

# Homeward Bound

HOMeward BOUND OF MARIN • SPRING/SUMMER NEWS 2025

## We're opening new homes and careers!

Join us on June 5th for our Grand Opening of the Gilardi Training and Events Center!

See details on the back page.



### SPRING/SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

- New Program Helps Young Families Build Futures
- Shelter Marks 25 Years with Upgrades
- Housing Gives John Space to Draw Next Plan
- Employment Specialist Offers Support Beyond Kitchen
- Puett Place Welcomes Melissa for New Start
- Juabo Opens Wider Horizons at Sweeney Place
- Community & Volunteer Spotlights: Congregation Kol Shofar Renata Bihun

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## NEWSLETTER

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## On the cover:

Melissa, a U.S. Army veteran, now lives at Puett Place. See her story on p. 5.



CREATING A LAUNCHPAD FOR CHANGE

## HELLO FRIENDS,

Reflecting on the stories in this issue of Homeward Bound's newsletter, our vision of "Ending homelessness through training, housing and hope" has never felt more alive.

There literally is nothing better than watching someone receive their keys and move into their new home — home at last from the uncertainty of homelessness — and seeing their whole being unfurl.

We have witnessed this homecoming multiple times over the past few months as the newly built housing at Puett Place (24 units for veterans) and Sweeney Place (26 units for adults and families) have reached full occupancy.

From this stable base of housing, many of our new residents are now thriving in meaningful employment. We are grateful that some of them, like Juabo, Melissa and John, have shared their stories with us.

This exciting period of growth continues at Homeward Bound with the imminent opening of the Gilardi Training and Events Center, which will complete our campus in Novato.

## I hope that you can join us to explore this life-changing supportive employment hub at the Grand Opening on June 5th.

Yet even with our campus complete, we have more to do! Puett Place has reduced the number of homeless veterans in Marin County to single digits for the first time since we started collecting data. We're still pursuing in earnest the goal of bringing home our last unhoused veterans.

Another highlight is our renewed focus on Transition Age Youth (people experiencing homelessness between the ages of 18 and 24), particularly those who have children of their own. With support from the Tipping Point Community and the County of Marin, we're seeing significant progress through this work.

Thank you for your support of Homeward Bound of Marin. We could not do this transformational work without you!

In partnership,

  
Paul



OUR EVENTS PROVIDE ON-THE-JOB LEARNING.





LARRY JEAN MEETS WITH KAYLA AND HER DAUGHTER AT A PARK.

## Young Parents Find Fuel for the Future

**Learning to be a parent while still sailing into adulthood can be a daunting path. That road looks even tougher for young parents without stable housing or supportive connections to help along the way.**

That's why Homeward Bound of Marin last year launched a program with funds awarded by the Tipping Point Community to assist unhoused parents between 18 and 24 years old.

"This program reaches families at their first experience of homelessness. They don't have a long history without housing," says Paul Fordham, our Chief Executive Officer. "We're working to divert them by offering case management and services."

The program already has served 22 families with outreach that starts as soon as they contact our Family Center shelter or get a referral from a partner agency like Community Action Marin.

Though they may need to wait for a room, Program Coordinator Larry Jean supports them from the start with pressing needs like signing up for benefits, getting a driver's license or finding more employment options.

"Some families are couch-surfing, some are living in their cars. Their top concern is

housing but we work on other things in the meantime," he says.

Kayla and her partner met him as they struggled to avoid losing care of their two children, with just a few weeks to stabilize or face a separation.

"We were unhoused and Larry had real help for us," Kayla says. He guided her to apply for a special housing voucher designated for young people like her that have exited foster care. The family now is housed in San Rafael and meets regularly with Larry to work on goals like employment and continuing education.

This program for young homeless parents shows encouraging results after a year. Of the 22 families served, 73% have found housing and 82% have increased their income.

"My role is helping all the families see a future for themselves," Larry says, adding that his own experience as a foster child strengthens his commitment to each family's progress.

"That's what brought me to want to work with kids. When I finally got to the right foster home, it really made a difference for me," he says. Before joining Homeward Bound, Larry spent 13 years as a peer support specialist and mentor for youth.

"You're a life skills coach sometimes, helping people get that first win," Larry says. "They start paying the cell phone bill, catch up on rent, get that job, and then they can move to the next step. They can live confidently."

## Shelter Gets Fresh Look and Upgrades

The country's first shelter on a decommissioned military base will mark its 25th year with work to upgrade energy efficiency, disaster preparedness and other maintenance needs.

New bathroom floors at our 80-bed New Beginnings Center top the list of welcome changes for Program Director Hanna Berringer. New paint, window shades and a colorful mural in the dining room also will bring a fresh look to the building, she says.

"The overall feel will be fresher and easier to maintain," she says. That's important for a population that has grown older and includes more people in recent years with chronic health conditions.

Grants available from the American Energy Association and Marin Clean Energy will cover many costs for new water heaters, efficient heating and solar panels on the roof. Our team hopes to add a backup generator for emergencies.

"We have vulnerable people on assistive devices like oxygen or motorized wheelchairs," Hanna says. "It's complicated if we have an outage."

Since it opened in 2000, the center has retained its vision of a "campus-like" atmosphere with four-person dorm rooms around a courtyard and services on one side. The space has evolved, with the grass courtyard replaced by a garden in 2011.

A more recent transition came last year after we opened Puett Place, our 24-unit building for veterans. With fewer veterans needing shelter, a dorm at New Beginnings Center that had been reserved for them has been designated for young adults seeking help.

"Young people sometimes feel out of place in the shelter because there are a lot of older folks," Berringer says. "Being with a peer group in a dedicated dorm helps them stick with the program and set some goals."

For whoever needs shelter, New Beginnings Center will continue to offer a welcoming environment for years to come.





**Years of working as a carpenter and licensed contractor never added up to long-term stability for John. While he made money easily, John says it was “sand through my fingers” in a lifestyle that rarely looked ahead and ultimately led him to homelessness.**

A voyage of self-discovery last year jolted him into taking up a new set of tools for his life. “I thought, ‘you have so much and you’ve squandered it.’ I came back a different man,” John says. He committed to sobriety and took a hard look at his future. Now living at Sweeney Place, our new 26-

## JOHN SKETCHES NEXT PLAN IN OUR KITCHEN

unit housing community, John connected to Homeward Bound of Marin after treatment for a heart condition. Hospital discharge planners arranged with our staff to reserve space for him at our shelter.

John worked with Downtown Streets Team to clean local sidewalks until he learned about our culinary training program. He graduated from Fresh Starts Culinary Academy in March and looks forward to joining our kitchen staff when his shoulder heals from a recent surgery.

Growing up in a family of four boys, John learned his way in the kitchen early since his mother split them into nightly teams to prepare dinner or wash dishes. “Usually I cooked with my youngest brother,” he says.

Their bustling household ran on a schedule of parochial school and sports. “Mom had a short chain on our doings,” John adds, but the transition to social life in a large East Bay high school derailed him. “I did not handle my responsibilities well. I saw my grades fall,” he says.

After graduating, John drifted around California doing odd jobs. He eventually returned to study civil engineering and get a contractor’s license. “I’ve built a lot of projects,” he adds, “but I never had a plan for my own life.”

In recent weeks, he has been focused on a project called “Mama’s Menu” to put his culinary skills to work and support his mother, who’s now 84.

“The culinary training was a game-changer. I’m inspired,” John says. He’s designing a monthly plan for healthy meals that he can prepare and deliver, a project that might someday expand to a business.

**“THE CULINARY TRAINING WAS A GAME-CHANGER. I’M INSPIRED.”**

His new home gives him a kitchen for recipe testing, a place to heal and room to think, John says. “This is the best possible space to go forward,” he says. “Everything that’s happened at Homeward Bound has been positive for me.”

## Employment specialist builds bridge from training to work

**When students begin at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy, Kellie Walker wants them to start working on a successful exit from the program.**

“We’re giving people the tools to be more than just a body in the kitchen. We want them to think about all the directions they can take their knowledge,” she says.

As our Culinary Employment Specialist, Kellie teaches trainees to research job opportunities, write resumes and prepare for interviews. She guides them to inventory their skills outside the kitchen, like experience with computer tasks, handling money or serving customers.

Everything helps pinpoint their job search, whether they aim for catering, restaurants, front-of-house service or large-scale meal prep for a school or hospital. For graduates entering transitional positions at Homeward

Bound, she helps them find ways to develop their interests.

Her workshops for each class of trainees also touch on time management, conflict resolution and communication in the kitchen. She supports a financial education class provided by staff from Bank of America, which introduces strategies to save and budget new income.

Between each 11-week course, Kellie visits our programs and outside groups to talk with prospective students. The free training is open to low-income residents in the community as well as participants in Homeward Bound programs.

Throughout the week, she’s available for drop-in consultation. “Sometimes being an ear to listen is the best thing I can do,” she says.



**EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST KELLIE WALKER**

Lilyette, a graduate who works at SF-Marin Food Bank, says Fresh Starts Culinary Academy taught her to write her first resume and work under pressure while keeping her cool. “Those non-culinary skills also help you keep going forward,” she says.

Though each trainee group has its own dynamics, Kellie says the camaraderie inevitably builds as the weeks advance.

“It’s a great thing to see them start out mostly sitting apart from each other, some in the back, and then they’ll be hanging out at lunch encouraging each other,” Kellie says.



## JUABO OPENS WIDER HORIZONS AT SWEENEY PLACE

**Moving into his apartment at Sweeney Place, our recently opened workforce housing community, marked a new experience for Juabo. “This is the first apartment I’ve ever had to myself in my life,” he says.**

His move is the latest step in a path that began two years ago, when he arrived at our Jonathan’s Place shelter, Juabo adds. “I’ve learned as long as you keep doing the work, stay on track, then things stay on track for you,” he says.

Juabo recalls sitting on his bunk in the shelter when he spied a job posting from Side by Side, a nonprofit serving at-risk youth that includes a San Anselmo school. He applied immediately and got the job on their maintenance team.

His day begins at 6 a.m. to clean the administration office, polish the gym floor and ensure the classrooms are ready when students arrive. He’s repaired lights, railings, windows and more. The schedule fits him

perfectly, leaving time in his afternoons to spend with his teenage son.

“Being here in Marin, staying close to my son, that means the world to me,” Juabo says.

Raised in Marin City and Oakland, he recalls his own teenage years in the East Bay as a chaotic time when he gave little thought to his future. “Things were happening fast around me and I had my share of problems with the law,” he says.

His work life has included construction, warehouse teams, housekeeping for Marin Health hospital and maintenance for apartment buildings. He also spent time as the family caregiver for his late mother and for his grandfather, who now is 97.

“I’m getting older and want to make the best of my life,” Juabo says. Though wary of entering a shelter, he says, the decision to stay changed his life. He later moved to our Next Key Apartments and watched construction advance on the new homes at Sweeney Place.



He’s used the stability of work and housing to pay off bills and “get into the groove again of taking care of things,” Juabo says, adding that he got trustworthy guidance from our staff with every step.

Now he’s looking for a way to get involved sharing his experiences as a mentor for adults facing some of the obstacles that he has overcome. “I appreciate all the help I got here at Homeward Bound,” Juabo says. “Everything is coming together.”



**A bumpy path led Melissa to Puett Place, where the U.S. Army veteran says her new home means “all the chaos that I’ve been through is finally ending.”**

Extracting herself from an abusive relationship cleared the way for change, Melissa says, and support from Homeward Bound of Marin helped her believe in her future as she strengthened her sobriety.

“I’ve never had more loving support than I’ve had here,” says Melissa, a Bay Area native and registered nurse who experienced shelters and services in several

## PUETT PLACE WELCOMES MELISSA FOR NEW START

cities. “The apartment is great. I’m learning to feel okay with being alone.”

Her stability evaporated in 2021 when she lost her housing while living in Texas, where she had been employed for several years. She had been caring for a 7-year-old stepdaughter while her partner served a stint in jail.

“My stepdaughter went to her father’s family and I went to a women’s shelter in Dallas,” Melissa says. “After that, it’s such a blur.” During this unstable period, she lived in cars, shelters, on a boat and in a tent by a Novato creek.

“The only trauma I haven’t experienced is combat trauma,” Melissa says.

She recalls her East Bay childhood as unsteady as the family grappled with poverty and her parents used drugs. At 19, she began eight years of Army service. Scoring a high aptitude for engineering brought her “a lot of cool experiences,” she says, like coordinating work to develop a water tower and a school in Haiti.

Always interested in nursing, she began training at California State University in Hayward after leaving the Army. “I was a single mom with two jobs. It took me 10 years,” she adds. For several years afterward, her career thrived with positions in surgery, emergency rooms and as a travel nurse.

Melissa opened another path at our Fresh Starts Culinary Academy, where she graduated in March. Now she works full-time with our team, serving guests and helping with meals for our programs.

**“COMING TO HOMEWARD BOUND HAS BEEN SUCH A COMPLETE RELIEF AND LET ME THINK ABOUT MY LIFE AGAIN.”**

“I’m committed to my recovery and to learning more in culinary,” says Melissa, who thinks about going back to nursing eventually. “Coming to Homeward Bound has been such a complete relief and let me think about my life again.”





## Campus fulfills vision with two-year project

COMMUNITY PARTNERS HAVE BEEN VITAL TO COMPLETING OUR NOVATO CAMPUS.

**We began clearing the way two years ago for a bold vision to complete our headquarters campus with 50 new homes and space for mission-based businesses that help people open new career paths.**

A bulldozer bit into a row of dilapidated warehouses where our plans showed the sparkling new buildings to come. Thanks to your amazing support, we're taking the final steps to push this vision to reality!

Your investment last year helped open 50 apartments to welcome veterans, families and adults transforming their futures to leave homelessness behind! All 24 units at the Puett Place veterans community and the 26 units in Sweeney Place now have tenants who proudly carry their keys.

The last big piece of the puzzle for this 2.8-acre site will be set June 5 with the Grand Opening for the innovative Gilardi Training and Events Center. Please visit [bit.ly/3R2hH24](http://bit.ly/3R2hH24) to RSVP for our event or scan the QR code on the back page.

"We hope everyone will join us to celebrate the completion of our campus and this beautiful training and events building," Chief Executive Officer Paul Fordham says. "By creating this unique space that pairs homes and supportive employment, our community has a made a nexus for transformative change."

With the arrival of more dry weather, crews have tackled the final touches with full force: new asphalt in the parking lot, landscaping for the perimeter and boxes of equipment to install at the Gilardi Center for its functions as a warehouse, shipping center, manufacturing bakery, culinary learning space and venue for events.

The finish line is in sight for this \$38 million project, with a gap of just \$300,000 to complete funding needed to open the doors.

**We're matching all gifts before June 5th**, thanks to generous support from an anonymous donor and the Weinreb Pilecki Segal Family Fund!

Together we can create a community where everyone has the chance to forge their own future through employment and the dignity of housing. Thank you for sharing this vision!

TOTAL PROJECT COST  
**\$38 million**

RAISED TO DATE  
**\$37.7 million**

## Your gift completes the vision!

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor and the Weinreb Pilecki Segal Family Fund, **every dollar up to \$40,000 will be matched** before June 5th.

Use the QR code or visit [hbofm.org/donate](http://hbofm.org/donate) to give securely online. You may also send your check to Homeward Bound of Marin, 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, 94949.





# Gilardi Center lets people set new career tracks

CHEF DAVID LEYVA AND LEAD BAKER LILY TEIXEIRA STAND IN OUR NEW BAKERY.

**Giant ovens represent only one of the ways to bake sweeter futures at our new Gilardi Training and Events Center, which celebrates its Grand Opening on Thursday, June 5th.**

Along with a manufacturing bakery, the building offers a warehouse with loading dock, dedicated teaching kitchen and two small event spaces to serve the community.

“We’ll finally have a space purpose-built for education and production,” says Matt Shapiro, Director of Training & Kitchen Operations. “There will be many more ways to expand employment where people can branch out.”

A main focus will be Wagster Treats, the premium dog biscuits made in our kitchen and sold at 150+ stores, including Pet Food Express, as well as online. As a member of Procure Impact, Wagster also has been shipped to hotels and other large companies seeking mission-based products.

Big shipments of Wagster Treats now are packed on pallets in an outdoor hallway. Our team will have the space needed to do that indoors, with a pallet jack and a dock to load shipments into a vehicle. Future business growth could open roles in managing inventory, warehouse operations, shipping and fulfillment.

“We’ll have the opportunity to optimize the workflow in ways that we can’t now because we’re tight on space,” says Sallie Miller, Director of Social Enterprise. The 10,800-square-foot building also remedies a severe lack of offices for social enterprise and culinary staff.

With large ovens and their roll-in baking racks, our team will be able to consider future opportunities like producing or shipping items for other small businesses. The larger warehouse means space to buy in bulk for better prices across our culinary operations.

“Co-packing is a definite need in the Bay Area for small businesses that are ready to expand but don’t have space, kind of like Wagster has been,” Sallie says.

Plans have begun for a schedule of hands-on culinary events for the community when the teaching kitchen is not in use by students at Fresh Starts Culinary Academy. Those could include guest teachers, workshops taught by in-house chefs and private cooking parties.

With added classes and event space, graduates can work as teaching assistants and gain skills as service captains for smaller events. The new event annexes, each with access to a trellised patio, will accommodate 44 or 84 guests.

“Coming to learn something new is a different way for people to visit our campus,” Sallie says. “And now that all the construction is done, they will be in a space that has the feeling of neighbors welcoming neighbors.”



## HOMEWARD BOUND PROGRAM MAP – 2025

### 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 single rooms

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Sweeney Place

Workforce Housing  
20 apartments

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Fireside Apartments

Mill Valley  
Partnership with  
Eden Housing  
8 senior units

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 single rooms

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Puett Place

Veterans Housing  
24 apartments

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### La Casa Buena

Corte Madera  
18 studio units

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Next Key Apartments

Novato  
25 studio units

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

#### New Beginnings Center

Novato  
80 beds

SHELTER & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

#### Transition to Wellness

Novato  
3 studio units  
(6 medical respite beds)

SHELTER SERVICES

#### Jonathan's Place Shelter

San Rafael  
38 beds

SHELTER SERVICES

### Mental Health Services

#### Palm Court

Multiple Locations  
25 beds

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

### Family Services

#### Oma Village

Novato  
14 houses (35 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Family Place

Multiple Locations  
8 units (33 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Sweeney Place

Workforce Housing  
6 units (18 beds)

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### Next Key Apartments

Novato  
4 studio units (8 beds)

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

#### Fireside Apartments

Mill Valley  
Partnership with Eden  
Housing. 10 houses (35 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

#### Family Center

San Rafael  
9 rooms (25 beds)

SHELTER SERVICES

### Job-Training Programs

#### Fresh Starts Culinary Academy

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

JOB-TRAINING PROGRAMS

#### OPENING SOON

#### Gilardi Training and Events Center

Production bakery and  
teaching kitchen

JOB-TRAINING PROGRAMS

#### Supportive Employment

Offers paid training in  
Culinary, Janitorial, Building  
Maintenance & Gardening.

JOB-TRAINING PROGRAMS





## Community Partner Spotlight: Congregation Kol Shofar

**At the Jonathan's Place shelter, volunteers from Congregation Kol Shofar in Tiburon are known as "the salmon people" for the delicious dinner prepared every month in the kitchen.**

"We figured that would be a less common option for dinner and people are so appreciative every time," says Randi Lachter, an organizer for the volunteer team.

The congregation joined our meal corps before the pandemic and returned afterward with a wider effort. Along with a monthly dinner, the group provides brunch at Jonathan's Place and the La Casa Buena housing community.

"We really enjoy the process and it was hard to let go when Covid came along," Randi says. The group eagerly waited for the opening of our rebuilt Jonathan's Place shelter in San Rafael, where we added 32 units of supportive housing.

Jonathan's Place invites volunteers into a spacious kitchen with updated appliances and a cafeteria-style service counter. "I walked in the first time and there were lots of oohs and aahs," Randi says.

A core group of 12 to 15 volunteers helps with the monthly meals, but her email list has grown to about 100. She's working to get more teenagers involved.

"We have a great relationship with the kitchen staff. We like getting to know people that we're serving for dinner," she says. The whole experience aligns with "tikkun olam," the Jewish value of "repairing the world," Randi adds.

Volunteer Karen Hirsch, who was seasoning salmon on a recent evening, says she's enjoyed cooking for the shelter over the years. "It's in my wheelhouse to cook for a party and I love bringing it here," she adds.

Brunch at Jonathan's Place has become just as active as dinner, with volunteers making fresh pancakes and fruit salad, Randi says.

The brunch crew delivers self-serve treats for La Casa Buena in Corte Madera, which provides 18 apartments. At both sites, their contributions have made an impression on residents and staff.



RANDI LACHTER (RED SHIRT)  
AND THE VOLUNTEER TEAM

"Working with Kol Shofar has been a rewarding experience from the start. They are all well-versed in using the kitchen and quick to adapt when plans change," Community Engagement Manager Andrea Rey says. "They always bring a memorable dinner experience to Jonathan's Place."



## Volunteer Spotlight: Renata Bihun

**If Renata Bihun were in baseball, she'd be known as a triple threat player. As a volunteer, her value already has outlasted many professional careers as she backs up our teams at Fresh Starts Chef Events and our New Beginnings Center shelter.**

"Homeward Bound has become like my second family, plus I have a sense of purpose being there," Renata says. "I love helping the clients and being part of new projects."

On Mondays, Renata can be found at the reception desk of the New Beginnings Center shelter. She directs visitors, answers phones and responds to resident questions, helping with office tasks along the way.

"I've only had positive days," she says. "I enjoy all the folks and it's so heartwarming to see somebody succeed."

For guests at our celebrity chef evenings, Renata offers a warm greeting as they arrive at our check-in table. It's been her station at our monthly chef events for more than 10 years.



RENATA BIHUN

"For maybe half the guests, I know their names now. It's such a nice event each time, with people who really like being there," she says.

Renata sees the events at a "fully developed" stage, compared to the early years when they felt more experimental. "Now they're really polished and some of the chefs lately are fantastic," she says. Her collection of recipes from the events, each signed by the chef, goes back to 2013!

The Covid pandemic closed volunteer opportunities at the shelter as well as the chef events, so Renata became a weekly meal carrier. She delivered food prepared at Homeward Bound for the state-sponsored Great Plates program on a delivery route around Novato.

"I really felt like I was doing something good. I still think of the people I met. It was a wonderful experience," she says. People on her delivery route gave her flowers, cookies and cards to express their gratitude for her visits.

A longtime Novato resident, Renata says she tried some short-term volunteer positions elsewhere before finding her niche with Homeward Bound. "I'm here for the long haul," she says.



## WAYS TO GIVE

### *Invest in solutions to homelessness*

You can help families and adults taking steps to rebuild their futures. Every gift for shelter, housing and training programs supports a journey toward home, health and resilience.

Honor friends and family members with a compassionate gift in their name or give monthly to invest in solutions all year. **We're matching all donations received by June 5th** to complete our campus and open the Gilardi Training and Events Center.

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

**We're grateful for your support!**

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

Make your next event memorable, rewarding and full of flavor in The Key Room! Our venue with onsite catering hosts business meetings, special occasions or all-day events. **We'll soon expand offerings with two new annexes for smaller groups!**

Our team offers seasonal menus, professional set-up and service, and top-tier audiovisual technology to allow for hybrid meetings or video. Add some fun to your event with a team-building activity 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](http://thekeyroom.com).**

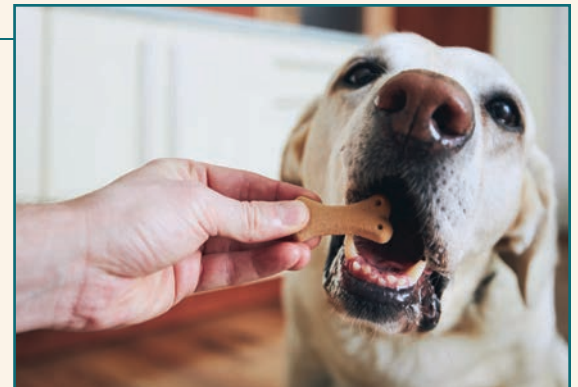


### *Spoil Your Pets with Wagster Treats*

You want the best for your pets, so we make Wagster Treats with just a few real ingredients and lots of love. Our wholesome cookies come in four flavors that dogs love, all made from stuff like apples, oats and peanut butter.

Every purchase from Wagster Treats helps our hard-working team build employment skills to strengthen their talents and create new futures. All proceeds support our shelter, housing and training programs.

**Find Wagster Treats at Pet Food Express, Whole Foods Market and independent pet retailers or buy online at [WagsterTreats.com](http://WagsterTreats.com).** We offer sales at our Admin Office too!



### *Plan a gift for the future with your bequest*

Including our programs in your estate planning ensures families and adults in crisis can access safe shelter and supportive housing for years to come.

We stand ready to help you create a personal strategy to sustain the work that we've begun together. Your contribution will maintain vital aid for unhoused neighbors and award-winning programs that help people find their way home.

Learn how you can make tax-savvy plans that leave a legacy of hope! You can make Homeward Bound a beneficiary for retirement accounts or life insurance as well as making a bequest in your will.

**Please contact Corry Kanzenberg at 415-382-2262 x216 or email [ckanzenberg@hbofm.org](mailto:ckanzenberg@hbofm.org) to learn more about any of these ways to give.**





# 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, Korean Presbyterian Church of San Rafael, 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 the La Casa Buena housing program and Jonathan's Place shelter.
- **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, along with support for La Casa Buena residents during the holidays.
- **First Congregational Church of San Rafael** for collecting pillows.

## SCHOOLS

### Thank you to:

- **St. Patrick School students** for providing "Sandwich Saturday" lunches at King Street Senior Housing, plus donating pumpkins, groceries and pizza.
- **Marin Country Day School** for providing holiday gifts for families and helping with planting and weeding in the New Beginnings Center garden.
- **Ross School students** for providing bag lunches at Jonathan's Place shelter, Voyager Carmel Center and La Casa Buena.
- **Marin Catholic High School men's lacrosse team** for donating and stuffing 700 Easter eggs for a festive event for our families.

## BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### Thank you to:

- **Outdoor Art Club** for providing meals and serving dinner monthly at Jonathan's Place shelter.
- **Southern Marin Mothers Club** for providing Thanksgiving gift cards to 100 families and useful items to the Family Center shelter.
- **Southern Marin and Mission Belles chapters of National Charity League** for providing 100 Easter baskets for our families.
- **Bank of America** for providing space for holiday giving trees, donating gifts for all 650 people in our programs and donating toiletry kits for 100 residents.
- **Salvation Army** for donating new clothing and diapers.
- **Ayawaska restaurant** for providing space for a holiday giving tree.
- **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.
- **SusieCakes and Lotus restaurant** for deliveries at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Marin Symphony** for donating concert tickets for residents at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **National Charity League** for creating holiday ornaments for our holiday giving trees.
- **Saint Hilary School** for collecting pillows for our programs.
- **Cakes4Kids** 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.
- **Rotary Clubs of Marin County** for donating and helping with assembly of furnishings for Puett Place and Sweeney Place.
- **Rotary Club of San Rafael** for donating holidays gift cards for families.

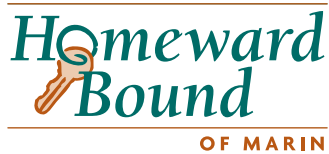
## INDIVIDUALS

### Thank you to:

- **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 bingo and other Saturday activities with residents at La Casa Buena.
- **Kathleen Sheehan** for providing movie tickets to residents at La Casa Buena and delivering the weekly schedule from the Lark Theater.
- **Anna Harp** for help with organizing our storage space.
- **Elizabeth Breitner and family** for providing families with move-in baskets.
- **Jason Nunes** for selling Wagster Treats at community events.
- **Elvira Echevarria** for volunteering to make balloon art for staff parties and help with a variety of tasks for the development team.
- **CSI Mark Denton** of the U.S. Coast Guard for sharing his skills with Fresh Starts Culinary Academy.
- **Walt Holleran, John Bischoff, Kathy Fenger and Tom Lippi** for lunchtime help at New Beginnings Center.
- **All the numerous and dedicated volunteers** who help 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.
- **Brianna and Romina Dagnino** for sponsoring holiday dinners at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Sara Henry** for co-sponsoring National Night Out and holiday events at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Joshua Chassman** and friends for sponsoring holiday dinners at Warner Creek Senior Housing.
- **Renata Bihun and Nancy Elberg** 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.
- **Renata Bihun, Elvira Echevarria, Suzanne Caprio, Viki Card, Olivia Puett, Anne Seymour, Karen Corral and Jane Sweeney** for help at Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- **Neely Wang** for sharing her talents as photographer for Fresh Starts Chef Events.
- **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 and Pat Chelini** for ongoing help with the landscaping and gardens at New Beginnings Center.
- **Victoria Sandvig, Khadija Baporia, Victoria Applegate, Richard Ferrero, Mary Fleming, Antoinette Howell, Christopher Pollock, Debra Baldassari, 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.
- **Betty Pagett** for her ongoing support at Oma Village

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

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



1385 N. Hamilton Parkway  
Novato, CA 94949

# You're Invited

to the Grand Opening of the  
Gilardi Training and Events Center!

Culinary Demos | Music | Tours | Refreshments

This innovative center will serve people advancing toward new opportunities as they overcome barriers like homelessness or incomplete education. See where we will expand mission-based businesses, offer hands-on culinary learning and serve our community with two small event spaces.

**Everyone is invited!**

**Celebrate this new space  
for learning, career growth  
and community!**

Thanks to your support, we're getting ready to cut the ribbon to launch expanded job training, supportive employment and public event programs!

**3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5th  
1385 N. Hamilton Parkway in Novato**

Scan the code to RSVP  
or visit [bit.ly/3R2hH24](https://bit.ly/3R2hH24).

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