



The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers and Student Interns

VOL 41 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

Internships Influence Careers

By Tiyona Pariani

College students **Grace Onuoma** and **Jean Marie Nshimiyimana** enjoy investigating and analyzing. As Civic Center Volunteers (CCV) interns with the Marin County District Attorney's Office, they've observed court hearings and reviewed proceedings. They have created summary reports based on original sources such as police reports, interview tapes, and medical records. Both now plan legal careers.

Most of the DA's cases are interesting, but two stand out for Grace and Jean Marie. Grace was intrigued by a purse-snatching case that required her to read police reports, analyze information, learn to use the California Penal Code, and write a summary. Jean Marie's most compelling case involved a hit-and-run collision in which a pedestrian was killed. He followed the case from the start, read all police and medical reports, analyzed facts, and learned the investigation process.

The students' mentor is Deputy District Attorney **Otis Bruce Jr.**, a long-time CCV supervisor and supporter of interns and volunteers. Otis provided resources and guidance to support successful learning about legal work. "I was really impressed with how Grace and Jean Marie both had the innate

sense of service-above-self in their efforts to receive and complete their respective projects," he said. "They exhibited true character, professionalism, and leadership."

The idea of a county internship grabbed Grace's interest when she met Internships Coordinator **Joy Fossett** at a career fair. Working with professionals, she learned about different areas of the law and discovered that the county is a good place to build a career. She plans to pursue a job in criminal justice.

Grace immigrated to the United States from Nigeria when she was in middle school. She now majors in criminal justice at San Francisco State University. While interning, she attended classes, worked as a teacher's assistant, and served as president of her sorority. She enjoys mystery novels and loves playing soccer and tennis.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OTIS BRUCE JR.

Grace Onuoma and Jean Marie Nshimiyimana

Jean Marie began his education in Rwanda, his home country. After high school, he continued at National University of Rwanda, then came to the U.S. and interned with Marin's Health and Human Services Department before the DA's Office.

Jean Marie works as a Kinyarwanda language tester for the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and at Smith Ranch Homes in San Rafael. He and his wife **Danielle Aubin** are new parents; baby Amira Rose was born in December. Currently a Santa Rosa Junior College paralegal student, his dream job is to be an immigration lawyer.

CCV STAFF

Anne Starr, Coordinator of Volunteers
415-473-7167 • AS Starr@marincounty.org

Joy Fossett, Student Internships Coordinator
415-473-7447 • JFossett@marincounty.org

Robyn Madias, Administrative Assistant
415-473-7407 • RMadias@marincounty.org

VOLUNTEERS

Writers: **Shirley Trimble**, **Tiyona Pariani**

Copy Editor: **Pamela Ross**

Design Consultant: **Eleanor Lau**

Graphic Design Aide: **Bobby Wood**

Database Consultant: **Steve Sarhad**

Administrative Aides: **Joanne Elder**, **Deborah Gregor**

VOLUNTEER NOTES

National Volunteer Week

April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week, the perfect time to thank the dedicated volunteers and interns who embody the spirit of service across our county organization. See page 3 for an article about volunteer impact that includes appreciative comments from the president of the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

We Remember

Civic Center Volunteer **Giuseppe 'Joe' Grasso**, 73, died recently after a brief illness. A Marin Center usher since 1997, he was known for his kindness and dedication. "He was a fabulous, generous person, always contributing to the usher team and to the community. He will be hugely missed," said Event Coordinator **Grania Flanagan** of the Cultural Services Department. Joe, who immigrated from Italy with his family in 1955, was a civil engineer and a passionate gardener.

High School Ambassadors Boost Teen Girl Conference Success

PHOTO BY AMANDA GREY



High school interns serving as teen ambassadors helped make the 2018 Marin Teen Girl Conference a success. As they planned and organized the event, they built skills and bonded as a team. The girls gathered in-kind donations, found sponsors, invited speakers, and comminated with workshop facilitators. They also spread the word about the event at their schools and on social media. On event day, ambassadors greeted attendees, supported facilitators, and served as emcees. The conference is sponsored by the Marin Women's Commission.

College intern Katie Smith helped coordinate the March 25 event. **L to R, back row:** Pilar Goodman, Caroline Herdman, Mia Tokarski, Audrey Tuck, Lily Carbullido, Molly Gibson, Shannon Lafon, Liza Poolsykin, Sonia Saltzman, Maddie O'Keefe, Hannah Reiter. **Middle:** Samantha Newman, Makena Cussick. **Front:** Georgia Cox, Nicole Fuchs, Claire Stephens, Sophia Rocha, Leah Fullerton, Kathia Monterrosa, Georgia Lee, Sierra Cussick. The teen ambassdors and Katie are all student interns with the Civic Center Volunteers program.

Who's New & Welcome!

Varun Araldas (San Rafael), Children's Room Teen Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Anya Bodine-McCoy (San Anselmo), Student Service Intern, Fairfax Library

Joan Clemmons (San Rafael), Ombudsman Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Zakhary Cunningham (Novato), Human Resources Intern, Human Resources (HR)

Sierra Cusick (Woodacre), Marin Teen Girl Ambassador, HR

Stan Green (Greenbrae), Program Consultant, HR

Arlene Heitner (Mill Valley), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

Caroline Herdman (Mill Valley), Marin Teen Girl Ambassador, HR

David Hernandez-Deras (San Pablo), Administrative Intern, HHS

Sally Hutchinson (Inverness), English as Second Language Tutor, Point Reyes Library

Shannon Lafon (Corte Madera), Marin Teen Girl Ambassador, HR

Satvik Namburu (San Rafael), Children's Room Teen Volunteer, South Novato Library

Karthik Raju (Menlo Park), Volunteer Attorney, Public Defender's Office (PD)

Christina Reyes Loya (San Francisco) Post-Bar Law Clerk, PD

Hannah Reiter (San Rafael), Marin Teen Girl Ambassador, HR

Sophia Rocha (Greenbrae), Marin Teen Girl Ambassador, HR

Grace Rodriguez (San Anselmo), Tobacco Prevention & Education Intern, HHS

Kenneth Sharpe (San Anselmo), Ombudsman Volunteer, HHS

Claire Stephens (Novato), Marin Teen Girl Ambassador, HR

Janice Stillman (San Francisco), Post-Bar Law Clerk, PD

Alex Thayer (San Francisco), Post-Bar Law Clerk, PD

Mia Tokarski (Mill Valley), Marin Teen Girl Ambassador, HR

Bobby Wood (San Rafael), Graphic Design Aide, HR

Board Praises Volunteer and Intern Impact

The Board of Supervisors has accepted the 2016-2017 Civic Center Volunteers (CCV) annual impact report, which was presented by the Department of Human Resources on March 13. A copy was emailed to all active volunteers and interns.

“It’s hard to overstate the benefit the people of this county derive from the volunteers who serve our departments through Civic Center Volunteers,” said Board President **Damon Connolly**. “How do you put a dollar amount on 321 volunteer medical professionals training and standing at the ready on the Medical Reserve Corps in the event of a natural disaster, or 65 people who volunteer on the Sheriff’s Search and Rescue team? We could not maintain the natural beauty and health of our open space without volunteers who pull weeds and clear trails and we had 2,404 of them putting in almost 10,000 hours. The list goes on, and the Board thanks each and every one of them!”

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, 7,544 volunteers and student interns

served 238,842 hours across the county organization.

The annual report has a new feature: for the first time, intern figures are separately listed.

Fourteen county departments hosted internships, utilizing the program to promote their fields to students from diverse backgrounds. Unpaid interns are mentored by staff members and learn about the fields they are interested in while gaining experience. A few departments also offer paid internships, listed in the report as well.

Meanwhile, volunteers contribute across county departments, enhancing services to Marin residents. One example: Library Beyond Walls liaisons deliver books from library branches to homebound patrons, a direct service made possible by volunteers. Volunteers also engage in behind-the-scenes support and consultant roles, advancing projects that otherwise would remain on the shelf.

The CCV program manages partnerships between community members and



the county, engaging the talents and energies of volunteers in satisfying roles.

Now in its 39th year, the program’s inclusionary principles remain strong. To get involved, visit www.marincounty.org and enter the keywords *volunteers* or *internship*, or contact **Anne Starr** at 415-473-7167 or astarr@marincounty.org for volunteering and **Joy Fossett** at 415-473-7447 or jfossett@marincounty.org for student internships.

Youth Volunteer Sets Sights High

By Shirley Trimble

Miller Creek Middle School eighth grader **Satvik Namburu** has a passion for volunteering at the Marin County Free Library and has earned high praise from staff supervisors in three library programs. He first came to the library summer reading program when he was just 9. “One day, I thought I could help other kids in the program,” he explained.

For three consecutive summers, Satvik, now 13, along with a dozen other students, has helped Children’s Librarian **Kathleen Fitzhugh Remitz** with the popular Summer Reading Challenge, which draws participation from 500 kids. The youth volunteers sign up children for the challenge at the Civic Center branch, explain the rules, and dispense

prizes. “Satvik is totally professional, self-directed, inquisitive, and fun to work with. He is a great asset,” said Kathleen.

Satvik also belongs to the Library Teen Advisory Group, students in grades 6 through 12 who advise Teen Services Librarian **Natalie Mallett** about programs and services they’d like to see at the Civic Center branch. Members also organize summer crafts and movies, run the Teen Summer Challenge Program, shelve books, and write book reviews. Natalie said, “Satvik played a big role in coming up with and executing community service projects. He is creative, reliable, personable, and very ambitious in the projects he takes on.”



Satvik Namburu in action at makerspace

Recently Satvik began assisting at the South Novato Library Makerspace, where he sets up tools and materials for hands-on projects for children

(continued on next page)

Happy Anniversary!

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their involvement.

25 YEARS

Art Marthinsen (San Rafael), Health Consultant, Community Development Agency

23 YEARS

Linda Davis (Sausalito), Consumer Mediator, District Attorney

21 YEARS

Shirley Trimble (Mill Valley), Volunteer View Newsletter Writer, Human Resources (HR); **Dan Healy** (Woodacre), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS), Sheriff

15 YEARS

James Selfridge (San Anselmo), Aide, Fire

13 YEARS

Tom Zarraonandia (Novato), Steward, Parks

12 YEARS

Sue Baty (Point Reyes), Knitting Instructor, Point Reyes Library; **Emily Cushman** (San Rafael), Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff

10 YEARS

Karen Atkinson (San Carlos), Larry Atkinson (San Carlos), **Catherine Way** (Larkspur), Search & Rescue Volunteers, Sheriff; **Susan Bunker** (San Rafael), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Library

8 YEARS

Genny Duffin (Sonoma), **Janice Dushkes** (San Rafael), **Jill Engelbrecht** (Corte Madera), **Erica**

Schafer (San Anselmo), Senior Peer Counselors, Health & Human Services (HHS); **Scott McDaniel** (San Rafael), Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff

7 YEARS

Richard McGrath (San Rafael), Flag Raiser, Cultural Services; **Robert Gehlen** (San Rafael), **Rich Shelton** (Tiburon), Search & Rescue Volunteers, Sheriff; **Rick Bartolacelli** (San Rafael) California Room Docent, Civic Center Library

6 YEARS

Deborah Gregor (Novato), **Frankie Baxter** (Mill Valley), Event Aides, HR; **Terry Norton** (San Anselmo), **Kathryn Thyret** (Mill Valley), Ombudsman Volunteers, HHS

5 YEARS

Bruce Bowser (Bolinas), **Duncan Hopkins** (Bolinas), Stewards, Parks; **Scott Mullen** (San Rafael), **Rory O'Connor** (San Rafael), Search & Rescue Volunteers, Sheriff; **Larken Bradley** (San Rafael), **Katie Yanow** (San Anselmo), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS; **Lisa Jack** (Novato), Shelver, Novato Library

4 YEARS

Roberta Cohen (Mill Valley), **Arlene Heitner** (Mill Valley), **Elizabeth Ferris** (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS; **Cachitin Brister** (San Rafael), Chaplain, Sheriff; **Steven Davis** (Penngrove) Incident Management Team Volunteer, Fire

3 YEARS

Valerie Lels (Kentfield), Financial Abuse Services Team (FAST) Volunteer, HHS; **Susan Conard** (Forest Knolls), Administrative Assistant, HHS; **Timothy Holmes** (San Rafael), **Sarah Loughran** (San Rafael), Search & Rescue Volunteers, Sheriff; **Liam Anderson** (Corte Madera), **Miles Grisman** (Fairfax), **Jesse Keefe** (Mill Valley), **Ryan Phillips** (San Rafael), **Jesse Smith** (San Anselmo), Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, Sheriff; **Christine Camilleri** (Novato), Mounted Patrol, Parks; **Nancy Oswald** (San Anselmo), Administrative Assistant, HHS

2 YEARS

Paul Minault (San Rafael), Steward, Parks; **Austin Patel** (Kentfield), Teen Coding Instructor, Corte Madera Library; **Nancy Roen** (Woodacre), Aide, Fairfax Library; **Mark Stoering** (Tomasales) Volunteer Firefighter, Fire; **Robert Burns** (San Rafael), **David Gannon** (Corte Madera), **Trinity Leonard** (Mill Valley); **Timothy Mahoney** (Fairfax), **Marion Matthews** (Petaluma), **Jon Mellberg** (Kentfield), **Josh Rogers III** (San Rafael), Search & Rescue Volunteers, Sheriff; **Joey Mellberg** (Kentfield), **Sean Sweeny** (Larkspur), Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, Sheriff

1 YEAR

Linka Watridge (Corte Madera), Event Aide, HR

Youth Volunteer

(continued from page 3)

ages 2 through 12. Supervised by Librarian **Adrienne Graham** and Library Community Specialist **Sara Bolduc**, he helps teach participants. "Satvik is a resourceful and creative maker who inspires others with the

fun and engaging projects he makes from recycled materials," said Sara.

"I like to help people. It gives me a sense of accomplishment," said Satvik, who also volunteers with Miller Creek School's Site Council. He is part of Youth Empowerment Service, which

encourages student volunteering. He plays soccer, tennis, and chess, belongs to the Honor Society, enjoys reading, and loves to make balloon animals. With his parents and younger sister, he visits India on alternate years to see his grandparents and other relatives.

Civic Center Volunteers
Marin County Human Resources
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 415
San Rafael, CA 94903

