

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Big Impacts Reported

The Board of Supervisors has accepted a report showing that 8,500 MarinShares volunteers and unpaid Marinterns students served more than 200,600 hours during fiscal year 2024–2025, with an equivalent value of \$10 million.

Participants were active in 19 County of Marin departments.

The biggest change since the previous fiscal year was a doubling in the number of paid interns as paid opportunities rose across the county organization.

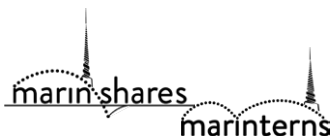
MarinShares growth included public health harm-reduction volunteers with Health and Human Services, and Book Scouts and English as a Second Language volunteers with the Marin County Free Library.

Among Marinterns participants, Election Department student ambassadors expanded their voter-registration advocacy, the Probation Department hosted its largest-yet class of Career Explorer interns, and the Sheriff's Office grew its Youth Academy.

[The report](#) reflects department-by-department participation. MarinShares volunteer **Eleanor Lau** created the design.

Holiday

County offices will be closed Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day.



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Volunteer's Enthusiasm Fuels Multiple Roles

By Marjorie Grannan

Whether working her way through an intricate tap dance routine, showing a group of very young swimmers how to float in the pool, or ushering excited patrons to their seats before a Speaker Series appearance, **Deborah Gregor's** enthusiasm palpably flows.

"When I first thought of volunteering in 2011 or 2012, I was basically looking for a career change," admits the MarinShares volunteer. "My first assignment helped me understand that while I thought I was ready for a 'real job,' my heart, joy, and passion were in aquatics. I continued to volunteer as an administrative aide, then became an event aide and later an usher, roles that all allow me to be part of the wonderful activities Marin County Civic Center.

Continued on page 2



Deborah Gregor

PHOTO BY GREGG TURNER

Staff Celebrates Volunteers

PHOTO BY STEVE ZIMAN



MarinShares volunteers from three divisions of the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) enjoyed visiting with each other during an appreciation picnic on April 30 at Lagoon Park, across from the Civic Center. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Financial Abuse Specialist Team, and Meals on Wheels volunteer units were celebrated for their year-round dedication to serving older adults in Marin. HHS unit leaders **Dan Steckline**, **Mark Vanderscoff**, and **Cat Woods Williams** organized the event.

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Continued from page 1

"I'm a swimming teacher and lifeguard at the YMCA, and a former scuba instructor," Deborah continues. "The Y is an amazing fit for my lifelong love of the aquatic environment."

Deborah counts Jerry Garcia among her scuba students. "We had quite a time getting him certified!" she laughs. "He didn't like the 'work' part of it, but he enjoyed diving and floating around looking at pretty things." He later remarked, "You might know me as a guitar player, but I'm also a scuba diver."

In her volunteer usher role, Deborah cherishes a particular special occasion at the Marin Center: "This past November, I ushered at the Veterans Day memorial service held in the Exhibit Hall. I was honored to meet so many wonderful veterans and their families, and to hear their stories of fighting for our country to defend our freedom. It was very moving."

"Deborah is the kind of person I'd always dreamed I'd have the opportunity to work with as a volunteer," said Cultural Services Front of House Manager **Todd McQuade**, who coordinates the usher team and county fair volunteers. "She's cool, calm, collected, clear, and effective."

Deborah volunteers every year at the Marin County Fair. "I love directing visitors to the crafts, paintings, jams, jellies, quilts, orchids, and especially the Star Wars display. That's my favorite," she said.

As an event aide with Human Resources, Deborah assists at gatherings such as new-employee orientations led by HR Analyst **Tara Clark**. "When we moved to a new location and process, Deborah jumped right in to help figure out the best layout and set-up, helping us maximize space and comfort for guests and staff," Tara said. "She shows up with

a smile and can-do attitude and makes anything she's a part of even better."

Rounding out her volunteer activities, Deborah is an administrative aide with this newsletter's editorial team. She collates the "Happy Anniversary" and "Who's New & Welcome" columns that list the names, roles, and departments of MarinShares volunteers and Marininterns students across the county organization. Deborah's staff liaisons, coordinators **Joy Fossett** and **Anne Starr**, appreciate her attention to detail, reliability, and enthusiasm for including everyone.

Deborah and her husband George met in 1976, when he was her scuba instructor. The couple live in Novato.

When she's not underwater or volunteering, Deborah's favorite pastime is tap dancing. She's a devotee of Sherry Hines and her dance studio. Deborah's favorite appearance was in the studio's annual "Tapcracker." ■

Student Ambassadors Host Their Peers, Mayors, and Council Members



PHOTO BY MARSHALL GROSS

Energy filled the room at the fourth annual Marin Youth Town Hall held at the Marin Civic Center in April. Marininterns from the Election Department's Student Elections Ambassador Program (SEAP) organized the gathering. Students from across the county met with mayors and councilmembers representing Marin's cities and towns. Young people asked thoughtful, direct questions on issues such as climate, housing, and mental health, sparking candid conversations with local leaders. SEAP staff coordinator **Elizabeth Iwamiya** said the exchange "underscored the importance of creating spaces where students can engage directly in civic life. As the event grows each year, it is becoming a vibrant forum for connection, dialogue, and the next generation of community leadership."

Happy Anniversary

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

29 YEARS

Richard Fay (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Fire

28 YEARS

Eric Cutler (Tomas), Volunteer Tomas Firefighter, Marin County Fire

21 YEARS

Janice Hitchcock (Novato), Senior Peer Counselor, Health & Human Services (HHS)

16 YEARS

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

13 YEARS

Kathleen Kopp (Santa Rosa), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

10 YEARS

Rory Hewitt (San Francisco), **Steve Johnson** (Pacifica), **Peter Van der Naillen** (Oakland), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

7 YEARS

John Gazzoli (San Anselmo), **David Puglisi** (Lagunitas), **Amy Valens** (Forest Knolls), **Tom Valens** (Forest Knolls), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

5 YEARS

Chris Gould (San Rafael), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

James Saltzgaber (Fairfax), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works (Public Works)

4 YEARS

Stephanie Collins (Mill Valley), **Daniel Dillingofski** (Stinson Beach), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

Calla McBride (Corte Madera), Newsletter Writer Intern, Human Resources

3 YEARS

Lisa Engelbert (Novato), Shelver, Novato Library
Bill Johnston Jr. (Richmond), Photographer, Human Resources

2 YEARS

Rosemary Bruckner (San Rafael), Marin Center Volunteer, Cultural Services

Richard Donick (Tiburon), Friends of the Family Volunteer, HHS

Andy Fyne (Sebastopol), Harm Reduction Volunteer, HHS

Ernie Castiaux (Castro Valley), **Michael Kelly** (Alameda), **Carley Saelinger** (Mill Valley), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

Ruth-Louise Moran (San Rafael), Event Aide, Human Resources

1 YEAR

Steffen Bartschat (Mill Valley), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

Jerry Cordova (San Pablo), **Pj George** (Novato), Marin Center Volunteers, Cultural Services

Max Gehm (San Anselmo), Gap Year Intern, Public Defender's Office

Asher Goldblatt (Mill Valley), Photographer, Marin County Fire

Brian Sanford (San Anselmo), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks

Nancy Wein (Novato), Radio Communications Volunteer, Public Works

Volunteers Promote Financial Health

PHOTO BY BOB DELL



MarinShares volunteers **Irv Gubman**, left, and **Lee Notowich** share fraud-prevention materials during a recent Scam Jam held in Tiburon. They and fellow Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) volunteers promoted financial safety at the gathering attended by over 100 people and covered by KGO and KCBS. A representative from sponsor AARP California told Marin Public Guardian **Mark Vanderscoff** it was the highest-attended Scam Jam to date. Board of Supervisors President **Eric Lucan**, District Attorney **Lori Frugoli**, and County Clerk **Shelly Scott** were among the county leaders at the April 28 Scam Jam. "Education is one of the most effective tools we have to prevent financial exploitation," said DA Frugoli. "This event empowers our community with the knowledge needed to recognize and report fraud before it happens." A highlight of FAST's presentation: "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is."

Who's New & Welcome!

Christina Arias (Mill Valley), Volunteer English as a Second Language Tutor, South Novato Library

Stella Barry (Novato), Teen Volunteer, Novato Library

Melisa Cifuentes (San Rafael), Venetia Valley School Homework Helper, Civic Center Library

Teyla Clark (Nicasio), Teen Volunteer, Point Reyes Library

Kaitlyn Cline (San Rafael), Legal Research Intern, County Counsel's Office

Caroline Cook (Novato), Teen Volunteer, Novato Library

Claire Delany (Newcastle), Legal Research Intern, County Counsel's Office

Conor Esler (San Rafael), Teen Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Carol Feagles (Larkspur), Marin Center Volunteer, Cultural Services

Phoebe Fink (San Rafael), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Brady Holland (Belvedere), Student Elections Ambassador, Elections Department

Taylor Lizarraga (Novato), OD Free Marin Volunteer, Health & Human Services

Dylan Pilling (Fairfax), Radio Shop Communications Intern and Radio Communications Teen Volunteer, Department of Public Works

Andrea Pino (San Anselmo), Marin Center Volunteer, Cultural Services

Ava Smith (San Anselmo), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

