

# The Volunteer View

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

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## VOLUNTEER NOTES

### Event Team Wants You!

Do you enjoy making things happen at seasonal and annual events? The Civic Center Volunteers Event Team seeks you! This team supports positive County of Marin activities such as career development days, nutrition fairs, and volunteer recognition. Roles include set-up, greeting, and registration. You'll choose the dates that fit your schedule. Interested? Call us at 415-473-7167.

### Time for Hours

If you aren't on an automatic schedule or having your hours collected by a group leader, please keep your volunteer or intern record current by reporting your April service hours now. Log in to your online account, select the Log Book button, and record your time. Your hours will be included -- by department -- in the CCV impact report. Need some help? Call **Robyn Madias**, 415-473-7407.

### Holiday

County offices will be closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 28.

### CCV STAFF

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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 of Year Leads Disaster-Prep Efforts

By Mandy Behbehani

PHOTO BY ANNE STARR



"We are absolutely guaranteed to have a disaster bigger than Katrina," says Civic Center Volunteer **Frank Cox**, passion for his subject easily detectable

in his voice. "We expect the big fire to happen here as it did in Sonoma County—and the likelihood of a high-magnitude earthquake hitting the state of California in the next 30 years is 99%. By one estimate, 200,000 residents in the Bay Area will be displaced by a major earthquake,"

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## Families in Crisis Assisted by Intern of Year

By Tiyona Pariani

PHOTO BY LOREN ROTHERY



**Andrew Peasley**, a child welfare intern with the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is the Civic Center Volunteers 2017-2018 Student Intern of the Year in recognition of his extraordinary dedication and advocacy for vulnerable residents. Andrew helps investigate reports of child abuse and

neglect. He conducts interviews, makes assessments, and completes court reports. He has even responded in the middle of the night when help is needed to keep a child safe.

For Andrew, each day as an intern brings different challenges, learning opportunities, and chances to try something new. He said his role with the Child and Family Services (CFS) division is among the most engaging, interesting, and mentally and emotionally challenging experiences he has faced.

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## Supervisor of Year Supports Interns, Volunteers

By Katie Smith

PHOTO BY ANNE STARR



Equal Employment Specialist **Chris Shaw** is the Civic Center Volunteers 2017-2018 Staff Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year for the exceptional support she provides to volunteers serving with Marin County's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) team. Chris mentors a team of local high school students who help plan and produce the Marin Teen Girl Conference, held each March

and sponsored by the Marin Women's Commission. She also supports volunteers who assist with events and projects of the EEO office, which is part of the Human Resources Department.

"Chris is an enthusiastic proponent of working with volunteers and interns. She has a knack for identifying volunteer talent and using this valuable resource to enhance our work in the EEO Division," said her own supervisor, EEO Officer **Roger Crawford**. "When mentoring youth, she provides a basic

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## Intern of the Year

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Andrew constantly assesses family strengths and needs to connect families with resources that will help them stay together if possible. Working collaboratively with extended family members and service providers, he also develops safety plans to minimize risks of child abuse and neglect. In cooperation with the CFS team, he collaborates with local law enforcement agencies, mental health professionals, school staff, and medical staff.

Andrew decided to intern for the county on the recommendation of a friend who had interned in Marin and had amazing things to say about the experience.

Andrew's supervisor is Senior Child Welfare Worker **Melanie Schmidt**. He said he is inspired by her ability to engage with families respectfully and empathetically. Whenever



HHS intern Andrew Peasley takes a call.

needed, Andrew has received support from his supervisor and other people across the department.

Andrew received his bachelor's degree in environmental studies at UC Santa Cruz in 2010. Currently working on his master's degree in social work with an emphasis in child welfare at San Francisco State University, he expects to graduate this month. His education and training prepare him to assist children and families in the child welfare system.

Apart from grad school and interning, Andrew loves backpacking, hiking, birdwatching, gardening, and spending time outdoors. He also plays pick-up basketball and ping pong. After this internship, Andrew hopes to work for the County of Marin with the Children and Family Services division in the Health and Human Services Department.

## Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year

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outline of instruction and supports creativity and hands-on learning.”

Chris has a developmental psychology degree, a Montessori teaching certificate, and has worked in the commercial insurance field. She taps this varied

background as she mentors, teaches, and keeps projects organized. As a mentor, she makes sure that students have interesting challenges that keep them learning. With volunteers, she is welcoming and clear about work plans. With everyone, she demonstrates positive energy, a can-do spirit, and sincere appreciation.

Chris views working relationships as a give-and-take of information and learning, allowing the supervisor and volunteers to learn from each other. She tailors assignments to individuals. For example, each Marin Teen Girl Ambassador is matched with a workshop or exhibit role, and Chris works with them to identify goals and tasks.

She has gradually increased responsibility for students and plans to teach them to run their own ambassador meetings. Her desire is to help create leaders.

Asked about the most interesting part of her job, Chris said, “I have been very lucky. The majority my interns and

volunteers have always blown away my expectations. I have a lot of confidence in everyone that I work with. I give a goal and/or a project and encourage them to figure out how to reach that goal.” She loves working with people who enjoy learning and expanding their horizons.

Outside work, Chris enjoys arts and crafts and spending time with her family.

She believes fellow employees can benefit from including volunteers and interns, who bring new perspectives and dimensions to work teams. She said they enhance her own efforts tremendously. “Involving volunteers and interns isn't about handing off work to others, it's about collaborating and creating enhanced results,” she explained.

Chris works closely with Civic Center Volunteers program coordinators **Joy Fossett** and **Anne Starr** to develop roles and recruit strong candidates. County employees interested in engaging interns and volunteers are welcome to call 415-473-7407.



Chris Shaw of Human Resources discusses a project with student intern Katie Smith.

# Volunteer of the Year

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he adds. “The most important responsibility of the government is to keep people safe and functional.”

To achieve that, Frank makes it his personal quest to help Marin get ready. For outstanding service in a role with countywide impact, he is the Civic Center Volunteers 2017-2018 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

An auxiliary member of the Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services (OES), this former chief deputy Marin County public defender (he retired in 2004) volunteers indefatigably to train county staff, who are, by law, required to be service workers if assigned during disasters. He created and teaches a Disaster Service Worker training for county employees.

“Frank took a basic training program to a whole other level,” said his staff supervisor, Emergency Services Manager **Chris Reilly** of the Sheriff’s Office. “He’s added so much value and makes the class fun. He knows so much.”

Frank also is an appointed member of the Marin County Disaster and Citizens Corps Council and co-chair of the council’s Public Disaster, Education and Preparedness Committee. As part of his quest to get Marin ready, he makes emergency-preparedness presentations

to community groups, and he wants the county to support an emergency volunteer center where people could offer their skills during a disaster. “Well over 1,000 volunteers showed up to help during the wildfires but most had no training. You need some structure to be deployed,” he said. “People have to be fed and supervised or you end up with chaos.”

And that is what he fights hard to avoid. “Individuals, families, and communities must be prepared to survive on their own for a long time,” he said. “It’s critical to have a resilient community in which neighbors know neighbors and are trained to work with community services. In an earthquake you can count on three systems breaking down: the water going in, the sewage going out, and the gas and power going in. Civilization can break down.”

Frank was still a public defender in 1991 when, after the Oakland Hills fire, the Marin Office of Emergency Services was seeking more trained disaster workers. Though working 70-hour weeks, “I said straightaway I would,” said Frank. His first deployment was the 1995 Vision Fire, which burned more than 12,000 acres on the Point Reyes peninsula. Frank has since given

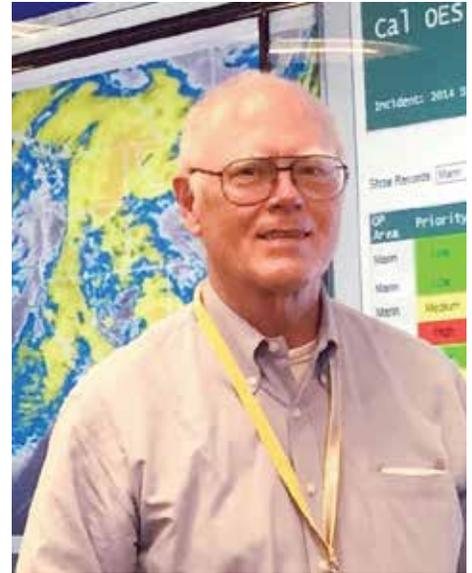


PHOTO BY ERIN COCHRAN

CCV Frank Cox on duty at Marin’s Emergency Operations Center during a winter storm.

over 10,000 hours, including full weeks of service during disasters.

He earned his law degree at the University of San Francisco Law School. He also volunteers for his parish and the Audubon Society, and is a martial arts practitioner.

“I feel a deep commitment to this mission,” he said of his county role. “It’s not about me; it’s about our community, our families. We have to work together and care.”

For practical ideas and get-ready checklists, please visit [readymarin.org](http://readymarin.org) and [firesafemarin.org](http://firesafemarin.org).

## Who’s New & Welcome!

**Chance Addis** (Fairfax), Teen Service Intern, Fairfax Library

**Tracey Ayres** (San Anselmo), Event Aide, Human Resources

**Ami Bluestone** (Fairfax), Teen Advisory Group Intern, Fairfax Library

**Tyler Colenbrander** (Novato), County Airport Sign Project Intern, Department of Public Works

**Max Duran** (San Anselmo), Student Service Intern, Fairfax Library

**Sophia Fugazzotto** (Fairfax), Student Service Intern, Fairfax Library

**Natasha Galvez** (Rohnert Park), Volunteer Law Clerk, County Counsel.

**Rocket R** (San Anselmo), Student Service Intern, Fairfax Library

**Sandra Rubio** (Corte Madera), Preservationist and Shelver, Corte Madera Library

**Gabriella Vasquez** (Novato), Teen Shelver, Novato Library

# Happy Anniversary!

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

## 25 YEARS

**Hali Mundy** (Fairfax), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks (Parks)

## 20 YEARS

**Eric Cutler** (Tomas), Volunteer Chief Firefighter, Tomas Station, Fire Department

## 19 YEARS

**Noel Ryan** (Novato), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services Department

## 17 YEARS

**Alice Wallace** (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

## 14 YEARS

**Jim Mann** (Novato), Driver, Fire Department  
**Janet Mercer** (Mill Valley), **Wallis Smith** (Novato), Library Beyond Walls (LBW) Liaisons, Library

## 13 YEARS

**Janice Hitchcock** (Novato), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)  
**Blossom Young** (San Rafael), Aide, Corte Madera Library

## 9 YEARS

**Pat Williams** (Corte Madera), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

## 8 YEARS

**Hans Adler** (Mill Valley), **Michele Boudinot** (Corte Madera), **Diane Cokely** (San Anselmo), **Oak Dowling** (San Rafael), **Kathleen Forte** (Tiburon), **Irwin Gubman** (Mill Valley), **Roberta Robinson** (San Anselmo), **Paul Roye** (Greenbrae), **Sylvia Roye** (Greenbrae), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteers, HHS

**Anne Marie Mannisto** (Novato), California Room Aide, Civic Center Library

## 7 YEARS

**Carl Nolte** (San Francisco), **Gary Yost** (Mill Valley), Fire Lookouts, Fire Department

## 6 YEARS

**Mark Hudson** (Mill Valley), Attorney, Public Defender's Office

## 5 YEARS

**Linda Blackwood** (Forest Knolls), **Martin Grant** (Greenbrae), **Tom Jordan** (Corte Madera), **Kathleen Kopp** (Santa Rosa), **Peter Lofting** (Petaluma), **Thomas O'Neill** (Tiburon), **James Okumura** (Point Reyes Station), **Bob Stein** (San Anselmo), **Michael Warner** (Petaluma), Fire Lookouts, Fire Department

## 4 YEARS

**Scott Mathewson** (Novato), Open Space Steward, Parks

## 3 YEARS

**Jim Clark** (Larkspur), Fire Lookout, Fire Department  
**Karen Eaton** (Belvedere), Project Independence Volunteer, HHS  
**Jaclyn Vaishville** (Windsor), Coroner Intern, Sheriff

## 2 YEARS

**Jim Freed** (Sebastopol), Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff  
**Ned D'Angelo** (Corte Madera), Steward, Parks  
**Hayley Bowman** (San Francisco), **Wendy Hoffman** (Redwood City), **John Howard** (Redwood City), **Steve Johnson** (Pacifica), **Ira Leibin** (Oakland), **Peter Van der Nailen** (Oakland), **Steve O'Keefe** (Novato), **Joe Fay** (Mill Valley), **Rory Hewitt** (San Francisco), **Johanna Ostling** (Novato), **Mario Parnell** (Mill Valley), **Becky Sterling-Fay** (Mill Valley), Fire Lookouts, Fire Department  
**Audrey Van Hoven** (Novato), Spanish Tutor, Novato Library

## 1 YEAR

**Jackie Whelan** (Corte Madera), FAST Volunteer, HHS  
**Stanton Klose** (San Rafael), *Frankly Speaking* Copy Editor, Human Resources  
**Marjorie Donalds** (San Rafael), **Marlene Philley** (Corte Madera), **Eliza Warde** (Forest Knolls), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS  
**Carol Neel** (San Rafael), Administrative Aide, Cultural Services Department

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