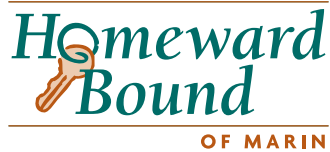


Homeward Bound of Marin is ending homelessness with housing, training and hope.

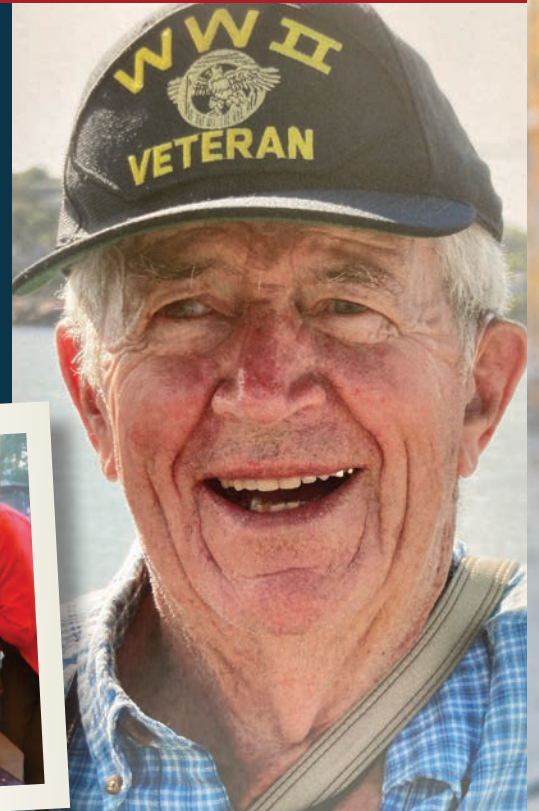


1385 N. Hamilton Parkway  
Novato, CA 94949

## Join Ranks with Veterans and Honor Your Hero

Stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our veterans in need and honor a hero in your life. An “honor wall” will be part of the building now under construction to end veteran homelessness in Marin. With a gift of any size, you can include your honoree in this memorial. And your generosity will create apartments for 24 veterans to open new futures. Give at [hbofm.org/donate](http://hbofm.org/donate) with a note about your honoree or by check to Homeward Bound.

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



“My Dad served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War II and passed away last year at age 97. Each of us 10 children received a modest check from his estate. I could think of no better way to honor him than to donate his unexpected gift in support of veterans housing at Homeward Bound. I know Dad would be proud and pleased to know he’s contributed those who served our country as he did.”

—*Cari Pace Koch, daughter of Donald J. Boyle, Sr.*



# Homeward Bound

HOMeward BOUND OF MARIN • FALL/WINTER NEWS 2023



## FALL/WINTER SPOTLIGHT

- ChaBrea Embraces Work, School and Parenting
- Veterans Housing Marches Toward Completion
- Next Key Center Marks 15th Year
- Gordon Works Toward Health and New Chapters
- Community Report 2022-23
- Community & Volunteer Spotlights:
  - Bank of America
  - Linda Varonin



## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mary Kay Sweeney  
Co-Chief Executive Officer

Paul Fordham  
Co-Chief Executive Officer

LaSaunda Tate  
Chief Operating Officer

Anna Hurtado  
Chief Program Officer

Shikira Porter  
Chief Equity Officer

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Puett, *President*  
Dianne Snedaker, *Vice President*  
Sonia Seeman, *Secretary*  
Elvira Echevarria, *Treasurer*  
Nicole Bartolini  
Nancy Culhane  
Lynes Downing  
Nicole Gardner  
Sheri Joseph  
Sister Carla Kovack  
Anita Jones Roehrick  
Liz Saint John  
Jim Snipes  
Marion Weinreb  
Cynthia Williams

## NEWSLETTER

Maura Thurman  
Mary Kay Sweeney  
Paul Fordham  
Graphic Design  
Phaedra Strecher  
Photography  
Paige Green  
Maura Thurman  
Landy Pandey Photography  
Neely Wang Photography

*On the cover:*  
Gordon J., a veteran, views the construction in progress. Read his story on p. 5. Photo by Paige Green.



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



**As we cross the threshold to our 50th year, we embrace the need to open more doors to the power of housing.**

Any doubts about the power of having a place to call home – as the key to transformation as well as ending homelessness – evaporate when reading the stories in these pages.

The courage, persistence and stamina that each person manifests, in their own unique way, brings us to our knees in gratitude as they share their courageous achievements. We who have been housed

feel humbled by the recognition of what's been missing for the people we serve.

While homelessness consistently makes news as our society's most significant and troubling issue (which it is!), we know that it is solvable. Not all at once, but one individual or family at a time. That's our superpower—working diligently hand-in-hand with each of our participants, creating a pathway home.

There's another potent force at work in the stories told here and the new energy felt by all the people who say, "Thank you for saving my life!" The lifeline extended by our programs and staff can be sustained thanks to our community of compassion. YOU not only believe the end of homelessness is possible; you also contribute in so many ways to bring this dream to reality.

Last year, we celebrated with you at the grand openings of La Casa Buena and Jonathan's Place. These programs allowed 50 people to end homelessness in their lives and stand as a tribute to our shared dedication to community with housing for all.

Now we have another amazing opportunity to create even more housing that will end veteran homelessness in Marin County—a goal shared with county partners who work daily toward this overdue and necessary milestone. Our building with 24 small apartments will open next year.

In addition, another 26 units for people transitioning back to the workforce makes a total of 50 being added to our main Hamilton campus. These 50 homes will provide space for more stories and empowerment as we lean into our 50th year.

**Let's continue on this journey together—our collective homecoming!**

In abundant gratitude,

Mary Kay and Paul



## Veterans Housing Marches to 2024 Completion

**Each week sees progress as trucks unload crates of windows, cranes lift beams to the roof and stairs rise to reveal the second floor of our new veterans housing. Every fresh delivery brings us closer to ending veteran homelessness in Marin County!**

Since old warehouses came down in March, we have moved steadily from grading to concrete to framing. We forecast the grand opening for these 24 apartments in Summer 2024.

"The construction is fueling our excitement to reach this goal and raising hope for veterans," says Mary Kay Sweeney, our Co-Chief Executive Officer.

The new building will secure a long-held goal to bring home all veterans in Marin County who need housing. The county will be one of the first in California to reach that point.

The veterans building will be the first in a larger plan for the 2.7-acre site next to our headquarters in Novato. A later phase will create 26 units of housing for people transitioning out of homelessness, followed by a multipurpose space to expand our culinary training and employment programs.

"Everyone deserves a place to call home, particularly those who have trained, served and suffered to defend us. We look forward to welcoming 24 veterans to their new apartments," said Paul Fordham, our Co-Chief Executive Officer.

The new community expands specialized services for veterans offered at the adjacent New Beginnings Center. That program reserves 12 beds for veterans in a partnership with the Departments of Veterans Affairs and hosts an office for the VA social workers for Marin.

Tenants in the new program will pay affordable rents and have onsite staff to help them connect with medical care, job training or education options, transportation assistance and other resources.

We've made it this far thanks to key investments: 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. The project also received a federal budget allocation of \$750,000 and a \$400,000 grant from The Home Depot Foundation.

**With \$16.8 million raised to date, we're in the home stretch with a \$1.2 million gap to fill before opening the doors for this project. Your gift will help make history and ensure all our former service members have a place to call home!**

**Project Cost**  
**\$18 million**

**Raised to Date**  
**\$16.8 million**

**No. of Apartments**  
**24**

**Grand Opening**  
**Summer 2024**

### Help our veterans down the home stretch!

Invest in homes for heroes. Give online at [hbfofm.org/donate](https://hbfofm.org/donate) or by check to Homeward Bound of Marin, 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, CA 94949, with "Homes for Heroes" in the memo. Every gift helps to bring our veterans home!

#### Other ways to honor veterans with your generosity:



**\$25,000**

Name one of 24 apartments after your family, business, community group or loved one. 12 apartments have already been named!



**\$10,000**

Help us go green by providing one of five electric vehicle charging stations for the housing and job training center.



**\$8,000**

Provide a bed, table and other furniture to welcome a veteran.



**\$2,500**

Give a front door to a veteran unlocking a new future.



**\$ Any Amount**

Honor a veteran with a gift of any amount and their name will be included on an honor wall of heroes when the new building opens.





**With her first child on the way, ChaBrea M. knew she needed to divert from couch-surfing and find some stability.**

"I slept in my car some days. I was working. It was a mess," says ChaBrea, a Novato native who graduated from Tomales High School. She feared there would be no choice but giving up her baby for adoption. Though she felt able to juggle work, school and moving around before the pregnancy, it became exhausting. That's when she found

## CHABREA EMBRACES WORK, SCHOOL AND PARENTING

Homeward Bound of Marin and moved into a room at the Family Center shelter about a month before her son arrived.

Recently ChaBrea and Xayn moved into our Next Key Apartments, within reach of her mother and sister for help with childcare. They look after Xayn while she works as an aide in the after-school program at Strawberry Recreation Center.

"I enjoy the job a lot. I'm so glad I could keep it. The community there has been wonderful," she says, adding that one family there hosted a baby shower for her and some have hired her for extra babysitting.

Originally ChaBrea began junior college studies in natural resources, an interest that grew when she lived in West Marin. "I never would have seen myself digging in the mud, but there the outdoors really is a place where everyone spends time. It was a whole different experience," she says.

She changed this year to Early Childhood Education, inspired by her interactions

**"I ALMOST WANT TO CRY WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED SINCE I CAME HERE" —CHABREA**

with kids in the after-school program. "I'm super happy now to be in school again," ChaBrea says.

Finding a childcare program for Xayn is next on her list of projects. She credits Homeward Bound staff for keeping her on track to meet her goals.

"I almost want to cry when I think of all the good things that have happened since I came here," ChaBrea says. "Without Family Center, I honestly didn't have a Plan B. I very much think I'd be in a depression. Probably I wouldn't have Xayn. It's hard to think about that."

Her plan for the coming year includes building her savings and credit score, along with continuing her educational path. "Everything is heading in a better direction," she says.

## Next Key Program Celebrates 15 Years

**Opening the Next Key Center in 2008 created a nexus of housing, training and employment that has become a potent generator for opportunities.**

The center comprises the training kitchen, The Key Room event venue and 32 studio apartments. It also includes our Admin Office, which previously was located in rented space above a church.

"This complex has been transformational for the individuals who have re-imagined their lives in these programs," says Mary Kay Sweeney, Co-Chief Executive Officer.



"Aside from our residents, it's also had a profound impact for community groups who have reframed their views of homelessness and homeless people through their contact with the The Key Room and culinary programs," she adds.

Three of the 32 apartments serve the Transition to Wellness program, a medical respite shelter for people leaving hospital care without stable housing.

The rest operate as a transitional program that's unique among our housing services, with 29 affordable apartments rented for two-year stays to people leaving our shelters. In 15 years, we served 347 people, including 54 small families like ChaBrea and Xayn.

"Not everyone needs permanent supportive housing," says Paul Fordham, Co-Chief Executive Officer for Homeward Bound. "Some folks just need a launching pad for the short term."

During their stay, people focus on developing skills, completing education goals, saving money and rebuilding credit. They also gain a rental history – another vital step toward finding independent housing.

"When I moved to Next Key, it changed me so much. I've never forgotten where my launchpad was," says Denna Harvey, a resident while she began her culinary career in 2013.

She works as dietary services manager for a Napa nursing home and recently purchased a house in Suisun with her husband. "I hoped my situation would get better but never in a million years did I imagine this," Denna says.

Lynes Downing, who now sits on our Board of Directors, started his pet-sitting business during his time as a Next Key resident. "It's been running strong for over 10 years," he says. "I was at the end of my rope but I took advantage of all that Homeward Bound offers for a new start."

## GORDON J. WORKS TOWARD HEALTH AND NEW CHAPTERS

**Life already had brought Gordon J. some distinct experiences before his company's artwork went viral with the 2020 election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the White House.**

The photo illustration created with artist Bria Goeller shows Vice President Harris walking in the shadow of Ruby Bridges, a civil rights trailblazer at 6 years old when she stepped into a formerly white-only school in Louisiana.

"People were calling me at 5 a.m., telling me the image was being shared on Twitter and everywhere," recalls Gordon, who was in Sacramento to care for his father. "My dad had died three days earlier, so I was laughing and crying at the same time that day."

His company, now called Good Trubble, sold out of T-shirts, sweatshirts and anything bearing the image. Everything seemed poised for success until health problems put life on hold, ultimately leading Gordon to Homeward Bound of Marin.

In six years of service in the National Guard, Gordon did a short stint of active duty that

made him eligible for veterans benefits. He had never connected with the Department of Veterans Affairs. "I never wanted anything to do with the VA. I didn't like how they treated my Dad," Gordon says.

He reached out after he lost his housing while struggling to find treatment for Crohn's Disease, living in his car while he sought specialist care. The local Veterans Services Office referred him to New Beginnings Center.

"The McDonald's bathroom works to clean up if that's all you have," Gordon says. "I needed this place to rest and focus on my health."

At New Beginnings Center, he regained much of the weight loss that sent him into a wheelchair and rides his bike to build back his leg muscles. Our staff helped him connect with veterans benefits, including a housing voucher available through Veterans Affairs. In August, he moved to a San Rafael apartment.

Raised in Palo Alto with activist parents, Gordon worked in sales and marketing for Xerox before spending years in the U.S. Virgin Islands as a boat captain and telephone



lineman. Now he says he's ready to go back to work at Good Trubble, which he launched after the 2016 election.

"There are a lot of messages to be shared about what's happening here and in places like Iran, Sweden, Africa. I want to tell stories," he says, adding that a new partner would manage the company's day-to-day operations.

He's grateful to feel stronger and energized for the next chapter. "I was in a bad place. I hate to think about what could have happened without Homeward Bound, because I had given up." To see his creative projects, visit [goodtrubble.com](https://goodtrubble.com) and [thatlittlegirlwasmenft.com](https://thatlittlegirlwasmenft.com).



## MATT F. FINDS PATH TO SERVICE AFTER STRUGGLE

**Moving into his own apartment did more than end five years of couch-surfing and shelters for Matt F. His new home also let him find a path to serving other veterans working to solve challenges.**

"After I was housed for awhile, I wanted to do something to be of service. I get a lot of

satisfaction out of it," says Matt, a volunteer with Marin County's Veterans Service Office. He works full-time in the evenings at Bayside Marin Treatment Center.

His own journey through challenges came after six years with the U.S. Marines Reserves, including a year of active deployment in Iraq in 2003 as allied forces took action against Saddam Hussein. "After I came home from Iraq, I started drinking a lot. I really didn't have a lot of direction in my life."

He remembers his younger self as happy enough growing up in Long Beach with three younger sisters. "It's got decent schools, a good family atmosphere," Matt says. He attended junior college almost two years and joined the Reserves for new opportunities.

"I liked the training, the focus of being part of a unit," he adds. After active duty, Matt

found the loss of focus hard to navigate. "Being homeless, it was depressing," Matt says.

At Homeward Bound of Marin, Matt received support from our onsite services for veterans to resolve a pending disability claim and secure a housing voucher. He's lived in his San Rafael home ever since.

"Homeward Bound offers actual support to veterans. It's not just a place to sleep. There's a clear path to housing," he says. Now his own experiences help him serve veterans needing to document their service history, connect with benefits or get help with basics like housing and transportation.

Matt attended last year's groundbreaking event for our new veterans housing with other former service members. "I look forward to seeing it done. There's a real need," he adds.



## COMMUNITY REPORT • 2022-2023

We marked our 49th year by reaching a new milestone, opening 50 units of supportive housing to continue solving homelessness in Marin County. The completion of Jonathan's Place in San Rafael and La Casa Buena in Corte Madera highlighted the 12 months ending June 30, 2023. They act as beacons for the future, along with thriving culinary training and social enterprises that help people build fresh opportunities. As we look to a sixth decade, we take heart in our partnership with the community and the achievements of those who journey through our programs.

More people sought our safety-net services in the 2022-23 year, with **905 people** served in shelter and housing programs for an increase of 2% from the previous 12 months. Holding steady with last year, 26% were seniors aged 62 or older.

With new programs in operation, Homeward Bound served **699 single adults** last year for an increase of 9%. Yet the critical gap between housing needs and supply continued to restrict their opportunities, with just 5% of those leaving our programs moving to market-rate housing.

That trend also showed in our family programs, which served a total of **122 parents and 133 children**. Of those leaving our programs in the 12-month period, rent subsidies enabled 49% to find stable homes while 8% moved to market-rate units. Another 20% found housing with friends or family, an option that became more available as COVID-19 risk faded.

We closed the year with a total **447 people served in supportive housing**, up from 410 as we gained full occupancy of Jonathan's Place and La Casa Buena.

With this backdrop of need, the Groundbreaking Celebration for our new veterans housing fired our hopes. Veterans, elected officials and neighbors came to applaud this project to create 24 apartments for those who have honored our freedoms with their service.

Construction gathered speed in March, when dry weather allowed grading to begin. Feel free to reach out for an insider tour of these homes for heroes at **415-382-3363 x216** or email **ckanzenberg@hbofm.org**.

Though pandemic risks eased, our programs last year expanded work to help residents improve and maintain their health. A **\$1.2 million state grant** provided new tools for case managers to enhance care for participants.

With these funds, staff can coordinate more closely with medical providers to help people overcome health issues that have been barriers to stable housing. More than **220 people benefited from enhanced medical services** in the past year.

Our teamwork made Homeward Bound a leader statewide in this initiative. Partnership Health, the organization that manages MediCal care, nominated Homeward Bound for the national Supporting the Safety Net Award to recognize these efforts.

Transition to Wellness, our medical respite shelter, also supported more people with health needs. In the 2022-23 year, the program offered **space for 87 people to recuperate** after hospital care, compared to 75 the year before.

The training team at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy worked hard to help people break through obstacles by providing **31 students** with core skills in culinary arts. Graduates found steady demand for their

knowledge: **80% secured employment within three months** of completing their training.

A \$750,000 grant from the state's "Breaking Barriers Initiative" last year added two new positions on our team. Culinary Trainer Jasmine Howell boosts coaching for graduates working in six-month transitional positions in our kitchen, while Matt Shapiro joined us as Director of Training and Culinary Operations.

The culinary team kept pace with rising activity for The Key Room event venue and Fresh Starts Chef Events, our monthly series of celebrity chef dinners. These mission-driven businesses operate in tandem with production of **13,000 meals a month** for shelter and housing programs.

After months of closure, we rejoiced to welcome guests for eight chef events last year. Kicking off with PBS-TV Chef Joanne Weir, our series shared sold-out evenings with more than 800 people!

Our chef events occur in The Key Room, which also hosted **81 private events** for clients ranging from BioMarin to Marin Master Gardeners to couples planning intimate wedding receptions.

Production of Wagster Treats dog biscuits also grew with new vendors, including the Gifts for Good company focused on corporate gifting and Procure Impact, a network for large companies seeking products with social benefits.

These **employment social enterprises engaged 47 people**, demonstrating the potential of mission-driven business to pave a runway for new careers.

As we enter our 50th year, our excitement soars with the changing view at the veterans housing site. We look forward to inviting everyone to a grand opening party in 2024 and toasting the end of veteran homelessness in Marin County! (See more on page 3.)

Nearing this goal inspires us to hold tight to our vision that "everyone deserves a place to call home." With your partnership, we believe homelessness is solvable and our community can turn that challenge into a brief experience that's met with effective options. It's our privilege to work on behalf of the community toward these goals, now and for decades to come.



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

## WHO WE SERVE



**954**

PEOPLE SERVED



**255**

PEOPLE IN FAMILIES



**699**

SINGLE ADULTS



SENIORS (62+)

**250**

VETERANS **52**

CHILDREN (UNDER 18)

**133**



**FAMILY PROGRAMS**

**90%** left for a housing opportunity



**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**60%** left for a housing opportunity



### CULINARY TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

**31**

students trained at  
Fresh Starts Culinary Academy

**47**

employees engaged in our  
culinary enterprises

**13,000**

meals produced monthly for shelter  
and housing programs



### TRANSITION TO WELLNESS

*Medical Respite Shelter*

**87** people served

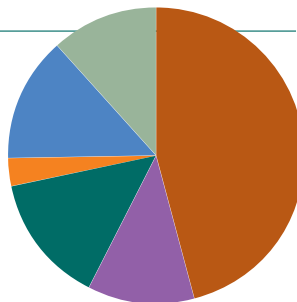
**936** hospital days avoided

**\$3,916,416** saved through  
avoidable hospital stays

## OPERATING BUDGET / TOTAL AGENCY EXPENSES AND REVENUES • 2022-23

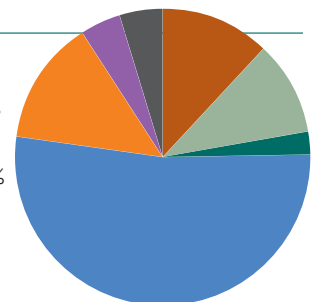
### EXPENSES

Adult Services .....	46.1%
Mental Health Services .....	11.7%
Family Services .....	14.1%
Job Training .....	3.1%
Social Enterprise.....	13.5%
Administration / Development .....	11.5%



### REVENUES

Gifts/Bequests .....	12.2%
Foundation Grants.....	10.2%
Corporate Grants .....	2.4%
Government Grants .....	52.6%
Program Revenues .....	13.6%
Social Enterprise.....	4.3%
Other Income .....	4.7%





HOMeward BOUND PROGRAM MAP – 2023

Adult Services

**King Street Senior Housing**  
Larkspur  
12 beds

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**Housing at Last**  
Multiple Locations  
27 beds

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**Fourth Street Center**  
San Rafael  
20 rooms (20 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE 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

**Jonathan's Place Housing**  
San Rafael  
(32 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**  
**New Veterans Housing**  
Permanent Supportive Housing (24 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

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

EMERGENCY SHELTER

**Jonathan's Place Shelter**  
San Rafael  
(38 beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Mental Health Services

**Palm Court**  
Multiple Locations  
25 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  
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

**Nuestra Casa**  
Multiple Locations  
10 houses (29 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**Family Center**  
San Rafael  
9 rooms (25 beds)

EMERGENCY SHELTER

**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: *Bank of America nurtures teamwork and change*

**One of the country's largest and oldest banks creates local impact with support for culinary training, holiday needs and our 26-row produce garden.**

This year, Bank of America made a special investment with the gift of a new greenhouse. It will boost the vegetable harvest used to make 13,000 meals per month for our shelter and housing programs.

The greenhouse is outfitted with irrigation, and has room to start an estimated 1,500 plants from seed each season.

"Homeward Bound has been a longtime partner of ours because of our shared mission to help make lives better for Marin County families, seniors, and veterans," says Amy Loflin, Senior Vice President, Market Executive for Marin, Napa and Sonoma.

She sees volunteer projects as a useful way to forge closer connections with colleagues. That's how the greenhouse project initially took shape.

"We had two teams that needed to know each other better, so

we scheduled a work day in the garden," Loflin says. One of the volunteers chatting with David Jordan, our garden supervisor, learned that the existing greenhouse had outlived its life span.

Several local teams at the bank contributed to purchasing the new greenhouse, which went into use in October. "Doing this project together also broadened the relationships that were formed while volunteering," she says.

The greenhouse was the latest manifestation of this partnership. Bank of America volunteers also have donated gift cards with handmade holiday greetings for our participants and helped build a pathway with pavers at the New Beginnings Center shelter.

Additionally, through grant funding, Bank of America supports training at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy and our social enterprise projects as pathways to financial opportunity.

"Homeward Bound has a long, impactful track record lifting people out of poverty and helping them develop sustainable ways to not just remain on steady ground but to grow

and succeed," Loflin says. "We are always thrilled to help this great organization any way we can."



AMY LOFLIN OF BANK OF AMERICA



## Volunteer Spotlight: *Linda V. Creates Connection with La Casa Buena*

**When planning began to turn a longtime motel into supportive housing, Linda Varonin says she had questions. "I've lived in Corte Madera for 38 years, so of course I wanted to know who was going to live there," she says.**

She sees the community at La Casa Buena today as a joyful wonder. "All these people have amazing stories and to see them settle in is wonderful," says Linda, who has organized a welcoming committee of sorts among her peers in the Corte Madera Women's Club.

The group visits monthly for a "Second Saturday" activity, which can be anything that brings people together for an hour or so. They have potted succulents, made cookies, planted a neglected garden corner and tried some art projects.

With other club members, she sets up in the Community Room where residents can join or not as they please. When no one chose to get dirty potting their own succulents, she put a dozen in small pots and left them on the table.



LINDA VARONIN

"I heard they were all adopted by residents the next day," says Linda, a graduate of the Master Gardener training.

The group always brings snacks "because food brings people together," she says. Another day she carried a pizzelle cookie press to share fresh treats. Linda also demonstrated how to make fideo, a simple pasta dish that comes together in minutes.

Other club members have made their own contributions, including Janis Luft with her therapy dog, Eddie. The black Labrador visits happily with everyone who comes by.

"Really I want to know what the residents want to do," says Linda, a retired special education teacher. When someone suggested hatching butterflies, she helped them set up an enclosure with live caterpillars in the Community Room. Eight butterflies emerged.

Recently Linda crossed paths with two the residents from La Casa Buena during a stop at the library. "That made me happy to see

them out and about as neighbors. And we know each other's stories," she says.





## WAYS TO GIVE

### Reshape the future

You can rebuild stability and opportunities for people working to leave homelessness behind them. Every gift to support our shelter and housing programs helps families and individuals move toward resilience and achieve their potential.

Honor friends and family members with a compassionate gift in their name or give monthly to invest in solutions all year. You also can extend your generosity to the future with a gift in your will. Please contact 415-382-3363 x216 or email [ckanzenberg@hbfofm.org](mailto:ckanzenberg@hbfofm.org) for details.

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

**Thank you for your partnership!**

### Host a rewarding event in *The Key Room*

Make your next event delicious, convenient and uniquely rewarding in The Key Room! Our full-service venue with onsite catering hosts business meetings, special occasions or all-day events.

The Key Room team will help you with seasonal menus, room set-up and an audiovisual system that allows hybrid meetings or video on a big screen. Ask us about team-building activities in the kitchen! All proceeds support our training and housing programs.

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



### Wrap up a bag of Wagster Treats

Treat your pets to Wagster Treats, the wholesome “life-changing dog treats” baked and packed by our dog-loving team. ‘Tis the season to order a gift box or share special treats with the dogs or dog pawrents on your holiday travels.

Mixed with just a few simple ingredients, Wagster Treats help our hard-working team build employment skills to reveal their talents and open a new future. All proceeds support 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).**



### Gather friends at *Fresh Starts Chef Events*

Eat well and do good in the New Year when you join us at Fresh Starts Chef Events. Don't delay – our popular celebrity chef evenings often sell out in advance!

Reserve a table with friends to watch recipe demonstrations by culinary stars and enjoy a delicious dinner. All proceeds support shelter, housing and training programs while providing hands-on work experience for graduates of Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.

See our calendar and purchase your tickets at [thekeyroom.com/event-detail](https://thekeyroom.com/event-detail) or call 4315-382-3363 x214 with questions.





## Gifts of Time and Resources

### CONGREGATIONS

#### Thank you to:

- **Peace Lutheran Church** for donating Safeway gift cards and delivering groceries at Fireside Apartments.
- **Congregation Kol Shofar, Congregation Rodef Sholom, Cornerstone Community Church, Hillside Community Church, Marin Lutheran Church, Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church, Novato Presbyterian Church, St. Isabella's Catholic Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church** for providing meals and serving dinner monthly at Jonathan's Place shelter.
- **Westminster Presbyterian Church** for bringing Sunday dinners to Voyager Carmel Center.
- **Congregation Kol Shofar** for bringing brunch monthly to La Casa Buena housing program.
- **Congregation Rodef Sholom** for presenting a monthly brunch at Jonathan's Place.
- **Marin Lutheran Church** for breakfast burritos delivered to Voyager Carmel Center and Family Center.
- **TNT Club at Trinity Lutheran Church** for a diaper drive for the Family Center.
- **First Congregational Church** for donating new pillows for our programs.

### SCHOOLS

#### Thank you to:

- **St. Patrick School** students and **Christy Mohan** for providing "Sandwich Saturday" lunches at King Street Senior Housing.
- **Marin Country Day School** for helping in the garden at New Beginnings Center.
- **Hamilton Middle School** students for planting succulents at New Beginnings Center.

### BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### Thank you to:

- **StoneSoup, Outdoor Art Club and Southern Marin Mothers' Club** for providing meals and serving dinner monthly at Jonathan's Place shelter.
- **Ultragenyx** for donating back-to-school backpacks with supplies for all our students.
- **Bank of America** for helping in our produce garden at New Beginnings Center.
- **The Salvation Army** for donating new clothing, shoes and school uniforms for all our students.
- **Wells Fargo Bank** for helping lay pavers and build a garden walkway.
- **Children for Change** for decorating shipping boxes for Wagster Treats.
- **Studio 39 artists** for providing art sessions with Jonathan Place's residents.
- **Whippoorwill Arts and Bread and Roses** for providing free concerts at our programs.
- **Marin Symphony** for donating concert tickets to Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **SusieCakes and Lotus restaurant** for deliveries at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Southern Marin Mothers' Club** for providing diapers to our family programs.
- **Cakes 4 Kids** for delivering birthday cakes for children at the Family Center.
- **Kiosk** for ongoing support with websites and digital marketing.
- **Welcoming Home** for donating furniture, housewares and apartment makeover services for residents moving into new housing.
- **ExtraFood** for supporting our programs with food deliveries.

### INDIVIDUALS

#### Thank you to:

- **Carolyn Hamond** for providing homemade art kits for kids.
- **Nell + Jim Band** and friends and **Brianna and Romina Dagnino** for providing dinner monthly at Jonathan's Place shelter.

- **Gail Schreuder and Jennie Gill** for donating move-out baskets to residents.
- **Linda Varonin** and friends for monthly Saturday activities with residents at La Casa Buena.
- **CSI Mark Denton** of the U.S. Coast Guard for sharing his skills with Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.
- **Mary Jane Bird, John Bischoff, Kathy Fenger, Tom Lippi and Andrea Pino** for lunchtime help at New Beginnings Center.
- **Sandra McGraw** for support with the garden and in the Admin Office.
- **Elakai Anela, Josh Arseneault, Jennifer and Lindsey Opegard, Barbara Sarazen Snyder, Karen Corral, Gail McCallister, Andrea Pino, Casey Leones, Kelee Thomas, Mary Kyle, Kayi Esse, Dagmar Zakim, Judy Finn, Suzanne Nolan and Viki Card** for helping with meal service at Jonathan's Place.
- **Nancy Lubamersky** for providing monthly birthday cakes to King Street Senior Housing.
- **Glenn Matsui and Vicki Huehner** for generously caring for our beehives.
- **Renata Bihun, Nancy Elberg and Don Martin** for assisting at the New Beginnings Center front desk.
- **Trigg McLeod, Cele Hanzel, Julie Burford, Arlene Ford, Adrienne Denning, Stephanie Ryder and Nancy Rademacher** for shopping at SF-Marin Food Bank and delivering items to Family Center.
- **Tim Lentini** for help with garden care at the Family Center.
- **Renata Bihun, Cyndie Martel, Suzanne Caprio, Viki Card, Olivia Puett, Anne Seymour, Karen Corral and Jane Sweeney** for help at Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- **Carree Michel** for help with graphics.
- **Neely Wang** for sharing her talents as photographer for Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- **Sara Henry** for leading arts and crafts workshops plus supporting community events at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Cheryl Longinotti** of **Cycling Without Age** for providing trishaw rides at King Street Senior Housing and La Casa Buena.
- **Sue Chiaroni** for towel donations.
- **Kay Jones** for donating potholders for our programs.
- **Sherry Rogers, Pat Chelini and Kurt Lorenzi** for ongoing help with the landscaping and gardens at New Beginnings Center.
- **Victoria Sandvig, Khadija Baporla, June Holmberg, Victoria Applegate, Richard Ferrero, Kathe Holt, Ray Lillo, Zerene Soans, and Michael Harris** for supporting the food pantry and special events at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Brenda Schuman-Post and Sonic Forest** for providing live music at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Viki Card and Jane Sweeney** for supporting our social enterprise programs with their helping hands on various tasks.
- **Stan Burford** for repair help for Wagster Treats equipment.
- **Jeff Shankle, Walt Holleran, Kurt Peterson, Forrest Craig, Glenn Burke and Josh Arseneault** for building a paver walkway.
- **Judy Smoker** for help selling Halo products at a community event.
- **Colette Patterson** for help as an intern at Fireside Apartments.
- **Dez Kuimelis** for providing chaplaincy support at New Beginnings Center.
- **Betty Pagett** for organizing a meal at Oma Village for Mother's Day.

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