

The Volunteer View

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

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Legal Intern Learns About Justice System, Focuses Career

By Mandy Behbehani

Like many young people, San Rafael native **Veronika Cuddy** watched a full complement of law and order and police procedural shows on television and found herself thinking how awesome a career in the legal field would be. Unlike many of her peers, Veronika did something about it.

Trying to settle on a career path and needing to fulfill credits for her degree in English from Dominican University (she graduated in August), Veronika applied for a volunteer internship at the Marin County District Attorney's Office. She started in June.

"It's such an incredible opportunity," said Veronika. "I knew after the first day of following my supervisor around that criminal law was something I wanted to do with my life."

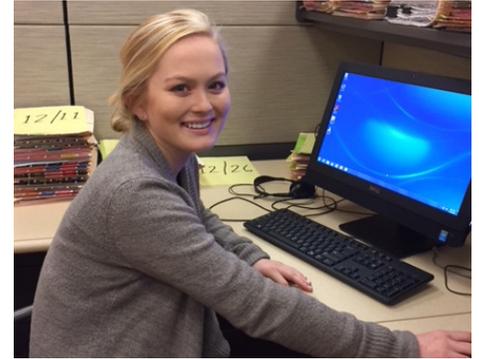
Her original goal was to meet a 40-hour internship requirement for school, but Veronika has completed nearly 400 hours so far and has chosen to continue as she waits to start law school in the fall. After applying to three Bay Area

schools in October, she is "super excited" to have been accepted at one and is waiting to hear from the others.

"Law was something that always interested me," said Veronika. "I always thought it would be amazing to be a detective, to have a job that is rewarding and helps the community. Our world is changing so much and we need to refocus our humanity, and having a job in public service to contribute to the greater good is something I want for myself."

At the DA's office, Veronika works closely with the deputy district attorneys to help them prepare for hearings and jury trials, reviewing video and audio recordings, digesting police reports, organizing and managing discovery materials, and analyzing witness statements.

"The 29 lawyers here find that volunteer and intern help is invaluable," said her staff supervisor, Deputy District Attorney **Tom McCallister**. "Veronika possesses excellent analytical and



Veronika at the Marin County DA's Office

PHOTO BY MANDY BEHBEHANI

organizational skills, has a keen sense of what true justice means, and quickly grasps the nuances of complex material."

Veronika said what she's learned is also invaluable. "I came into this internship thinking prosecutors are all trying to put everyone in jail, and my time here has completely reversed my understanding of how the criminal law and justice systems work. Everyone here is human and wants to work with defense attorneys, judges, and defendants to create the most just solution for everyone."

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The mission of the Civic Center Volunteers program is to manage an effective partnership between community volunteers and County of Marin government.

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Civic Center Volunteers Nominated for Community Honor

Three CCVs participants are in the running for honors at the 25th annual Heart of Marin, a community event attended by about 800 people. Senior Peer Counselor **Josefina Perez**, who serves in the Health and Human Services Department, is our nominee for Volunteer of the Year. High school students **Yessenia Hernandez**, Public Defender's Office, and **Kobe Pole**, Sheriff's Search and Rescue team, are Youth Volunteer of the Year nominees. Congratulations, all!

Happy New Year!

Best wishes for 2018! Have you resolved to make a positive difference? Check the volunteer opportunities featured on page 4 – and for more, click here or google "Marin Civic Center Volunteers." Don't see a match for your skills and interests? Sometimes we can design a role. To explore possibilities, call us at 415-473-7407.

Holidays

County offices will be closed Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day and Monday, January 15 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Teen Girl Ambassadors Support Others, Build Team Spirit

PHOTO BY AMANDA GRAY



Teens sort donated clothes from County of Marin employees for Bloom, a San Rafael nonprofit that helps clients move toward self-reliance.

Student interns on the Marin Teen Girl Ambassadors team recently completed a special project that helps people working their way toward financial independence.

After a clothing drive at the Marin Civic Center, the teens sorted hundreds of shirts, skirts, and pants, transforming tall mounds of clothes into neat stacks for delivery to a local nonprofit, Bloom (formerly Image for Success). As they made joint decisions about donated

items, the interns became better acquainted, which helped them work efficiently and build team spirit.

Novato High/Marin School of the Arts junior **Georgia Lee** called it a “bonding experience that helped us appreciate the art of volunteering.” Tam High junior **Khadija Nakhuda** felt good because “we were helping such a good cause.”

The ambassadors are 28 girls from 13 middle and high schools. Sponsored

by the Marin Women’s Commission, the team’s main purpose is providing support for the annual Teen Girls Conference to be held Sunday, March 25. For details, visit marinteengirl.org or call the team’s supervisor, **Chris Shaw** of Human Resources at 415-473-6189.

The successful clothing drive was sponsored by the Marin Asian-American Public Local Employees, a county staff affinity group.



Tell a Vet: Resources and Coaching Available

Did you know that a trained volunteer coach is ready to help local military veterans with services and benefits? Civic Center Volunteer **Mark Seely**’s number is (865) 201-4047.

Call for details, an individual appointment, or drop-in hours at the Civic Center Library.

Who’s New & Welcome!

Angela Cox-Parra (San Rafael), High School Intern, Public Defender’s Office

Palden Flynn (Hanover, NH), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney’s Office

John Hammond (San Rafael), Adopt-A-Spot Team Leader, Public Works

Valerie Lels (Kentfield), Volunteer Attorney, District Attorney’s Office

Claudia Lowder (Mill Valley), Aide, Corte Madera Library

Dhruv Pareek (San Rafael), Teen Program Intern, Civic Center Library

Lynda Pearson (Mill Valley), Video Consultant, Human Resources

Patrick Troubetzkoy (Pacifica), Photographer, Human Resources

Coral Vargas (Richmond), Behavioral Health Recovery Services Assistant, Health & Human Services

Human Resources Intern Analyzes Hiring Data

By Robyn Madias

Human Resources intern **Amandine Lienhart** moved to the United States from France a year ago to work as an au pair and improve her English language skills. She found an opportunity to intern with the county's Human Resources Department – and is about to begin paid work for a private company using her HR skills.

In France, Amandine worked in HR administration and studied HR management. While she gained work experience, her company supported her educational advancement. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in HR management. Her thesis focused on equal employment and diversity, which prepared her well for her internship with Marin Equal Employment Opportunity Director **Roger Crawford** of the county's HR Department.

Amandine analyzes large sets of hiring data used to create equal employment reports. The reports, which show improvements in diversity hiring practices, are presented to the Marin

Women's Commission, Personnel Commission, and Human Rights Commission. Amandine said her most interesting project was creating a new way to view data; she developed graphs that reflect the salaries of men and women within the county organization.

Asked why she chose an HR internship, she replied, "I like HR because it's always different. There's a lot to learn, and it also impacts the company. I wanted to get back into HR work because I was missing it. I also wanted to work in an English-speaking environment to improve my language skills. The people here are so nice and I've learned a lot."

Her staff supervisor, Human Resources Technician **Khanh Huynh**, commented, "Amandine has been an impressive intern who checks our data for accuracy. She's also a great teacher and has taught me new ways of computing data and viewing salary data with the charts and tables. She's very intelligent, patient, and has an abundance of equal employment

knowledge and data analytics through her experience and education. Amandine has been wonderful and so easy to work with. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with such an individual."

In February, Amandine will begin a new job with a small French cheese company in San Francisco, where she will serve in a human resources and accounting role.

Inspired by her internship, her ultimate goal is to work in human resources in equal employment. She enjoys cooking and traveling, and plans to visit Miami and Hawaii soon.



Amandine Lienhart

PHOTO BY ROBYN MADIAS

Happy Anniversary!

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

42 YEARS

Connie Berto (San Anselmo), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

36 YEARS

Rich Carbine (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteer, Sheriff

24 YEARS

Steven Post (San Francisco), Fire Lookout, Fire

21 YEARS

B.K. Cooper (Novato), Rigging Manager, Urban Search and Rescue

15 YEARS

Faith Brown (Tiburon), Steward, Parks

14 YEARS

Ruth Norstad (Corte Madera), Preservationist, Corte Madera Library

12 YEARS

David Albert (Tiburon) and **Sudy Schneider** (Tiburon), Stewards, Parks

11 YEARS

Jean Walker (San Rafael), LBW Liaison, Library; **David Barker** (Tiburon) and **Mick Seaman** (Belvedere), Stewards, Parks

8 YEARS

John Teasley (Corte Madera), Tutor, Corte Madera Library; **Ben Sampietro** (Tombales) and **Galen Leeds** (Tombales), Volunteer Firefighters, Tombales Fire Department

7 YEARS

Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Patrol Volunteer, Parks; **Geoffrey Dugmore** (Petaluma), Sheriff Chaplain, Sheriff

5 YEARS

Diana Johnson (Fairfax), Aide, Fairfax Library

4 YEARS

Kurt Ellison (San Rafael) and **Richard McGrath** (San Rafael), Stewards, Parks

3 YEARS

Helen Beck (Mill Valley), **Ray De Leon** (Greenbrae), and **Dayna Ehlen** (San Rafael), Ombudsmen Volunteers,

HHS; **Helen Imrie** (San Rafael), Administrative Aide, HHS; **Jeff Davidson** (Novato), Incident Management Team Volunteer, Fire; **Ruth Nash** (Larkspur), Environmental Steward, Parks; **Robert Ireson** (Greenbrae), RACES/ACS Volunteer, Sheriff

2 YEARS

Donna Lew (Kentfield) and **Robert Simon** (Kentfield), Wildlife Picture Index Volunteers, Parks; **Tamayo Sato** (San Rafael), Spanish Conversation Club Leader, Novato Library; **Cassandra Zigounakis** (Inverness), Shelver, Inverness Library; **Mark Seely** (Sausalito), Veterans Benefits Coach, South Novato Library

1 YEAR

Willow Taraja (Boyes Hot Springs), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Library; **Roy Fidler** (San Rafael), Tour Docent, Cultural Services; **Judith Santos** (San Rafael), Teen Program Intern, Civic Center Library; **Veronica Morino** (San Rafael), Event Aide, Human Resources; **Rebecca Wilson** (Fairfax), English Tutor, Novato Library; **Loretta Farley** (Point Reyes), Library Program Assistant, Point Reyes Library

Featured Volunteer Opportunities

View our volunteer or intern opportunities online at marincounty.org/volunteer. Register for specific opportunities or complete an online application. Don't see anything that interests you? Send a resume to RMadias@marincounty.org. We'll discuss your experience and interests and try to create an opportunity best suited for you. Questions? Call 415-473-7407.



Adopt-A-Spot Volunteer

Adopt-A-Spot partners with the Department of Public Works and the residents and merchants in your local community. Volunteers of all ages come together to remove litter from the streets, sidewalks, and storm drain openings. If you're interested in helping, please contact **Angela Clapp** at 415-473-3202 or aclapp@marincounty.org.



Parks & Open Space Volunteers

Marin County Parks has abundant opportunities for volunteers. May assist with maintaining a habitat restoration site, trail, or an entire park. Volunteer Coordinators **Kirk Schroeder** (KSchroeder@marincounty.org) and **Greg Reza** (GReza@marincounty.org) can work with you on a project that matches your skills and commitment.



Senior Access Reader

Volunteers work with a group of elderly library patrons reading stories and materials to them every Thursday from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Novato. Ideal volunteer loves stories, is comfortable with public speaking, and is an expressive speaker. Some listeners are hearing impaired, so the ability to speak loudly and articulate with energy is essential.

Civic Center Volunteers
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