**Committed To The Kids**

By Scott Harrop

“There is no difference, they are all children. If you love them, they’ll do anything for you.”

So says MarinShares volunteer **Elizabeth Purcell** of the students she teaches at Marin County Juvenile Hall’s Loma Alta School. Elizabeth, a San Francisco native, has spent her entire career in education, both as a high school teacher and a consultant to national organizations. In the 1970s she taught in the Tamalpais Union High School District, as well as in the Graduate School of Education at her alma mater, Dominican College of San Rafael.

From 1980 to 1995, during what she calls a “sabbatical” (a very productive one), her family moved to Washington, D.C. She took on a variety of consulting activities, working with U.S. senators and advocacy groups. She worked on projects for the National Geographic Society and the National School Volunteer Program. One of her goals was to help prove the worth of literature as part of a primary and secondary school curriculum.

Returning to California in 1995, she taught at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco for 23 years. Upon retiring four years ago, she contacted **Anne Starr**, MarinShares volunteer coordinator, about working with at-risk kids. That led to a volunteer teaching assistant role with the Marin County Probation Department, which manages Juvenile Hall. The Hall provides 24-hour care to youth detained under section 602 or 601 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and its in-house school is operated by the Marin County Office of Education. The Hall’s head teacher impressed her greatly: speaking of the kids, Elizabeth says, “They absolutely adore Eve Rosen.”

For one or two days a week Elizabeth worked with Eve, who “teaches it all,” and her “amazing staff, so committed to the kids.” They developed a curriculum for these 13- to 18-year-old boys and girls, who rotate in and out of the facility, some for just a couple of days. Many are under-educated or have English as a second language. As Elizabeth puts it, “Their skills are less than their ability.”

Teaching is structured in modules, with each lesson self-contained. For example, **Continued on page 2**
the World War II module includes geography, politics, diaries and letters from soldiers, short stories, and the movie Monuments Men. Another module features Michelangelo’s Pieta, leading to meditations on motherhood, infancy, and death. The overarching theme is to build skills in reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar.

Elizabeth’s greatest pleasure is watching the kids blossom in an environment of positive reinforcement. She often hears them say, “This is the first time I’ve ever liked school!” They learn social skills and self-assurance. They get into debates and speak up, even challenging the staff with their ideas. The staff, in turn, thank Elizabeth for her contribution to the kids’ development.

Since the era of Covid-19, Elizabeth teaches via Zoom. She taught one boy for two hours each day so he could attain his GED, which allowed him to move out of Juvenile Hall.

Tori Creighton, the director of Juvenile Hall, has high praise for Elizabeth; “She is wonderful with the youth. She is very patient, well loved by staff, and a great asset to our school program.”

Who’s New & Welcome!

Angela Alvites (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, Health & Human Services (HHS)
James Bah (San Rafael), Teen Leadership Crew Intern, Fairfax Library
Cassidy Boyd (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Maygan Brandt (Tracy), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Katrina Carungcong (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Elwyn Cortes (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Marin City Library
Sophia Demartino (Novato), Nursing Student, HHS
Morgan Douglass (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Donna Eng (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS
Emily Estrada (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Anthony Fedano (Corte Madera), Radio Communication Volunteer, Department of Public Works (DPW)
Noah Gibson (Fort Worth, TX), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library
Natalie Guadiana (Placerville), Mobile Vaccination (VAX) Nursing Student, HHS
Cynthia Gutierrez (Daly City), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Dorthea Hill (Simi Valley), Bridge Team Program Assistant, HHS
Stephanie Huang (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Jenna Ingram (Alameda), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Zahia Khan (El Sobrante), Nursing Student, HHS
Hailey Kim (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Sajiv Kumar (San Rafael), Teen Leadership Crew Intern, Fairfax Library
Stephanie Leist (Novato), Nursing Student, HHS
Katelyn Leong (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library
Todd Mahoney (Ross), Nursing Student, HHS
Jasper Mai (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Solomie Mebrahtu (Santa Rosa), Nursing Student, HHS
Alicia Montes (Hayward), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library
Rebecca Massman (Vallejo), Nursing Student, HHS
Sanam Nawim (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Meena Neelakandan (Concord), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Brian Nguyen (San Jose), Covid-19 Contact Tracing Intern, HHS
Charlene Nguyen (Tracy), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Elliott Nielson (Fond du Lac, WI), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Marin City Library
Priya Ohara (Folsom), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Taylor Okashima (El Dorado Hills), Covid-19 Contact Investigation Team Nursing Student, HHS
Solena Ornelas (Colorado Springs, CO), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors
Kayla Pangingbatan (Vallejo), Mobile VAX Nursing Student, HHS
Alicia Perez (San Jose), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Kay Picson (Morgan Hill), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library
Marie Poellinger (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Adriana Rabkin (Corte Madera), Radio Communication Volunteer, DPW
Stephanie Rhoads (Petaluma), Nursing Student, HHS
Frederick Schultz (Marshall), Radio Communication Volunteer, DPW
Ashley Scott (Los Angeles), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Wendy Scott (San Rafael), Nursing Student, HHS
Meheek Singh (Petaluma), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library
Miles Austin Sy (San Francisco), Telehealth Nursing Student, HHS
Cherish Spikes (Fairfield), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Leonard Tabas (Vallejo), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library
Laura Thomson (San Francisco), Nursing Student, HHS
Victoria Tinoco (Oakland), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library
Emily Tran (San Francisco), Point of Dispensing Nursing Student, HHS
Karen Tran (Santa Clara), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Maria Valenzuela (Acapulco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library
Jhenalynn Valete (San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library
Stella Vazquez (Fairfax), Teen Leadership Crew Intern, HHS
Eloise Weir (Mill Valley), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors
Victoria Wong (South San Francisco), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, South Novato Library
Sareena Zeidan (Daly City), Literacy Tutor/Reading Buddies Intern, Point Reyes Library

February 2021
Happy Anniversary

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

42 YEARS
Bill Bastida (San Rafael), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)

18 YEARS
Anne Rains (Novato), Aide, Novato Library

12 YEARS
Peter Otis (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service Volunteer, MCSO
Carol Selig (Mill Valley), Rand Selig (Mill Valley), Stewards, Marin County Parks (Parks)

10 YEARS
Joel Schwartz (San Rafael), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

9 YEARS
Karen Ferris (Novato), Administrative Aide, Cultural Services
Michael Landrum (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

7 YEARS
Zach Hamill (Fulton), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO
Veronica Morino (San Rafael), Administrative Aide, Human Resources

6 YEARS
Stephen Sarhad (San Rafael), Database Assistant, Health & Human Services (HHS)

5 YEARS
Stanton Klose (San Rafael), Newsletter Copy Editor and Proofreader, Human Resources
Karen Solov (Corte Madera), Children’s Library Aide, Corte Madera Library
Maryjane ‘Mick’ Wets (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

4 YEARS
Karen Berke (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services
Lynda Pearson (Mill Valley), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services, and Branding Consultant, Human Resources
Brad Rippe (San Anselmo), California Room Photographer, Researcher, and Cataloguer, Civic Center Library
Ilene Taekman (San Rafael), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

3 YEARS
Stanton Klose (San Rafael), Building Patrol, Department of Public Works
Elizabeth Purcell (San Rafael), Juvenile Hall Teacher Assistant, Probation Department

2 YEARS
Mark Brumwell (San Rafael), Pacheco Multi-Use Pathway Steward, Parks
James Cook (Rohnert Park), Veterans Remains Officer, HHS
Rob Hayden (Point Reyes Station), Janet McRoberts (San Rafael), Kathleen Pear (San Anselmo), Rita Wengler (Novato), Senior Peer Counselors, HHS
Adrienne Niedermann (San Rafael), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

1 YEAR
Jackie Herzog (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS
John Lavelle (San Anselmo), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services