



The Volunteer View

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

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VOLUNTEER NOTES

Volunteers Boost Fair

About 600 individuals will augment staff efforts before, during, and after this year's Marin County Fair. They will help receive tens of thousands of exhibits ranging from homemade jam to original art. They will apply winner ribbons, help set up displays, and greet visitors. After the fair, they'll help return exhibit items to exhibitors. Fair Manager **Charlie Barboni** says volunteers are "integral to the fair. We have a deep appreciation for them."

Count Your Summer Time

Friendly reminder: Log in to your online profile to record your service time through June 30. Your hours will be included in a report sorted by department, and your record helps reflect your team's impact.

Note: No need to report hours if your department tracks time for you. (Examples: Marin Center ushers, Marin County Fair volunteers, etc.) And no need to report if you have a regular service pattern and have been told that your record is "on a schedule."

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Grad Student Learns about Health System

By Tiyona Pariani

While participating in a practical internship with Marin's Health and Human Services Department, graduate student **Colleen Horowitz** has completed two projects for the department's Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) program. The goal of one project was to identify gaps in health care and other services received by children with special needs. The other focused on identifying workplace barriers experienced by low-wage breastfeeding mothers with regards to pumping and lactation accommodation.

"I was really able to see how public health is practiced in Marin and learned the importance of the relationship between

the county and its collaborative organizations," said Colleen. "While MCAH does not provide direct patient services, staff members do make recommendations on how to improve the health outcomes of the populations they serve. In turn, the collaborative organizations work with the county to



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEEN HOROWITZ

Colleen Horowitz

Intern Supports Victims of Crime

By Tiyona Pariani

Jennifer Flores serves as an intern every Friday at the District Attorney's Office for the victim witness unit since August 2018. There she works on Marsy's letters for victims of crime and on protective orders. (Marsy's letters are sent to victims to inform them of their legal rights, to ensure they are treated with fairness and respect.)

Jennifer interns at the County of Marin and has a rich experience working as a victim witness advocate.

She offers victims information, emotional support, and other resources, as well as helping to fill out paperwork. She goes to court with victims and contacts organizations, such as criminal justice and social service agencies, to collect information for victims.

Jennifer, who also works as a substitute teacher for the North Bay Children's Center, enjoys learning as she

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Colleen Horowitz

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deliver improved care to keep Marin residents healthy.”

As a graduate student in public health, Colleen was required to select an agency to complete fieldwork. She is grateful for the opportunity to have participated at the County of Marin.

Her internship supervisor was MCAH Director **Sandra Rosenblum**. “Colleen brought a high level of skill to her internship and made substantive contributions to our program,” said Sandra. “We really value the opportunity to partner with local universities and to participate

in training students in professional programs.”

Colleen holds two bachelor of science degrees, one in biology/anthropology from Western Washington University and the other in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania.

She will receive a master’s degree in public health from the University of San Francisco in August.

Colleen works as a complex care registered nurse care manager at Marin Community Clinics. A former resident of Novato who now lives

in Mill Valley, she enjoys cooking, hiking, and spending time with her family.

“This internship not only taught me significant amounts about how Marin County’s health system works, but it also broadened my interest in continuing to work with the most vulnerable populations in the county,” Colleen said. “I will definitely use the skills I acquired as an intern at the County of Marin, and I am grateful to give back to the county in a meaningful way.”

Jennifer Flores

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attends court with advocates, meets victims, and observes how the court process works.

Jennifer believes what she does is important because it gives her an opportunity to help individuals and

let them know they are supported throughout the entire legal process.

Nilda Fernandez is Jennifer’s staff supervisor. “Jennifer does a wonderful job. She is friendly, helpful, and professional; she inspires confidence

in our unit,” said Fernandez. “We are lucky to have her.”

Jennifer is a first generation Mexican-American. She is from Sonoma County, where she graduated from Rancho Cotate High School, and is enrolled at Santa Rosa Junior College. She will receive her associate degree in psychology this school year and plans on transferring to Sonoma State University or San Francisco State University.

Besides her studies, Jennifer is interested in reading, writing, finding something new to experience every week, and enjoying time with her loved ones.

“After this internship I see myself becoming more involved with victims in my community,” Jennifer said. Her plans consist of working at non-profits and with victims one-on-one.

“Being strong does not mean you need to eliminate beautiful traits such as empathy or kindness,” she says. “You can be strong and soft at the same time. I am passionate about helping victims receive the justice, support, and healing that they deserve.”

PHOTO BY ROBYN MADIAS



Jennifer Flores at the Marin Civic Center

High School Senior Helps Pilot Clean Business Program

By *Tiyona Pariani*

Her entire senior year, **Liza Panfilova** interned with the Department of Public Works (DPW) during her free seventh period on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This high school student's efforts helped support the recent launch of the Clean Business Program. The program encourages Marin businesses to prioritize environmentally friendly, anti-litter practices.

Liza researched existing clean-business programs by meeting with people from San Rafael Clean and Marin Sanitary Service. She generated lists of potential business participants, helped develop the Clean Marin e-newsletter, and learned about the relationships among county programs. She also became a more efficient communicator.

She said the most important element of her internship was gaining "invaluable soft skills that will be useful in any education and career paths."

She chose the internship after working on similar projects through a Marin School of Environmental Leadership project, a program at

Terra Linda High that promotes development of 21st-century skills.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIZA PANFILOVA



Liza Panfilova

DPW Stormwater Program Administrator **Rob Carson** was Liza's internship supervisor, and helped her solve technical problems.

"Liza's dedication and willingness to jump in and contribute to Clean Marin were critical to the development of the Clean Business

Program," Rob said. "She helped lay the groundwork for a successful launch this summer. Her organizational skills and creativity shined as she managed the content and the look and feel of Clean Marin's electronic newsletter."

Liza works during summer as a counselor at the Marin JCC Camp Cedilla. Her hobbies include hiking, going to the beach, and hanging out with friends.

She plans to study agricultural business with a focus on sustainability in the honors program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Her most important takeaway from her county internship:

"In the environmental field "we are all working towards the same goals: to be cleaner, greener, and the best we can be," Liza said. "Due to this, you are never alone in your efforts and there is always someone to turn to for guidance and advice."

Happy Anniversary!

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

34 YEARS

Jerry Foster (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services/Auxiliary Communications Services (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

21 YEARS

Jane Johnson (Novato), **Linda Comella** (San Rafael), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks

17 YEARS

Doug Kunst (Danville), Fire Lookout, Fire Department; **Stan Rowan** (Fairfax), Driver, Fire Department; **Linda Novy** (Fairfax), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

11 YEARS

John Newman (San Rafael), **Bruce Schomaker** (Petaluma), Fire Lookouts, Fire Department

9 YEARS

Michael Fischer (Mill Valley), **Stuart Quan** (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteers, Sheriff's Office;

Maria Gregoriev (San Rafael), **Susan O'Brien** (Mill Valley), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteers, Health & Human Services (HHS)

8 YEARS

Joan Brown (Kentfield), *Frankly Speaking* Proofreader, Human Resources

7 YEARS

Amory Willis (Sausalito), **Judy Wilkins** (Novato), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks; **Paula Kamena** (San Rafael), Investigator, Sheriff's Office

6 YEARS

Gloria Amirehsani (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, *Amigos Consejeros a Su Alcance* (ACASA), HHS;

Jim Cleaves (Novato), Tutor, Novato Library

4 YEARS

Marie Fitzgerald (Mill Valley), Event Aide, Human Resources

3 YEARS

Pamela Ross (Greenbrae), *Volunteer View* Copy Editor, Human Resources

2 YEARS

Jesse Alvarez (Novato), Equal Employment Opportunity Consultant, Human Resources

1 YEAR

Elizabeth McKee (Mill Valley), California Room Archivist and Transportation Historian, Marin County Free Library; **Carol Kerr** (Larkspur), Mental Health Services Act Program Support, HHS; **Sandy Wargo** (American Canyon), Incident Management Team Volunteer, Fire Department; **Milton Hyams** (San Rafael), RACES/ACS, Sheriff's Office; **Cythea Harrison-Homitz** (Fairfax), Preservationist, Fairfax Library; **Felecia Gaston** (Marin City), Adopt-A-Spot Leader, Department of Public Works

Who's New & Welcome!

Prasad Acharya (Berkeley), Preventative Medicine Resident, Health & Human Services

Colby Alonzo (San Anselmo), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

Gillian Bell (Tiburon), Housing Intern, Community Development Agency

Elliot Blum (San Rafael), School to Career High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

Charles Bohner (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Jared Caldwell (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Ella Carter (Berkeley), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Joshua Chertok (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Isabella Cohen (Sonoma), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Jennifer Cruz (Novato), Teen Shelver, Novato Library

Luca Cuffe (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Christopher Cuyler (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Shae Daly (San Rafael), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Natalia Davidson (San Rafael), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Jacob Derin (San Rafael), *Volunteer View* Newsletter Writer Intern, Human Resources

Theresa Ericsson (Novato), Teen Volunteer, South Novato Library

Toby Fray (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Mateus Greenleaf (Novato), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

John Griffin (Novato), High School Intern, County Counsel's Office

Matthew Hyman (San Francisco), Certified Law Student, District Attorney's Office

Natalie Jakiemiec (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

Haydon Jamison (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Vivian Kaplan (Novato), Teen Volunteer, South Novato Library

Kader Kayser (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Firas Khan (Novato), Photography Intern, Human Resources

Miguel Liencres (San Rafael), Arts & Crafts Fair Coordinator, Human Resources

Shannon Madsen (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff

Maria Malin (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff

Jacqueline McKillop-Herr (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff

Sofia Mincy (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff

Valentini Muenh Mavridoglou (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff

Henry Nothcutt (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Emma Nothcutt (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Zoe Null (Novato), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Isabel Owens (Novato), Teen Shelver, Novato Library

Francesca Padilla (Greenbrae), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

Mikayla Phillips (Sausalito), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney's Office

Noah Rainey (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Indiana Ravenhill (Napa), Assistant Archivist Intern, California Room, Civic Center Library

Reis Revai (San Rafael), High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Athena Sanchez Erb (Mill Valley), Spanish Tutor, Novato Library

Kendall Scanlan (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Erik Schiefloe (San Rafael), Teen Volunteer, South Novato Library

Nina Segedin (Greenbrae), Legal Support Intern, District Attorney's Office

Michael Webb (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff

Henry Winter (Petaluma), High School Intern, County Counsel's Office

Fawn Zech (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office