

VOLUNTEER NOTES

We Remember

MarinShares volunteer **Patrick 'Pat' Murphy**, who served with the Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) since 2014, died in January at age 79.

FAST is a partnership between volunteers and county staff. Its mission is to provide training and consultation on preventing, detecting, and documenting older adult financial abuse.

As a former FBI agent and private-sector fraud investigator, Pat was passionate about eradicating such abuse.

FAST volunteers serve with the Public Guardian's Office in the Health and Human Services Department. To prevent financial abuse, some members teach Marin residents how to recognize and avoid scams.

"Pat was terrific in giving presentations, particularly when there was a law enforcement question," said fellow volunteer **Maria Gregoriv**. "He was outgoing and entertaining and appreciated by all."

Holiday

County offices will be closed Monday, March 31, for Cesar Chavez Day.

Student Tutors—and Creates Cross-Generational Crochet Club

By Max Gehm

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA JORDAN



Sara Jordan

Marintern **Sara Jordan** began volunteering with Marin County in 2021 as a Homework Helpers tutor at the Corte Madera branch of the Marin County Free Library. Now a high school senior, Sara has assumed a leadership role with Homework Helpers—and created a monthly class at the library.

Sara was introduced to county volunteering after her friend and fellow Marintern **Sarani Puri** founded Homework Helpers with the support of library staff. Homework Helpers is a free tutoring service available for students in third

through 10th grades; most students are in third or fourth grade.

Sara has served with Homework Helpers for two hours every Saturday over the past four years and has assisted with the behind-the-scenes organization since summer 2023. She added leadership responsibilities with Homework Helpers in January.

At the start of her junior year, Sara proposed the Crochet Corner—a free class taught monthly by Sara and available to all. Library staff approved the idea. Workshops are listed online under library [events](#) as "Crochet Corner: Learn to crochet the easy way!"

Sara was introduced to crochet in fifth grade at the summer camp Super Cool Summer School. "I tried to get into a slime-making class, but because there

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Intern Empowers Peers, Learns How Local Government Works

By Calla McBride

Marintern **Annie Carmona** has dedicated her high school years to empowering young women and engaging in civic leadership by participating in two county internships.

A senior at Terra Linda High, Annie joined the Marin Teen Girl Conference team as an ambassador in 2022. Now a lead ambassador intern, she collaborated with peers and the Marin Women's Commission, which hosts the conference, to organize this year's sold-out March 2 event attended by hundreds of girls.

Her passion for the conference sparked when she attended as a freshman and

PHOTO BY SONIA SALTZMAN



Annie Carmona

was inspired by the energy and dedication of the ambassadors.

Annie also began interning for Marin County District 1 Supervisor **Mary Sackett's** Office in September,

gaining hands-on experience in local government.

"I believe everyone should feel confident in who they are," Annie said. "The conference creates a space for teen girls to feel empowered and supported." As

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Intern Empowers Peers, Learns How Local Government Works

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a lead ambassador, Annie has learned to organize meetings, plan events, and manage communications in coordination with peer leaders.

Since it began in 2011, the Marin Teen Girl Conference has grown into a major event, providing young women with inspiring speakers, workshops, and mentorship opportunities. Human Resources Department staff member **Alisa Perticone**, the staff liaison to the Women's Commission, highlighted its impact. The conference "empowers young women, provides resources, and builds a supportive community," Alisa said. "It allows our future leaders to grow with confidence and purpose."

Meanwhile, Annie is gaining valuable experience as a District 1 intern, learning about local government as she writes newsletter pieces and drafts resolutions. She also attends meetings with Supervisor Sackett and her team and participates in community events. "These opportunities are especially important to me because they have allowed me to advocate for youth who want to share

their stories but may feel unheard or underrepresented," Annie said.

Board of Supervisors Aide **Crystal Martinez** has worked closely with her. "I have had the privilege of watching Annie grow from a dedicated ambassador to a confident and capable leader," Crystal said. "She consistently demonstrates an exceptional work ethic, enthusiasm, and reliability."

Marin County Women's Commissioner **Sonia Saltzman** praised her as "an extraordinary leader and truly such a bright light. ... Annie creates an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere that allows our ambassadors to thrive."

Annie has a passion for cross-country running, baking, attending concerts, and



Annie Carmona, right, listens to fellow ambassador Annie Hamel during a Marin Teen Girl Conference gathering. County staff liaison Crystal Martinez, left, looks on.

traveling. Her favorite travel destination is the Philippines, where she connects with family.

She plans to continue advocating for young women and engaging in civic activities. "These experiences have shaped who I am and given me the confidence to step into leadership roles," Annie said.

Sheriff Welcomes New Mounted Posse Team Members

PHOTO BY DOUG KAYE



Marin County Sheriff-Coroner **Jamie Scardina**, left, swears in new Sheriff's Mounted Posse volunteers in January. Mounted Posse members conduct large-animal rescues, attend fallen-officer memorial processions, provide color guard (U.S. flag) representation at events, support therapeutic equestrian efforts, do community outreach, and help search for people lost in challenging terrain. Posse volunteers train regularly and attend meetings. The 21-member team contributed over 7,800 hours in the past fiscal year, according to Volunteer Posse Captain **Robert 'Bob' Franzi**. Sheriff's Lt. **Chris Berry** is staff liaison to the posse.

Student Creates Cross-Generational Crochet Club

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PHOTO BY SARAH BUTTS

Crochet Club founder Sara Jordan, standing in back, talks with crocheters during a Saturday gathering at the Corte Madera Library.

was a waitlist I had to sign up for a crochet class instead,” Sara said. “It all worked out—I’ve crocheted ever since.”

Now Sara recruits other teen volunteers for the Crochet Corner, charms regulars of all ages with tales of her high school experience, provides homemade treats, and gathers necessary materials for the program to function.

Consisting of mostly older adults yet including teens, the Crochet Corner has proven to be a can’t-miss social event for participants.

“It’s been remarkable to see how crochet transcends generations,” Sara said. “Despite the great age differences, we have so many similarities and enjoy the same creative outlet.”

Sara’s staff supervisor, Youth Services Librarian **Sarah Butts**, is impressed by Sara’s maturity and reliability. “Sara has proven to be a competent, patient, and personable instructor, leading a 25-person class with aplomb,” she said.

The Crochet Corner is held the second Saturday of every month in the Corte Madera Library Community Room.

Meanwhile, the Corte Madera chapter of Homework Helpers meets every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon in the teen section of the Corte Madera Library. (Three other branches also offer [Homework Helpers](#) hours.)

In her free time, Sara also likes to read, bake, and cook. A senior at Redwood High School, she is a captain of the Redwood Swim Team in addition to swimming for her local swim team. She is eagerly awaiting her college application results. ■

Who's New & Welcome!

Sasha Acevedo (Novato), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Katherine Batdorf (Mill Valley), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Cecilia Brenner (Healdsburg), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Mattea Fazio (Novato), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Andy Fyne (Sebastopol), Harm Reduction Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Blooma Goldberg (Mill Valley), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Pilar Kalra (Berkeley), Law School Intern, Public Defender’s Office

Christopher Logan (Emeryville), Coro Fellow, Community Development Agency

Ricardo Miramontes (Novato), Data/GIS Team Volunteer, Information Services & Technology

Amreen Munshi (Novato), Nursing Student, HHS

Emma Onstott (San Rafael), Student Service Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Kirsten Pitcher (Tiburon), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Raymond Rogers (Novato), Homework Helpers Intern, Novato Library

Mira Sridharan (Kentfield), Marin Teen Girl Conference Ambassador, Human Resources

Kate Wagers (Novato), Homework Helpers Intern, Novato Library

Happy Anniversary

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

24 YEARS

Al Baumann (Petaluma), Bike Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

James Malaspina (Palm Springs), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

18 YEARS

Robert Eichstaedt (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

14 YEARS

Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

10 YEARS

Al Baumann (Petaluma), Steward, Marin County Parks

Robert Rowlands (Mill Valley), **Tom Strada** (San Rafael), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteers, Marin County Fire

9 YEARS

Stephen Sarhad (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteer, Marin County Fire

8 YEARS

Nicholas Koo (El Sobrante), **Michael Synyard** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

6 YEARS

Christopher Cuyler (San Rafael), **Toby Fray** (San Rafael), **Haydon Jamison** (San Rafael), **Kader Kayser** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Ed Remitz (Larkspur), Writing and Editing Coach, Human Resources

5 YEARS

Daegan Cutter (San Anselmo), **Troy Evans** (Mill Valley), **Emily Morrison** (Novato), **Karen Rehder** (San Rafael), **Max Thompson** (San Rafael), **Kylie Voelker** (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Christian Hellwig (Mill Valley), Steward, Marin County Parks

Nancy Mackle (San Anselmo), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

4 YEARS

Bob Salter (Novato), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works

3 YEARS

Colette 'Coco' Boyden (Corte Madera), **Jake Douglass** (Tiburon), **Naomi Harada** (Walnut Creek), **Kevin Hayward** (Alameda), **Turner Hudson** (Sausalito), **Salim Islam** (Mill Valley), **Alena Ivanova** (Tiburon), **Sara Kurtzig** (San Anselmo), **Christian McIntosh** (Belvedere Tiburon),

Maxwell Mohan (Larkspur), **Jeffrey Rabkin** (Corte Madera), **Ellen 'Elly' Ronald** (Mill Valley), **Jackson 'Jax' Sandrich** (Tiburon), **Howard Solomon** (Mill Valley), **Matthew Stodolnic** (Larkspur), **Calvin Tudor** (Tiburon), **Kate Van Hooser** (Tiburon), **Brian Witchel** (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Alexis Gasner (Sausalito), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, MCSO

Michele Boyer (Mill Valley), **Sheryl Hoy** (San Rafael), **Martha Nelson** (Novato), **Lisa McKeogh** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

2 YEARS

Marilyn Englander (San Rafael), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

Ashley Walter (San Rafael), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

1 YEAR

Dana Cole (Larkspur), **Erica Neal** (Fairfax), Friends of the Family Volunteers, HHS

Jack Richards (Sebastopol), Marin Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

Alma Soria (Novato), Circulation Support Intern, South Novato Library

Baabak Touran (Mill Valley), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks



Youth Academy Produces a New Cadet



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Students who completed the 2024 Marin County Sheriff's Youth Academy received a hands-on introduction to the department. The graduating class, pictured above, includes **Brian Carvalho**, center back in blue shirt, who was recently hired as a Sheriff's Office cadet. Brian, who felt called to a law enforcement career as a child, learned about the youth academy from a high school counselor. "Once in the academy, I just fell in love with the work," he said. Deputy **Devon Gasparini** and other law enforcement professionals helped Brian "see and experience what the Sheriff's Office does" and encouraged him to apply for the entry-level position. "Now that I am working as a cadet, I can say that this is the job for me, and it is the future I want," said Brian, who also plans to complete college. Staff pictured include Sheriff **Jamie Scardina**, back right in white shirt, Marin County Superintendent of Schools **John Carroll**, back row with tie, and Dep. Gasparini, kneeling in front.

