



# The Volunteer View

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

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## VOLUNTEER NOTES

### On the Record

We're approaching the end of the fiscal year, and that means it's time to ensure that your volunteer or intern record is up to date.

To check, log in with the User ID and password you created when you first registered in our online system. (Access is 24/7 from any device.) Click on the log book button. If your service-hours information is current, thank you! If not, please update it. And remember, if you had a month with no hours served, report "0" for that month.

Note: No need to self-report hours if your department tracks time for your group, as happens with Marin Center ushers, for example. There's also no need to report if you have a very regular shift and have been told you are "on a schedule" with your hours automatically recorded.

Your record will help us give an accurate report about volunteer impact, including the number of participants and total hours served.

Have a question about your record? Call us at 415-473-7407.

## Ombudsman Group is the County's First Volunteer Team of the Year

By Ed Remitz

The volunteer group that monitors long-term care facilities in Marin is the Outstanding Team of the Year -- the first team named in this new Civic Center Volunteers program category.

The nine volunteers apply their skills to assess the quality of care for elders, especially those who may be overlooked. They serve with the Marin County Health and Human Services (HHS) Department's Division of Aging and Adult Services.

The team's efforts were honored at a Marin County Board of Supervisors ceremony in May during which volunteers in other categories were also lauded.

The volunteers—**Meredith Burrell, Joan Clemmons, Raymond De Leon, Arlene Heitner, Robin Meisel, Terry Norton, Kathleen Safford, Ken Sharpe, and Joey Thyret**—conducted 365 surprise visits to long-term care facilities to review

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PHOTO BY BRENT AINSWORTH

*Inaugural Team of the Year honorees who attended the formal awards ceremony pose with Board President Kathrin Sears, third from left, who presented team members with a resolution of commendation on behalf of the entire Board of Supervisors.*

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## Library Teen Shelters Honored as Inaugural Youth Team of the Year

By Ed Remitz

Libraries are wonderful place for books, until someone needs to clean up the aisles.

Fortunately, the Fairfax Library has a team of young volunteers who ensure all is kept tidy so patrons have quick access.

The Fairfax Teen Shelters who keep it organized — **Adam, Max, and Rocket** — were honored May 7 by the Marin County Board of Supervisors as the Outstanding Youth Team of the Year 2018-2019.

The presentation was part of an event to celebrate the many volunteers helping provide critical services to Marin citizens. More than 50 attended the afternoon event during which the team was described as "typifying excellence in volunteerism through their dedicated service." The volunteers shelve up to 200 items during each shift and help

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## Ombudsman Team

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conditions in 2018. They also conducted consultations with 157 people, investigated more than 125 complaints, and established communications with residents and families to ensure service for this vulnerable population. Team members also engaged in another 55 consultations with elder care facilities for a total of 1,186 hours donated to the benefit of Marin County residents last year alone.

Volunteers undergo 36 hours of training and testing and a background check before heading into the field.

“Our volunteers work to help make residents’ lives and quality of care

better,” said Social Service Worker **Elein Phipps**, one of three HHS staff members who work with the team. “They truly make a difference.”

Team member Robin Meisel, a retired attorney and longtime volunteer for senior care programs, spoke to the Board of Supervisors. She said, in part:

“It’s no surprise to everyone here that many elders in Marin live in assisted living homes, whether they be small board-and-care or larger facilities, or live-in skilled nursing homes. Many are not comfortable advocating for themselves, or don’t have the skills, or are afraid there will be negative

retribution against them if they do. That’s where our team comes in.

“I’m sure I speak on behalf of our team ... How we treat the weakest members of our society is a reflection of us as human beings. Thanks for reinforcing our desire to do this great work by giving our team this award.”

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Interested in helping to make life better for others? The ombudsman team is accepting applications and other roles are available, too. Contact Coordinator of Volunteers **Anne Starr**, [ASTarr@marincounty.org](mailto:ASTarr@marincounty.org) and 415-473-7167, or see the volunteer section of the Marin County Human Resources [website](#).



PHOTO BY BRENT AINSWORTH

*Youth Team of the Year members are pictured wearing caps, back and center rows. Supervisor Dennis Rodini, center back, has a cap, too. Also gathered: the four additional elected Supervisors, other volunteer and intern honorees, and ceremony speakers.*

## Fairfax Library Youth Team

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achieve the Marin County Free Library’s goal of being the “preferred place for children, families and caregivers to connect, learn and grow together,” according to the resolution of commendation presented by Board President **Kathrin Sears** to the team.

“Keeping the collection in order is critical for a library. Without the job our shelvers provide, our operation runs the risk of grinding to a disorganized crawl,” said Library Assistant **Aaron Fong**, who works alongside job coach

**Adria Withrow** to supervise the teen team once a week. “They undertake their tasks with a high sense of duty, and are always happy to hear about the positive impact they have on the library.”

“Working in internships is one of the biggest honors I’ve had,” said Adria, a teaching assistant at nearby Oak Hill School, which Adam, Max, and Rocket attend. “I’ve seen them grow so much and gain a sense of independence. They’re really proud,

and it’s a beautiful thing to watch their self confidence grow.”

County Internships Coordinator **Joy Fossett** said the team members are outstandingly reliable, accurate, and enthusiastic. “They demonstrate the value of including people of all perspectives and ages in the workforce,” she said.

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Editor’s Note: Teen honorees surnames are omitted here in response to a parent’s formal request re: privacy.

## Who's New & Welcome!

**Ken Adams** (Woodacre), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

**Olivia Amezcua** (Berkeley), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender

**Kadiatou 'Didi' Barry** (Berkeley), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender

**Latisha Calhoun** (Vallejo), Social Work Intern, Health and Human Services (HHS)

**Caroline Carothers** (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney

**Owen Clapp** (Woodacre), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

**Garrett Coleman** (Diablo), Pre-Law Intern, County Counsel

**Christopher Cullinane** (Mill Valley), Law School Intern, District Attorney

**Clay Cuthbert** (San Anselmo), Student Service Intern, Fairfax Library

**Carmela Davis** (Mill Valley), Tobacco Prevention and Education Intern, HHS

**Andrea Davis** (San Rafael), Communications and Marketing Intern, Cultural Services

**Brooke Davoren** (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

**Annette Delloso** (Novato), Shelver, Novato Library

**Anna Dirkse** (San Geronimo), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

**Cameron Ehsan** (Tiburon), Elections Intern, Registrar of Voters

**Nathan Ferro** (San Rafael), District 1 Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Samantha Gatton** (San Francisco), Certified Law Student, District Attorney

**John Gazzoli** (San Anselmo), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

**Barbara Green** (San Rafael), Bolinas Park Steward, Marin County Parks

**Ryan Green** (Greenbrae), Tobacco Prevention and Education Intern, HHS

**Rob Hayden** (Pt. Reyes Station), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

**Claire Karner** (Corte Madera), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender

**Molly Kehoe** (Greenbrae), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Bobbi Loeb** (Pt. Reyes Station), Tutor, Pt. Reyes Library

**Joseph Loiacono** (San Francisco), Law School Intern, County Counsel

**Xander Mann** (San Anselmo), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

**Devon Mann** (San Anselmo), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

**Niko Mann** (San Anselmo), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

**Mike McNevin** (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

**Tiara Mead** (Novato), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney

**Krishna Menon** (Palm Harbor, Florida), Tobacco Prevention and Education Intern, HHS

**Rebecca Meshel** (San Rafael), High School Intern, District Attorney

**Kendra Messer** (Richmond), Workplace Coach, Fairfax Library

**Martin Mordaunt** (Sausalito), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

**Patricia Morris** (Petaluma), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

**Rebecca Munoz Oliveira** (San Rafael), School to Career High School Intern, Public Defender

**Sophia Nolan** (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

**Ashley O'Neill** (San Francisco), Law School Intern, Public Defender

**Crissy Pickett** (Berkeley), Sea Level Rise Adaptation Intern, Community Development Agency

**Alison Pollack** (San Anselmo), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

**David Puglisi** (Lagunitas), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

**Anna Qiu** (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

**Sawyer Rasmussen** (Novato), Pre-Law Intern, District Attorney

**Bruce Richard** (Mill Valley), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Marin County Free Library

**Peg Rutt** (Novato), Library Beyond Walls Liaison, Marin County Free Library

**Catherine Sanchez-Corea** (Bolinias), Tutor, Pt. Reyes Library

**Mia Sandoval** (Novato), Summer Challenge Ambassador, Civic Center Library

**Kaianne Segura** (San Anselmo), High School Intern, Public Defender

**Phillip Shamlian** (San Rafael), Shelver, Novato Library

**Vanessa Sibrian** (Novato), Law School Intern, District Attorney

**Ronaldo Silveira** (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

**Shama Stropes** (San Rafael), Summer Challenge Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

**Lauren Telfer** (Martinez), Law School Intern, Public Defender

**Craig Thigpen** (San Anselmo), Open Space Steward, Marin County Parks

**Kristina 'Kaci' Tobin** (Novato), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender

**David Uribe** (Petaluma), Portrait Photographer, Human Resources

**Annie Ward** (San Rafael), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender

**Adria Withrow** (Petaluma), Workplace Coach, Fairfax Library

**Athena Yap** (Novato), High School Intern, District Attorney

## Happy Anniversary!

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

### 40 YEARS

**Michael St. John** (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

### 35 YEARS

**Brian Saunders** (San Rafael), Administrative Aide, Department of Finance

### 27 YEARS

**Jason Downing** (Tomas), Volunteer Firefighter, Tomas Station, Fire Department

### 25 YEARS

**Robert Eichstaedt** (Larkspur), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

### 23 YEARS

**Kevin Parkhurst** (Rohnert Park), Stafford Lake Park Disc Golf Steward, Marin County Parks

### 17 YEARS

**Maureen Blumenthal** (Inverness), Shelver, Inverness Library

### 16 YEARS

**John Polman** (Corte Madera), Driver, Fire Department

### 15 YEARS

**Frank Cox** (San Rafael), Office of Emergency Services Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

**Carole Sherick** (San Rafael), Library Beyond Walls (LBW) Liaison, Marin County Free Library

### 14 YEARS

**Evelyn Jaffe** (Tiburon), LBW Liaison, Marin County Free Library

### 13 YEARS

**Jacqueline Ford** (Novato), LBW Liaison, Marin County Free Library

### 12 YEARS

**Corinne Downing** (Tomas), Volunteer Firefighter, Tomas Station, Fire Department

### 11 YEARS

**Jackson Ratcliffe** (Corte Madera), Steward, Marin County Parks

### 10 YEARS

**Jeri Ireland** (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

**Debra Ziegler** (Corte Madera), Shelver, Corte Madera Library

### 9 YEARS

**Sean Seeley** (San Anselmo), Fire Lookout, Fire Department

**Jeff Young** (Dillon Beach), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

### 8 YEARS

**Josefina Perez** (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, Health and Human Services (HHS)

### 7 YEARS

**Sunita Ellenby** (Sausalito), **Elijah Post** (San Francisco), Fire Lookouts, Fire Department

**Frank Woolard** (Greenbrae), Air Patrol Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

### 5 YEARS

**Rusty Howson** (Mill Valley), Steward, Marin County Parks

**Betty Obata** (Mill Valley), Administrative Aide, HHS

### 4 YEARS

**Stan Green** (Greenbrae), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteer, HHS

**Kathy Norwood** (Fairfax), Information and Assistance Volunteer, HHS

### 3 YEARS

**Ronald Bruno** (Corte Madera), Steward, Marin County Parks

**Deborah Stephenson** (Mill Valley), FAST Volunteer, HHS

**Willem van Dam** (Novato), Trail Maintenance Volunteer, Marin County Parks

### 2 YEARS

**Achintha Poduval** (Greenbrae), Teen Coding Instructor Intern, Corte Madera Library

**Ellen Shehadeh** (Inverness), English as a Second Language Tutor, Point Reyes Library

### 1 YEAR

**Deborah Fox** (Corte Madera), Administrative Aide, Human Resources

**Rika Gopinath** (San Rafael), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks

**Dylan Leifer-Ives** (Fairfax), Teen Advisory Group Intern, Fairfax Library

**Lynn Merlo** (San Rafael), Preservationist, Corte Madera Library

**Ann Shores** (Corte Madera), RACES/ACS Volunteer, Sheriff's Office