness and tenacity to get it done is very commendable."

Homeward Bound has provided specialized services for homeless veterans at New Beginnings Center for more than 20 years. Last year, we served 54 veterans across our programs in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"This significant and timely project marks a milestone," says Mary Kay Sweeney, Co-Chief Executive Officer for Homeward Bound. "Ending veteran homelessness is a goal that we have all been working toward in our community."

Given the current knowledge of local unhoused veterans, the new apartments have the capacity to accommodate everyone.



The additional 26 supportive housing units will offer small apartments for individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness. A production kitchen, event venue and teaching space, and offices will support Homeward Bound's social enterprises, which employ homeless and low-income adults.

Dilapidated warehouses that now occupy the property will be cleared and plans call for finishing utility infrastructure on the whole site in 2024. The veterans building also is forecast to open that year.

Key funding to launch the veterans housing comes from a \$4 million California state budget allocation; a \$3 million grant from the California Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program; a \$2 million commitment from the County of Marin, and \$2.2 million from Marin Community Foundation.

You can be part of history as we end the crisis of homelessness in Marin for everyone who honored our freedoms with their military service! Make a gift online at **hbofm.org/donate** or by check to Homeward Bound of Marin, 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, CA 94949, with 'homes for heroes' in the memo.

# You're Invited to a Groundbreaking Party

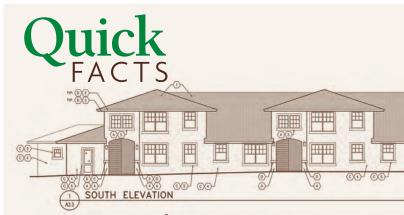
1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, CA 94949

Help us launch work on Marin's only dedicated housing for veterans!

# Give a Name to Your Generosity

With a gift of \$25,000, we will be honored to name one of 24 apartments for unhoused veterans after you or a loved one. Your gift will create a space where someone can fulfill their dreams of home.

Please contact Corry Kanzenberg at ckanzenberg@hbofm.org or 415-382-3363 x216 for details.



Total Project Cost \$30 million Project includes:

Veterans Housing **24 apartments** 

Workforce Housing **26 apartments** 

Social Enterprise Space
Production Kitchen - 6,400 square feet
Event Space - 2,200 square feet
Office - 1,250 square feet



# Life never kept Dan S. rooted in one place. As his resources dwindled, the process of settling down seemed impossible.

"I was an Army brat. My dad was a drill sergeant and we moved a lot," says Dan, who enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at the age of 18.

For the last several years, he worked in Marin on construction crews and as a delivery driver. "When you have work here, it pays well," he says, but adds that he lived "like a traveler. Housing prices here,

# DAN TAKES NEW TURN INTO HOUSING

especially, are off the hook."

Earlier this year, he got a referral to Homeward Bound of Marin.

"Living outside is hard. You have a million things to prepare for and you don't know what's coming at you," Dan says. "After awhile, it's too much."

Our staff helped Dan secure a housing voucher to pay a portion of his rent and find an apartment in Novato. He moved to his new home in September.

Having a real home never entered his dreams, Dan says. When he left the military, he joined a group of young people doing itinerant work overseas. "I went to the Middle East, Africa. You could camp by a castle almost anywhere."

Back in the United States, the construction industry offered him steady work, though paychecks never seemed to stretch far enough for housing.

Dan was referred to our programs by

Marin Community Court, which helps people experiencing homelessness resolve outstanding tickets.

He owed fines totaling more than \$6,000 for infractions like jaywalking and having an open container of alcohol. When he lost his driving privileges, Dan adds, "I felt like I was done."

At New Beginnings Center, where Homeward Bound provides specialized services for veterans, he found a safe place to focus on sobriety and look to the future.

"I couldn't have done it by myself. The housing applications, the paperwork – it brings people to a dead stop," Dan says. He soon completed his court requirements, allowing him to apply for a driver's license again.

"I'm very grateful for the services here. Homeward Bound gave me the stability of not being on the street, not having that stress, so I could solve some things," Dan says.

# ALBERT PAINTS NEW PICTURE AT CASA BUENA

# A studio apartment fits everything required by Albert G., an Olema artist and former chef who was among the first people to move into our new supportive housing program in Corte Madera.

"It's all I needed," says Albert, who lived the last 10+ years in a van. He stocked the new kitchen with cooking essentials and filled his table with paper, pens and watercolors.

Though he appreciates his sunny neighborhood, Albert says he loves the coast. Cooking in restaurants from Big Sur to Mendocino, then working as a caterer, kept him close to the shore.

"I mostly worked in high-end restaurants for French chefs," he says, starting in his teens after both his parents died relatively young. "About 14 years old, I went out on my own. It was hard work, but I loved it."

He also recognized the ill effects of long hours, high stress and rich food, so he changed course at age 45 to independent catering and some restaurant consulting. That brought him to Olema, where he became friends with a woman who offered him space on her property as a caretaker.

"She never charged me any rent. I took my van there and it was very peaceful," Albert says. He recently had become interested in watercolors, taking inspiration from his surroundings and his imagination.

"I was so busy working, I never used my imagination much before doing art," he adds. Analyzing his own work and looking at lots of paintings, he taught himself bit by bit. "I got in the groove and after awhile, that's all I wanted to do."

Everything changed one windy night in 2021, when his friend's house caught fire from downed electric lines. He pleaded with firefighters to save his van, but it sustained serious damage.

Albert stayed for two months, having nowhere else to go. That's when an outreach worker for the CARE Team with Community Action of Marin connected him to Homeward Bound of Marin.



"It was getting real cold by then. I knew the game plan had changed," says Albert, who recently turned 78.

He sees plenty of advantages in his new home, since health issues make it hard to take long walks. A caregiver helps with his shopping and he appreciates the nightly meal delivered from Homeward Bound's kitchen

"Being in a van, you can be uncomfortable for two or three months in the winter. And you have to be careful about parking," Albert says. "Here the staff is very nice and I've got everything I need."



# TARRYN AND KHARTER SET FAMILY GOALS

# Faced with her first pregnancy, Tarryn A. realized that she needed to change her flexible lifestyle of rotating between her mother, her aunt and friends.

"I only had done small jobs, like server or retail," says Tarryn, who finished high school as the pandemic upended both her employment and her education. "There was no housing that was affordable out there for me."

She found Homeward Bound of Marin in May 2021, about eight months before her son Kharter made his entrance in the world.

"There were people in my family who were skeptical about me doing this, taking on a baby," she says. Tarryn felt she needed to find a housing solution on her own, though family tension began to wane after Kharter was born.

Late last year, Tarryn moved into a studio unit at the Next Key Apartments, our transitional housing program in Novato. That's when some goals began to take shape, she says.

Tarryn recalls she had no car, no credit and little idea of her next move after Kharter arrived in January. She got encouragement from Jessica Franco, who supports families at the Next Key program, to look at her opportunities.

Now she's building credit with a prepaid introductory card, purchased a "starter car" and received help with applications

to place Kharter in the nearby Head Start childcare program.

"Since I've been here, Jessica has helped me a lot," Tarryn says. "She's always there with an idea. Little things catapult into big things sometimes when you're not sure what to do."

With that support, Tarryn set her sights on phlebotomy training for the near term. She won a \$3,000 scholarship from the state's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity program to pay for the course that started in September.

"HAVING THIS PLACE OVERALL
LETS ME FOCUS ON MAKING SURE
EVERYTHING IS RIGHT FOR KHARTER
AND MAKING PLANS FOR MYSELF. I'M
VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE."

—TARRYN

After she builds some experience, Tarryn says, she hopes to seek more training to become a Certified Medical Assistant. "I like helping people. I've also thought of being a teacher, but I'm taking things one step at a time," she adds.

Her home at the Next Key Apartments makes the future seem possible, Tarryn says. "Having this place overall lets me focus on making sure everything is right for Kharter and making plans for myself. I'm very happy to be here."

# Family Programs See Urgent Needs

Homeward Bound of Marin continues to extend its services for unhoused families, whose needs came into sharp focus with the onset of COVID-19. At that time, our team stretched to serve more than two dozen families who took refuge in local motels.

"The pandemic showed the depth of need for families in Marin. Our collective effort in outreach and seeking out housing options has become much more coordinated," says Paul Fordham, our Co-Chief Executive Officer.

He believes that's one reason why the 2022 Point-in-Time Count of people experiencing homelessness in Marin showed a 35.2% increase in unhoused families, from 54 in 2019 to 73 families this year. "We are more connected and were able to confirm information with the families who need help," he says.

During the pandemic, Homeward Bound received state funding to expand services to 10 more families using housing vouchers paired with case management. Our staff provides wraparound support for participants as they work through housing applications and pursue other goals.

Homeward Bound now operates seven supportive housing programs for parents and children, in addition to shelter services at Family Center. In total, these programs served 252 people last year.

We're heartened to know that 88% of families leaving our programs last year moved to stable housing. It's striking to note, however, that only 3% of them secured market-rate housing, compared to 24% only five years ago.

"Navigating the rental market is complex and daunting, particularly for people with limited resources, including access to technology," says Anna Hurtado, Chief Program Officer for Homeward Bound. "We are committed to working hand in hand with families to end their experience of homelessness."



# **COMMUNITY REPORT • 2021-2022**

We rejoice in the progress and renewal of the past year for our housing, training and social enterprise. In the 12 months ending June 30, 2022, we opened new housing in Corte Madera, restored community activities in our programs, relaunched our culinary training and reopened The Key Room event venue. Yet we know our community still faces a wrenching lack of homes. We're paving the way for more solutions and taking great inspiration from those who share their journeys with us.

As COVID-19 eased, Homeward Bound of Marin served a total of **886 people** in the year ending June 30, 2022, slightly more than the previous 12 months. The numbers of seniors also held steady at 26%, compared to 27% for the 2020-21 period.

Thanks to funding for more housing vouchers from the American Rescue Plan, the pandemic had a silver lining. Adults seeking housing met with more success: of those exiting our programs, **77% left for a housing opportunity** last year, up from 69% a year earlier.

Our family programs also stayed close to last year's mark, serving **124 parents and 128 children**. Among those who left our services, **88% secured stable housing**. Homeward Bound's Family Center shelter acts as the "front door" for Marin County's services to unhoused families, leading the collaborative effort of agencies to match unhoused families quickly to housing options.

The Transition to Wellness program entered its 13th year, offering medical respite services for 75 people exiting hospital care without stable housing. This innovative partnership with local hospitals saved 795 days of hospital care with an estimated community cost savings of \$3.26 million.

Despite waning COVID-19 risk, the medical respite program continues to practice caution in reserving our three onsite units for single-occupancy care. Program Coordinator Andre Harris now extends support for other patients who may receive services at local motel rooms.

Health care maintained a high profile in our programs. Partners at Ritter Center bring their mobile clinic van weekly to New Beginnings Center, our 80-bed adult shelter. This service allows participants to get COVID-19 vaccinations, exams and routine tests. A negative COVID-19 test still is required for entry into our shelter services. Our staff is fully vaccinated.

Celebrating more pathways to health and home, we gathered in Corte Madera in May for a Community Open House at a new supportive housing program. Neighbors, partners and supporters toured the **18 studio apartments** created at the site of a former motel. The program became the first in Marin opened with support from the state's Project Homekey funding. Homeward Bound carried out a \$1.2 million renovation, including new kitchenettes and upgraded bathrooms for each unit.

The opening highlighted our work to expand supportive housing. Homeward Bound last year served **472 people in long-term housing programs** with wraparound services. For the 2021-22 period, 94% maintained their housing.

Participants in all programs have opportunities for job training at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy, which relaunched in November 2021.

This award-winning course now offers a \$1,000 completion bonus for trainees. The next class of students will begin the 10-week training in January 2023.

As restaurants reopened after the COVID-19 shutdown, Fresh Starts graduates found starting wages on the rise for kitchen positions. They now are employed at venues that include Nugget Markets, Mayacama Golf Club and a K-8 private school with average pay of **\$21.82 per hour**, up 18% from the previous year.

The Jacques Pépin Foundation honored an April graduate, Sarah Wolf, with the **2022 Gloria Pépin Memorial Grant** of \$5,000 to continue her culinary studies. Sarah, who hopes to work in a community-serving kitchen, was chosen among female graduates from programs nationwide that are supported by the foundation.

We expanded in-house employment for graduates with the reopening of The Key Room, our onsite event venue. During the pandemic closure, Homeward Bound launched a **new website at thekeyroom.com**. We upgraded the audiovisual system with a 98-inch Samsung screen plus soundbar to accommodate hybrid meetings. Our team stands ready to host your next business meeting or special occasion!

Wagster Treats, the "life-changing dog treats" baked and packed at Homeward Bound of Marin, are poised to expand. **Sales rose 15% for Wagster Treats** in 2021-22, led by orders from Pet Food Express and Whole Foods Market in Northern California.

The entire staff last year became **energized by JEDI training**, embedding the principles of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion across Homeward Bound. A four-person staff committee has developed and led the training to equip everyone for productive conversations around race and equity.

Throughout the year, excitement grew for everyone at Homeward Bound as we watched the progress of Jonathan's Place. The summer started with a **whirlwind of preparations for our Grand Opening** — we hope you joined us for the festivities at our new shelter and housing site in San Rafael!

We look toward the coming year with a commitment to open more paths to housing and health with your support. Your partnership brings hope through upheaval and fuels our passion to keep moving toward the goal of ending homelessness in our community.



THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US THROUGH A HISTORIC YEAR IN THE WORK OF "ENDING HOMELESSNESS WITH TRAINING, HOUSING AND HOPE."

# WHO WE SERVE



886
PEOPLE SERVED



**Z5Z**PEOPLE IN FAMILIES



634



SENIORS (62+)

233

VETERANS 54

**CHILDREN (UNDER 18)** 

128



**FAMILY PROGRAMS 88%** left for a housing opportunity



77% left for a housing opportunity





# **CULINARY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

86%

number of students completing Fresh Starts Culinary Academy training who were employed within 30 days

\$21.82

average starting wage for graduates

38

number of employees in our culinary social enterprise businesses



### TRANSITION TO WELLNESS

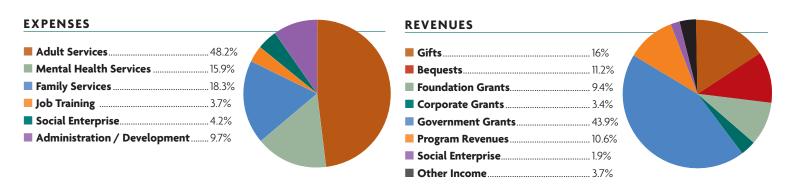
Medical Respite Shelter

75 patients

795 hospital days avoided

**\$3.26 million** saved through avoidable hospital stays

# **OPERATING BUDGET / TOTAL AGENCY EXPENSES AND REVENUES • 2020-21**



# **HOMEWARD BOUND PROGRAM MAP - 2022**

# **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

### **OPEN**

# Casa Buena

Corte Madera 18 studio rooms (18 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

# Next Key Apartments

Novato 25 studio units (25 beds)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

# Transition to Wellness

Novato 3 studio units (6 medical respite beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

# **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

### **OPEN**

# Jonathan's Place

San Rafael (32 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

# New Beginnings Center

Novato 80 beds (including 12 beds for veterans)

SHELTER & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

# OPEN

# Jonathan's Place

San Rafael (40+ beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

# **Mental Health Services**

# Palm Court

Multiple Locations 26 beds

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HO

# 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 8 units (33 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

# **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

# Next Key Apartments

Novato 4 studio units (8 beds)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

**Family Center** 

San Rafael

9 rooms (25 beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

### **Nuestra Casa**

Multiple Locations 10 houses (29 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

# UNDER RENOVATION

**Yellow Hallway**San Rafael

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: Southern Marin Mothers' Club

# As the pandemic disrupted everything from grocery shopping to family holidays, Janet Carter and others at the Southern Marin Mothers' Club searched for ways to help.

The 900-member club serves families with young children by matching same-age kids in playgroups, holding family events, sharing local resources, and promoting community activities.

As the club's Philanthropy Director, Janet asked Homeward Bound of Marin how members could support our families during the 2021 holidays.

"I wanted to work more with Homeward Bound and I knew Covid had created more food shortages for people," she says. The group mobilized to provide 40 grocery boxes with all the makings of Thanksgiving dinner for families in our programs.

Many contributors had been involved in the club's Meals for Moms program, which offered dinners to members with new babies. "Meals for Moms had to shut down during the pandemic, so people were excited to have a different way to use their energy,"

The weekend before Thanksgiving, the volunteers shopped for non-perishable items like stuffing mix and cranberry sauce. They set up rows of boxes to be filled and ordered turkeys, potatoes, carrots,

butter, cream and pies.

Parents and children delivered all the fresh items on the day before Thanksgiving, then finished packing the boxes.

"A lot of people are looking for a family service opportunity and it worked well for kids," says Janet, who has a second-grade daughter. Every child had a job as they counted out 10 potatoes or other items for the packages.

They will repeat their efforts this year, preparing to serve up to 80 families in our programs. The group also plans to get involved in the meal corps for Jonathan's Place, our new shelter and housing program in San Rafael.

"It's a chance for the families to work together and have a conversation with each other," Janet says. "And it would be nice to stay and chat with residents. There's a real interest in having a service experience that creates a connection."



# **Volunteer Spotlight:** Sharon and Jim Sides

# More than 10 years after Fireside Apartments opened its doors, Sharon and Jim Sides still come through them bearing gifts.

The couple attends Peace Lutheran Church, up the road from the Mill Valley program where Homeward Bound of Marin coordinates services in partnership with Eden Housing.

"The church has always been 100 percent on board with supporting Fireside. They are our neighbors," Sharon says. With Mary Ann Griller, Vicki McGowan and other members of the small congregation, she launched the "Make it Yourself" Brown Bag program to deliver groceries the second Tuesday of every month.

They started with 18 residents but the program soon grew to all 50 households, which comprise both families and seniors. "Not everyone needed or wanted help at first, but we expanded as we found out more could use it," Sharon says.

Peace Lutheran volunteers also have helped with special events like holiday dinners and a summer barbecue. Sharon and Jim have been found in the kitchen dishing up plates and packing bags at a monthly food pantry.



The pandemic put the holiday gatherings on pause and kept the

congregation from meeting for many months, so Sharon took charge of things in her own kitchen.

"For awhile, it was just Jim and me shopping, packing and delivering," she says, remembering the interested -- sometimes mean -- looks she got from pandemic shoppers for stocking up on toilet paper or paper towels to include in the brown bags.

They switched eventually to monthly gift cards, which the congregation also provides for each household at the holidays. "I always write a little note, just to say hello," Sharon adds.

Now that the virus risk has eased, she's ready to go back to the kitchen or wherever needed.

"We look forward to the community events again," Sharon says. "Our church has shrunk a bit, but we'll continue supporting Fireside any way that we can."





# WAYS TO GIVE

# Transform the future

You can open a new future for people struggling to find a home and rebuild their independence in our community. Each gift to support our shelter and housing programs helps families and individuals take steps toward housing and health.

Share your compassion with friends and family members by making a gift in their

Share your compassion with friends and family members by making a gift in their name or give monthly to invest in solutions all year. You also can extend your support to the future with a gift in your will. Please contact 415-382-3363 x216 or email ckanzenberg@hbofm.org for details.

Make a gift online at hbofm.org/donate or by check to Homeward Bound of Marin, 1385 N. Hamilton Pkwy., Novato, CA 94949.

Thank you for your support!

# Hold your next event in The Key Room

Looking for a convenient spot for a business meeting, special occasion or all-day event? Our full-service venue with onsite catering hosts groups of all kinds with seasonal menus, flexible seating and an upgraded audiovisual system.

The Key Room team will help you plan a successful event and provide professional service from beginning to end. You also can reserve the kitchen for team-building activities! All proceeds support our training and housing programs.

Call us at 415-382-3363 x214 or visit online for more details at **thekeyroom.com**.



# Wrap up a bag of Wagster Treats

Your pets will leap to "take a bite out of homelessness" when they receive tasty treats made by our dog-loving team. Send gift boxes to the dog parents on your list or stock up your shelves with our Twin-Pack deal.

The Wagster team bakes with love and simple ingredients while building skills to create a brighter future. Every purchase of our "life-changing dog treats" benefits our shelter, housing and training programs.

Find Wagster Treats at Whole Foods Market, Pet Food Express and independent pet retailers or buy online at WagsterTreats.com.



# Warm hearts with a gift of Halo HomeMades

Give with heart when you bring Halo HomeMades jams and sauces from our kitchen. We offer your favorites like Strawberry, Seedless Blackberry and Sweet Smokin' BBQ Sauce. Or try something different with our Oaxacan Mole.

Halo Honey from our onsite hives combines nicely in a gift box with these gourmet products, all made by chefs and graduates at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.

Stop by our Admin Office to purchase or **call the Halo Hotline at** 415-382-3363 x214 for details.





# CONGREGATIONS

### Thank you to:

- **Peace Lutheran** Church for donating Safeway gift cards and delivering groceries at Fireside Apartments.
- Hillside Community Church members for delivering groceries and Safeway gift cards weekly at Family Center.
- Westminster Presbyterian Church for bringing Sunday dinners to Voyager Carmel Center
- Deseret Industries for donating furnishings to our programs.
- First Congregational Church for donating pillows for our programs.
- Marin Lutheran Church with Sandy and Rod Seeger for bringing a crew to carry out improvements at Family Center.
- Hillside Community Church members for making beds at Jonathan's Place before our Grand Opening.
- Congregation Kol Shofar for bringing brunch monthly at the Casa Buena housing program.
- Trinity Lutheran Church for holding a diaper drive for our families.

# **S**CHOOLS

# Thank you to:

Senior Housing.

- Branson School students for backyard help at King Street Senior Housing.
- The **Redeemer Preschool** for an energetic backyard cleanup at King Street
- **St. Patrick School** students for providing "Sandwich Saturday" lunches at King Street Senior Housing.

# Businesses, and Organizations

# Thank you to:

- Marin Master Gardeners for donating fresh produce to our programs.
- Employees at Valley Oak Wealth Management for organizing the Big Shred event to benefit our programs.
- Marin Symphony for donating concert tickets to Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Bombas for donating socks for adults in our programs.
- Larkspur Community Foundation for donating gift cards for King Street Senior Housing.
- **Girl Scouts of Richardson Bay** for making cookie packages for all residents at Fireside Apartments.
- **Southern Marin Mothers' Club** for organizing Thanksgiving meals for our family programs.
- Cakes 4 Kids for delivering fabulous birthday cakes for children at the Family Center.
- Kiosk for ongoing support with websites and digital marketing.

- Children 4 Change and Gretchen Ellis for donating Halloween costumes to our family programs, decorating Oma Village for Halloween, and beautifying the Family Center.
- Domino's Pizza in San Rafael for ongoing deliveries to our family programs.
- Make It Home Bay Area for furniture donations for our programs and for residents moving into housing.
- Sonic Forest and Brenda Schuman-Post for bringing their wide-ranging musical talent to the National Night Out celebration at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- ExtraFood for supporting our programs with food deliveries.
- Margaret Todd Senior Center volunteers and Recreation Supervisor Teresa Ehteshami for handmade greeting cards for residents at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Insalata's for donating organic meals twice monthly to Warner Creek Senior Housing

## INDIVIDUALS

### Thank you to:

- Gail Schreuder and Jennie Gill for donating move-out baskets to residents.
- Mary Jane Bird, Casey Leones, John Bischoff, Kathy Fenger, Tom Lippi and Steve Deschler for lunchtime help at New Beginnings Center.
- Reese and Mitch Nilsen, Kathy Fenger and Sarah Jackson for volunteering at the Big Shred event to benefit our programs.
- Glenn Matsui for generously caring for our beehives.
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- Trigg McLeod for shopping at SF-Marin Food Bank and delivering items to Family Center.
- Tim Lentini for weekly garden care at the Family Center.
- Betty Pagett and Winnie Konopath for bringing meals to the Family Center.
- Carree Michel for help with publication graphics.
- Shelley Vasquez and students at Archie Williams High School for helping with the food pantry and bingo nights at Fireside Apartments.
- Sara Henry for leading arts and crafts workshops plus supporting community events at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- Christine Watridge for helping with graphic design for Wagster Treats and The Key Room.
- Cheryl Longinotti of Cycling Without Age for providing trishaw rides at King Street Senior Housing.
- Sherry Rogers and Pat Chelini for ongoing help with the landscaping and gardens at New Beginnings Center.
- Victoria Sandvig, Khadija Baporia, Victoria Applegate, Richard Ferrero, Kathe Holt, Ray Lillo, and Michael Harris for supporting the food pantry and special events at Warner Creek Senior Housing

**Thank you!** If we have forgotten to list you, please accept our apology and know we appreciate all that you do.



1385 N. Hamilton Parkway Novato, CA 94949

# Fresh Starts CHEF EVENTS

# Giving back has never tasted so good!

We're back with our popular series of celebrity chef evenings. Gather your friends and reserve a table to learn from recipe demonstrations by culinary stars and enjoy a delicious dinner. All proceeds support shelter, housing and job-training programs while providing hands-on work experience for graduates of Fresh Starts Culinary Academy



**DECEMBER 1** 

Light up the holidays with Chef John Ash

Launch the festive season with a two-time James Beard Award winner who blazed the trail in Wine Country cooking.



**JANUARY 23** 

Cheer the New Year with Chef Ron Siegel

Enjoy an evening with the chef-owner of Michelin-starred Madcap, who brings a menu highlighting his French- and Japanese-inspired cuisine.



**FEBRUARY 20** 

Chase out winter with Chef Stéphane Saint Louis

Discover the global influences of Table Culture Provisions, a Petaluma destination that pairs haute cuisine with comfort.

