

# Homeward Bound

HOMeward BOUND OF MARIN • SPRING/SUMMER NEWS 2022



## We're Ready to Welcome People Home

### SPRING/SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

- New Corte Madera Housing Celebrates with May 6 Event
- Mill Street Center Strides Toward Fall Completion
- Veteran Moves from Crisis to New Home in Hawaii
- Debra W. Launches New Life Helping Others
- JEDI Initiative Embraces Power of Change
- Volunteer & Community Partner Spotlights Sara Henry St. Patrick School & Parish

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Mary Kay Sweeney  
*Co-Executive Officer*

Paul Fordham  
*Co-Executive Officer*

LaSaunda Tate  
*Chief Operations Officer*

Anna Hurtado  
*Chief Program Officer*

Bob Heinen  
*Director of Finance*

Administrative Office  
 1385 N. Hamilton Pkwy.  
 Novato, CA 94949  
 415-382-3363

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**NEWSLETTER**

Maura Thurman

Paul Fordham

Mary Kay Sweeney

Graphic Design  
 Phaedra Strecher

Photography  
 Paige Green  
 Landy Pandy Photography  
 Maura Thurman  
 Andrea Rey  
 David Smith

*On the cover:* Senior Program Coordinator Alicia Slavich (left) and Chief Program Officer Anna Hurtado (right) stand with Colin McDonnell, Director of Housing for Chronically Homeless Adults, at the Casa Buena housing program.



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



**We're so close to big goals this year, standing at the brink of opening two housing programs that will end homelessness for 50 more people. All because of friends like you!**

We're thinking of friends who fuel our work with financial gifts, friends in Corte Madera and San Rafael who voice support for these projects, friends in city and county offices who work to assure these projects move through the approval process. Together, as friends and neighbors, we're joining hands to see more people move home for good—off the streets, out of tents, and into

their own homes. We feel awe and gratitude for all the partnerships that help create these new leases on life. Thank you! This is all doubly impressive given the lengthy pandemic, which brought supply chain setbacks, delays and cost escalation. Collectively, we never lost sight of the vision that everyone deserves a place to call home.

That same vision fuels our commitment to JEDI—Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion—infusing all the work we are called to do in this community. By integrating these principles into our foundation, we level the playing field for our staff, our students, and our program participants. This focused intention results in emerging opportunities for leadership, particularly among people of color. In this issue, you will meet our JEDI training team, who are guiding important and rich discussions with our program staff, generating and furthering core values of inclusion. These courageous and constructive conversations strengthen our dedication to this collective mission.

Witnessing the homecoming of individuals and families who have struggled beyond our imagination is a gift to rejoice and savor! Their struggles and advances are mirrored in the intricate and layered construction of the physical buildings in Corte Madera and San Rafael. We celebrate the whole journey and thank you for joining us along the way!

**In gratitude,**

Mary Kay Sweeney, *Co-Executive Officer*





## Program Offers Space to Connect with Life and Self

### A new community for people who have despaired of finding a stable home will bloom this spring in Corte Madera.

The program welcomes 18 people in May, adding a vital option to local housing stock. It is the first Marin County project accomplished with help from the state's Project Homekey.

"This fills a void for a vulnerable population that wasn't going to find market-rate housing and has struggled with complex issues that are exacerbated by housing instability," says Anna Hurtado, Chief Program Officer for Homeward Bound.

Work began in November on a \$2 million renovation plan for the former motel at 1591 Casa Buena Drive. Now complete, the site plans a **Community Open House** from **1 to 3 p.m. May 6**. Residents will arrive in the following weeks.

Tenants will be individuals already known to the countywide "Coordinated Entry" panel that meets weekly to match people without housing to appropriate options. Rather than a segment of that community, the new residents will be a broad group.

"This will be a diverse community in age as well as ethnicity," says Colin McDonnell, our Director of Housing for Chronically Homeless Adults. "There's no time limit for residency. Some older folks may stay forever and some younger ones could move elsewhere into their own place after awhile."

Having their own space comes as a tremendous gift as well as a challenge for people who have experienced homelessness repeatedly or for an extended time, Colin adds.

"Sometimes the biggest issue with housing is people get bored," he says. "It's a process to re-engage – with their own priorities and interests, or with caring for themselves. They haven't had that luxury of space, both in a mental and physical sense."

Alicia Slavich, Senior Program Coordinator for the community, will connect people with resources for needs like health care or mental health support. She also will coordinate activities from movie nights

to holiday events to credit repair workshops for residents.

Rents will be set at one-third of income to be affordable for all tenants. The community will receive a nightly meal prepared by the culinary team at Homeward Bound.

The County of Marin purchased the site in early 2021 using \$4.1 million in funds from Project Homekey. For several months, the building provided temporary shelter under the management of Catholic Charities with the requirement to convert the site to permanent supportive housing in 2022.

For the renovation, \$1.86 million came from the county and \$100,000 from a grant by Tamalpais Pacific. Homeward Bound has worked to raise the last \$25,000 to open the doors. If you would like to see the improvements and help the community blossom, please take a look at the opportunities below.



### Community Open House

You're invited! We're welcoming the community from **1 to 3 p.m. Friday, May 6**, for an open house. You can see all the improvements, meet our staff and enjoy treats from our Fresh Starts culinary team.

### Naming Contest

Our new program needs a name and we're looking for your input. Got an idea? Email your name suggestion to [info@hbofm.org](mailto:info@hbofm.org) before **May 15**. If you provide the winning name, you'll receive a \$100 gift certificate to Marin Joe's!



### Wish List



We've created a wish list of items needed to welcome people into their new homes. Want to contribute? Just order items from our gift list at Target and they'll be shipped to Homeward Bound before the move-in date. See the list online at <https://bit.ly/CasaBuena>

# Mill Street rises to bring people home for good

Where a dirt expanse waited for concrete to be poured in early 2021, a modern building filled with opportunity now reaches four stories toward the sky.

With your help, our new program at 190 Mill Street in San Rafael will open this fall, providing an emergency shelter with 40+ beds and two floors with 32 small apartments for people who have struggled to maintain stable housing. Stay tuned for details of a grand opening event!

We've raised 99% of the \$19 million needed to complete construction. You can help us down this final stretch with a dollar-for-dollar match! (See the details below.)

"The community collaboration for this project is testimony to the power of working together toward a common vision," says Mary Kay Sweeney, our Co-Executive Officer.



CO-EXECUTIVE OFFICERS MARY KAY SWEENEY AND PAUL FORDHAM GIVE A HIGH FIVE FOR THE NEW MILL STREET CENTER.

The new shelter replaces a one-story building where Homeward Bound has offered the county's only year-round emergency shelter since 1986.

Thank you for helping us to raise the roof at Mill Street Center! Your partnership allows us to continue serving people facing a crisis of homelessness for years to come.

## HELP OPEN THE DOORS AT MILL STREET CENTER

### Give now and double your impact

Your donation today receives a dollar-for-dollar match, thanks to a generous supporter! All contributions toward our \$50,000 goal help raise the last 1% of funds to open the doors.

**You can 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.**

### Name a room with your generosity

With a gift of \$50,000, we will be honored to name one of 32 supportive housing rooms after you or a loved one. Your generosity will create a safe, comfortable home where someone can finally end their struggle with homelessness.

**Please contact Corry Kanzenberg at [ckanzenberg@hbofm.org](mailto:ckanzenberg@hbofm.org) or 415-382-3363 x216 for details.**

### Learn more about our new community

Are you part of a service group or congregation that wants to know more about Mill Street Center? We can arrange a presentation about our services and this new site. Learn how you can be involved in the future of this program.

**Please email [info@hbofm.org](mailto:info@hbofm.org) to reach our Development Office or call 415-382-3363 x213.**



## ANTONIO KEEPS FOCUS ON WORK FROM NEW HOME

### Eager to find work that used his technical skills, Antonio M. knew he needed an alternative to living in his truck.

His vehicle served for months as home base while he worked full-time in machine operator jobs with wages that measured low on the California scale. "There was work out there, but you couldn't find a place to live on your check," he says.

Antonio called Mill Street Center, our emergency shelter in San Rafael. "I realized as

soon as I came that it was way different than any shelter I knew about. I felt like there were opportunities for people to make their life better," he says.

Four years later, Antonio has moved into his own apartment and works around the Bay Area for a company that handles traffic management at construction sites. "I've always aimed to be working. That's my goal," he says.

Soon after arriving at Homeward Bound, Antonio joined our Facilities Team as an apprentice. The team oversees maintenance and repairs for buildings and landscaping at all our facilities.

"I had been struggling since I came to California and it gave me a chance to bring some of my knowledge to the job. I met some quality people there," says Antonio, who holds certificates in technical machining and industrial maintenance technology from Ranken Technical College in St. Louis.

The position also helped him build better relationships with co-workers, he adds. "Personality clashes are hard for me. I've found ways to be a little more resilient and stay away from people on a negative road," Antonio says.

He planned to join an electrical workers' union just as the pandemic hit. Instead, Antonio became a journeyman laborer while living at our Next Key Apartments and worked to find a permanent home.

"It was great to have the staff to help walk me through all the housing applications," he adds.

His typical day now starts at sunup, when he heads to a job site that might be anywhere in the Bay Area. Though his days are busy, Antonio has more time to look to the future and fill his appetite for reading.

"I'm hoping to get a little more established and maybe have my kids come out to visit," he says. "Homeward Bound gave me that little bit of freedom to get things moving forward."

## ARCHIE REALIZES DREAM OF HOME IN HAWAII

**Growing up on military bases and serving in the U.S. Navy involved dozens of journeys for Archie P. The journey since 2018 from homelessness to home surpasses all of them, he says.**

“It’s pretty miraculous actually,” says Archie, who recently purchased a home on the Big Island of Hawaii with his wife, Charity. “I was in a very precarious position.”

He sought help from Homeward Bound after breaking off his film studies at San Francisco Art Institute when his mother became ill. Funding for his education from the G.I. Bill ran out and he lost his housing.

“I found myself hopping from place to place with my backpack,” Archie says, noting he had no income or credit history. He spent one night in a San Francisco shelter, which he calls “very rough.”

Coming to our emergency shelter opened a new path. “Everybody was so much more civil and nicer. I felt safer in every way,” he says. Archie recalls being supremely hungry when dinnertime came. “It smelled so good. I actually cried,” he says.

Archie soon moved to New Beginnings Center, where Homeward Bound reserves 12 beds for veterans in a partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The connections felt familiar to Archie, whose family moved often during his stepfather’s Navy career. Archie enlisted at Pearl Harbor, becoming a personnel specialist in a four-year deployment that included tours in Asia and the Middle East.

Archie secured a veterans’ housing voucher but, as he began his housing search, he unexpectedly suffered a stroke with “the strongest headache ever.”

After three months in a rehabilitation center, he returned to Homeward Bound and moved to his own apartment just as the pandemic began. Unfortunately, he experienced a second stroke last year and spent two months in acute care.

The pandemic shutdown had negatives, Archie says, but also gave him time to rebuild his credit and deepen his long-distance relationship with Charity, whom he met on Oahu in 2014. They set their sights on home



ownership with a VA home loan.

“We both love Hawaii and it feels like home to me,” says Archie, who shared his story via Zoom from his garden. Feeling stronger, he started math and physics classes this year at Hawaii Community College with hopes of becoming an astronomer.

“I wouldn’t have had the capacity...to go forward without the support of Homeward Bound,” says Archie, who fears he might have fallen to drug use or depression. “I want to become so prosperous that I can do something generous one day and tithe back to Homeward Bound.”

## DEBRA ONCE SOUGHT HELP, NOW OFFERS SUPPORT TO OTHERS



**Stepping into our emergency shelter in San Rafael took a lot of effort, Debra W. says. “It was fear of the unknown. I had never been to a shelter before and I couldn’t imagine myself there,” she adds.**

Now certified as a peer support specialist, Debra works full-time for St. Vincent de Paul of Marin and attends her first college class, Introduction to Psychology. She recently moved to a San Rafael apartment, the first time she has had a home to herself.

“I went through a lot at Homeward Bound,”

she says. “I don’t think I could have come to this point of my life without the support there.”

In 2018, Debra arrived at our emergency shelter and enrolled in an outpatient program to support recovery from substance dependence. She completed community service hours by helping with kitchen cleanup and our staff connected Debra with help to repair her credit.

She signed up for Fresh Starts Culinary Academy, excited to build on years of work experience in restaurants and catering. Though she’s not working now in the food industry, Debra says her time as a trainee was invaluable.

“I learned that just being on time shows respect, it shows you care,” she says. Debra recalls a fierce desire to earn trust from the chefs and her colleagues when working at catering events in The Key Room.

“Not only did I learn to cook better, but Fresh Starts helped me retrain my brain. It

takes time to become a responsible human being,” she says.

Just as the pandemic hit, Debra began working in outreach for Community Action Marin. “We were immediately ‘boots to the ground’ figuring out how to help people,” she says. As a dog owner, Debra made a special effort to connect pet owners without housing to programs that help with animal care.

Her work today focuses on people who have secured housing but need to rebuild other things in their lives.

“Housing is not the end of the story. To have stability with a roof over their head, people need connection, they need activity. I help them with that, whether it’s music, art, reading, recovery, whatever they need to have a better life,” she says.

Enjoying her home with her dog, Belle, is a life she couldn’t imagine four years ago. “I really feel that I am living a new life,” Debra says.

# JEDI training embraces the power of change



TRAINING LEADERS ANGELA WEIKEL, SHIKIRA PORTER, ROBERT BURNS AND ANDREA REY

**Being able to gather in person has put new wind in the sails of Homeward Bound’s initiative to promote Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) across the organization.**

Over the course of five months, every staff member will participate in small group sessions to share experiences and learn tools for productive conversations around bias, inequity and race.

The goal, as stated by Homeward Bound’s Leadership Team and Board of Directors, is transforming policies, practices and decision-making to form “a work practice that understands how to tend to the harm of racism/anti-Blackness so we can create a culture of belonging, safety, and comfort for all.”

“It’s such an important and integral part of what we’re about at Homeward Bound,” says Mary Kay Sweeney, our Co-Executive Officer. “We’re fundamentally a learning organization, and this is an area where we will continue to learn and transform.”

In recent years, several speakers have presented to our staff about systemic racism, the widespread costs of inequity and opportunities for change. A four-person staff team created the training that they now lead for their colleagues.

“I think it’s going to be impactful,” says Shikira Porter, our Family Center Program Director, who is part of the training team. “We all can be part of disrupting systems that cause harm and learn to rebuild systems that allow everyone to thrive.”

A series of small group meetings began in 2020 and then suffered a pandemic-induced pause. Now that agency-wide training can begin, staff members have embraced the process.

“We all left the first session with smiles on our faces,” says Robert Burns, a shelter supervisor and member of the training team. “There was a great feeling that we’re all on the same page.”

In the past two years, Homeward Bound has made changes to promote equity in hiring practices and in criteria for evaluating program decisions.

“We’ve been working to incorporate an equity lens in everything from intake to the housing placement process,” Mary Kay says. “And we recognize that people served in our programs benefit from seeing people who look like them on our staff.”

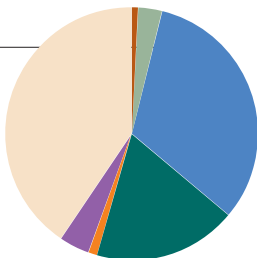
Shikira says she has heard warm feedback from people in other agencies about our ongoing efforts. “People are blown away by everything that we have covered. I am proud of the strides Homeward Bound was taking long before the summer of racial reckoning. Although we still have quite a way to go, we never arrive. I appreciate how well Homeward Bound understands that.”

Since the issue of racism erupted nationally with George Floyd’s murder, Shikira says many organizations have begun similar work. “All of a sudden, outside partners were more willing to listen and talk about racism, anti-Blackness and oppression. It was refreshing,” she says.

## STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS FOR HOMEWARD BOUND OF MARIN – MARCH 2022

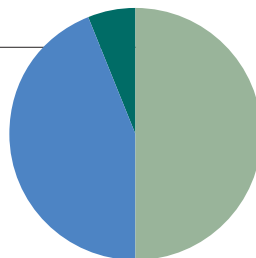
**RACE/ETHNICITY**

- Native American..... 1%
- Asian..... 3%
- African American ..... 32%
- Latinx ..... 18%
- Pacific Islander ..... 1%
- Two or more races..... 4%
- White ..... 40%



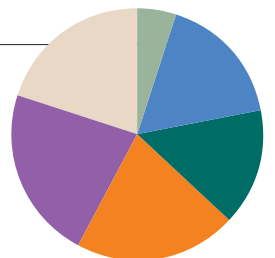
**GENDER**

- Female.....50%
- Male.....44%
- Not Specified .....6%



**AGE**

- 20-24.....5%
- 25-34 .....17%
- 35-44 .....15%
- 45-54 .....21%
- 55-61.....22%
- 62+.....20%



# Culinary Training Reopens with New Energy

**After a pause during the pandemic, Fresh Starts Culinary Academy came back stronger than ever with updated curriculum and eight new graduates employed since January.**

Now planning for a class that starts May 16, the core training program has a new chef instructor and strong employment support.

“We revamped the curriculum to be more structured and technique-driven,” says Chef Instructor Andrew Wild, who arrived in October 2021. The first post-pandemic students began training four weeks later.

He added a touch of culinary history to the curriculum, like how the chef uniform evolved and where certain techniques originated. “These are things that I have a passion for and they’re fun,” he says.

Chef Andy finds students at Fresh Starts have a broader view of their career than those in his former classes at the Culinary Institute of America.

“Here I’ve found a lot of students who want to do something for the community,” he says.

Along with teaching techniques for everything from eggs to soup to steak in the kitchen, the Fresh Starts training includes professional development skills and support for job placement.

Employment Specialist Sandy McGraw joined the team in February 2020, just in time to help dozens of former students who lost work in the pandemic shutdown.

With classes back in session, she becomes a resource for students seeking jobs or needing help with almost anything.

“They are functional, intelligent adults, so I try to make sure I’m not doing too much,” Sandy says. She has coached students looking for apartments, taken them shopping for work shoes, and given pep talks while driving them to job interviews.

Sandy also completes paperwork to verify student eligibility for CalFresh benefits and works with others who may be supporting a student with health insurance, housing or legal needs.

She loves to see students get excited about polishing resumes, doing mock interviews, finding jobs they want, and finally landing employment. “It’s a big day and we get to share it,” Sandy says.

The Fresh Starts course includes five classes in financial literacy so students will have tools to handle their new income.

“Having more money doesn’t matter if you don’t know how to manage it,” says LaSaunda Tate, Homeward Bound’s Chief Operations Officer, who teaches that part of the course. Before joining our team, LaSaunda headed SparkPoint Marin, which helps low-income clients build financial resources.

The tight job market offers more choices for graduates, and wages have seen a healthy increase, Sandy says. She calls to check in regularly with graduates and says, “So far they’ve been sharing good news.”

## NEW CHEF BRINGS LOVE OF COOKING TO OUR KITCHEN



Raised in upstate New York, Chef Instructor Andrew Wild discovered global cuisine with the U.S. Navy. His 30 days of “mess duty” resulted in a transfer to cooking for the ship’s officers and honed his appetite to learn more.

His move to the Napa Valley in 1993 opened a wealth of culinary adventures, from working for a brewing company to cooking at The French Laundry with its three Michelin stars.

“I WAS LOOKING TO DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. I FEEL GOOD ABOUT WHAT I’M DOING HERE.”

As a beer enthusiast, Chef Andy has taught classes in beer and food pairing around California. He also has presented at the Slow Food Nation conference and the California Artisan Cheese Festival.

Chef Andy shared his talents on television as culinary production assistant for Chef Emeril Lagasse on “Emeril Green,” managing the output of food and menu set-up for 10 shows.

After 20 years of teaching at Culinary Institute of America in Napa, the chef says he appreciates the small classes at Fresh Starts that allow hands-on teaching.

“I was looking to do something that would make a difference. I feel good about what I’m doing here,” he says.

Chef Andy happily acts as family chef as well, making dinners like charred scallions with green soba noodles and tonkatsu chicken. “I just love to cook,” he says.



CHEFS LUIS REALPOZO, JACQUES KIRK AND ANDREW WILD STAND WITH EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST SANDY MCGRAW

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

**OPENING SOON**  
**Casa Buena**  
Corte Madera  
18 studio rooms (18 beds)  
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**Next Key Apartments**  
Novato  
25 studio units (25 beds)  
TRANSITIONAL 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

**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

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**  
**Mill Street 2.0**  
San Rafael  
(32 beds)  
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**New Beginnings Center**  
Novato  
80 beds (including 12 beds for veterans)  
SHELTER & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

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

**Nuestra Casa**  
Multiple Locations  
10 houses (29 beds)  
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**UNDER RENOVATION**  
**Yellow Hallway**  
San Rafael  
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

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

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: St. Patrick School and Parish**

**Amy Scott recalls her own interest in King Street Senior Housing grew from a Sunday service at St. Patrick Catholic Church, where Monsignor Michael Padazinski mentioned the program's wish list.**

"I purchased something from the list and thought, 'since they're right here next to us, what can St. Patrick School do for them?' " says Amy, whose three children attended the school that has 262 students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

A firm friendship soon sprouted between the school and the King Street program, which Homeward Bound opened in 2018 with permanent supportive housing for 12 seniors who had experienced homelessness.

"It's become a schoolwide project," says Angela Hadsell, principal at St. Patrick School. "The kids feel very blessed and happy to help. It's been a great opportunity to learn about our community."

From a monthly series of lunch deliveries, the partnership grew to include Christmas gifts, festive meals and plans for a future "friendship garden" in the King Street backyard.

Eighth graders organize many of the projects as leaders of the school's "faith families," teams of students that include one from each grade. "It's been a great experience for them to gain leadership skills and to connect to the community at large," the principal says.

At Christmas, school classes fulfill wish lists for King Street residents and stuff stockings with items like socks, sweets and gift cards. The efforts spill over to students' families and beyond: the parish Men's Club put on a steak and seafood barbecue and families have contributed to a "meal train" that provides occasional dinners.



Principal Angela Hadsell stands with one of the school's "faith families:" In back, (left to right) Ashlyn Loiacono, Caedon Afsharipour, Madeline Cain and Beckett Perry, and in front, Leilah Boersma, Norah Lee, Cole Schwanauer, Charlee Sue Schmitt and Vivienne Clifford.

"It's hard to describe the gratitude from our seniors after all they have received from the St. Patrick community," says Micha Berman, Program Coordinator at King Street Senior Housing. "They particularly like seeing the kids and having the young people come into the house as volunteers."

King Street made its own contribution to the community with a front-yard butterfly garden started by one of the first residents, which became an attraction for neighbors and students alike.

"They've fit into the community beautifully," Amy says, recalling how renovations improved an empty former convent. "After being an unused building for so long, it's turned into a wonderful annex for the school and church."

**Volunteer Spotlight: Sara Henry**

**As a substitute teacher and art teacher for junior high, Sara Henry says she got a mixed welcome. Now she's feeling appreciated with the excitement and happy greetings from participants in her art workshops at Warner Creek Senior Housing.**

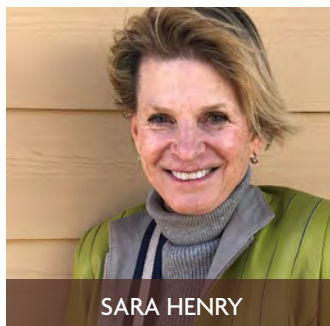
"I love them all. They're like my little family," she says. "We really have fun with it and I can tell they enjoy it, which is what feeds me."

A textile designer for 30 years, the Novato resident also taught life skills at Timothy Murphy School for Boys for seven years. She offered her first art workshop for seniors at the assisted living community where her mother lived.

"I thought, as a volunteer, that's my forte – art!" says Sara, who graduated from Fresno State University with an art history degree.

She approached Homeward Bound several years ago and connected quickly with Monina Hamilton, services coordinator at the 60-resident Warner Creek site.

Sara has led several workshops per year ever since, bringing activities based on holidays or the seasons. One of her favorites



SARA HENRY

was creating Easter eggs colored by dipping them in swirled nail polish for a lustrous, sparkly shine.

The onset of the pandemic forced a long pause for in-person projects, but she helped with door-to-door meal delivery and even assembled an art kit in a bag for those who wanted a diversion. Her financial gifts underwrote holiday meals during the shutdown.

"Sara has been a beacon of laughter, joy, and light with her unwavering generosity," Monina says. "Sara has a magical spirit. She's an integral part of the Warner Creek family."

Her fans gratefully welcomed her back for in-person art in late 2021. The group created tabletop trees decorated with fabrics and ornaments for the winter holidays.

"I get a lot of my ideas online. I choose carefully to find something that hopefully everyone can tackle and not get frustrated, whether they might have limited hand mobility or whatever," she says.

Happy to plan ahead for 2022, Sara foresees visits for Easter, Mother's Day, July 4 and beyond. "During Covid, we all were sad that the creative collective was missing," she says.



## WAYS TO GIVE

### Invest in building *new futures*

You can unlock opportunities to build resilience and health for individuals and families who have struggled with homelessness. Each gift to support our shelter and housing programs opens paths for people working toward independence and a stable home.

Honor friends and family members with a contribution in their name or create a monthly investment to help people end homelessness through the year. Want to extend your compassion to the future with a gift from your estate? Please contact 415-382-3363 x216 or email [ckanzenberg@hbofm.org](mailto:ckanzenberg@hbofm.org).

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

**Thank you for your support!**

### Celebrate spring with *Halo Honey*

Add some sweetness to the season with Halo Honey from our onsite beehives. Due to extraordinary production last autumn, we're sharing the golden bounty at a new low price of \$15 per jar!

Halo Honey combines nicely in a gift basket with gourmet products from our kitchen like jam, pickles or barbecue sauce. All products are made by students and staff at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.

Stop by our Admin Office to see what's in stock or **call the Halo Hotline at 415-382-3363 x214 for details.**



### Host your event in *The Key Room*

Our full-service venue with onsite catering is open again! Let us host your next meeting or special occasion with fresh menus and an upgraded audiovisual system for hybrid or in-person events.

The Key Room team remains famously food-forward, ready to help you craft a perfect menu and serve your needs from start to finish. We also offer team-building activities in our kitchen! All proceeds support our programs.

Call us at 415-382-3363 x214 or visit online for more details at [thekeyroom.com](https://thekeyroom.com).



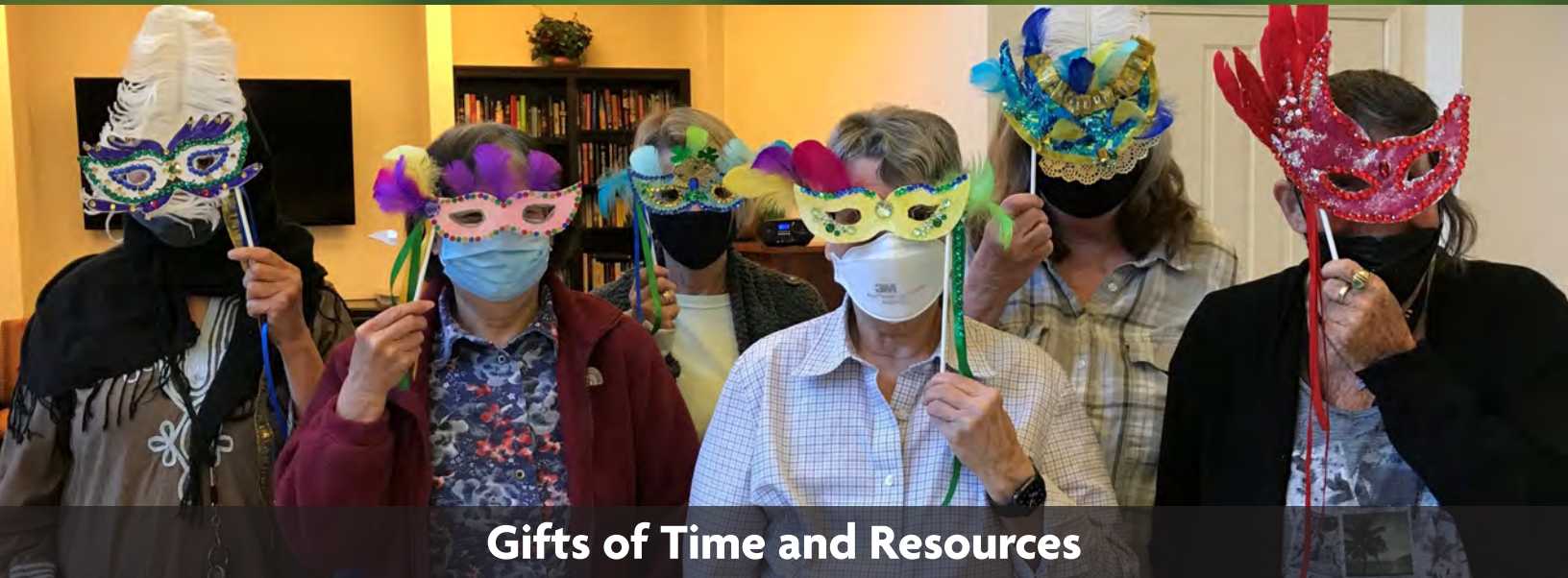
### Spoil your pups with *Wagster Treats*

Let your dogs "take a bite out of homelessness" and enjoy all natural snacks made by our dog-loving team. Wagster Treats are baked and packed by people building employment skills for a better future and your purchase supports 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](https://WagsterTreats.com).**

We offer gift boxes too!





## Gifts of Time and Resources

### 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 the Family Center.
- **Westminster Presbyterian Church** for bringing Sunday dinners to Voyager Carmel Center.
- **Deseret Industries** for donating furnishings to our programs.

### SCHOOLS

#### Thank you to:

- **Lucas Valley Elementary School** 3rd grade students for making holiday cards for our residents.
- **St. Patrick School** students for providing "Sandwich Saturday" lunches at King Street Senior Housing and filling stockings for every resident at the holidays.
- **St Isabella's School** for contributing to holiday gifts for families.
- **Marin Country Day School** 6th and 7th grade students for working in the garden at New Beginnings Center.

### BUSINESSES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### Thank you to:

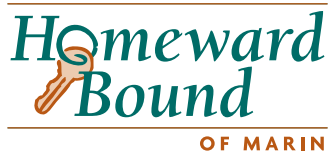
- **Bank of America** and **Merrill Lynch** employees for gift cards and handmade holiday cards for our residents.
- **Marin Master Gardeners** for donating fresh produce to our programs.
- **Tiburon Peninsula Club** and its members for donating bedding to our programs.
- **Marin Symphony** for donating 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.
- **Marin Dance Theater** for providing complementary tickets to holiday performances for our families.
- **Ultragenyx Pharmaceutical** for providing Target gift cards at the holidays.
- **Girl Scouts of Richardson Bay** for making cookie packages for all residents at Fireside Apartments.
- **Southern Marin Mothers' Club** for donating Thanksgiving meals to all 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.
- **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.
- **Trader Joe's** in Novato for donating pumpkins for an art project at Warner Creek Senior Housing.

- **ExtraFood** for supporting our programs with food deliveries.
- **Wednesday's Gifts** for holiday gift cards for people in our programs.

### INDIVIDUALS

#### Thank you to:

- **Gail Schreuder** and **Jennie Gill** for donating move-out baskets to residents.
- **John Bischoff, Kathy Fenger, Tom Lippi** and **Steve Deschler** for lunchtime help at New Beginnings Center.
- **Glenn Matsui** for generously stewarding our beehives.
- **Nicole Gardner and friends** for donating Thanksgiving dinners for seniors at Fireside Apartments in memory of her daughter Ronique.
- **Renata Bihun, Nancy Elberg, Archie Tindell** and **Roshan Thakkar** for assisting at the New Beginnings Center front desk.
- **Tim Lentini** for weekly garden care at the Family Center.
- **Katherine and Alex Hatch** for packing Wagster note cards for sale.
- **Nicole Lamb** for visiting with seniors at Fireside Apartments and those in off-site nursing care.
- **Carole and George Eade, Connie Siegenthaler** and **Laurel Kato** for helping with our sales table for Halo products and Wagster Treats at the Margaret Todd Craft Fair.
- **Betty Pagett** and **Winnie Konopath** for bringing meals to the Family Center.
- **Brianna and Romina Rossi** for supporting Warner Creek Senior Housing with weekly lunches, help for special events and holiday meals, plus providing holiday presents for our family programs.
- **Carree Michel** for help with publication graphics.
- **Teresa Ehteshami** for providing handmade greeting cards at Warner Creek Senior Housing during the holidays
- **Shelley Vasquez** and students at Archie Williams High School for helping with the food pantry and bingo nights at Fireside Apartments.
- **Hayden and Karen Goldberg** for supporting special holiday events at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Sara Henry** for leading arts and crafts workshops plus supporting community events at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Christine Watridge** for creating a beautiful graphic for Wagster Treats greeting cards.
- **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.
- **Marcie and Don Leach** for delivering food weekly from SF-Marín Food Bank to the Family Center.
- **Victoria Sandvig, Yayoi Lewis** and **Nancy Vierra** for supporting the food pantry and special events at Warner Creek Senior Housing
- **Khadija, Richard, Ray, Kathe** and **Victoria**, our resident volunteers at Warner Creek Senior Housing, for help with food service and special events.



1385 N. Hamilton Parkway  
Novato, CA 94949

## Legacy Gifts Maintain Hope for the Future



**Y**ou can leave a legacy of compassion with a gift to ensure that people facing homelessness in the future have safe shelter and supportive housing services to turn to at Homeward Bound of Marin. When you name Homeward Bound in your will, retirement account or estate plan, your generosity will secure vital services for families and individuals with nowhere else to go.



Everyone who makes a planned gift to Homeward Bound becomes a lifelong member of our new Key Circle legacy society. We plan to hold our first Key Circle event exclusively for founding members this fall. If Homeward Bound is already part of your estate plans, we want to honor you!

**For more details, contact Corry Kanzenberg at [ckanzenberg@hbofm.org](mailto:ckanzenberg@hbofm.org) or 415-382-3363 x216. Find out more at [hbofm.org/legacy-giving](http://hbofm.org/legacy-giving).**



"I cannot imagine the trauma of being without a home. When I discovered the range of services that Homeward Bound of Marin has provided since 1974, I found a way to participate in helping people in that dire situation.

Homeward Bound continues to creatively expand its services, always with the dignity of each client as a primary consideration. Providing a bequest in my estate plan gives me the satisfaction that I will continue to be of help."

— Liz Stone, retired teacher and founding member of the Key Circle