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

Library Teen Shelvers 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 Shelvers 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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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.”

Interested in helping to make life better for others? The ombudman team is accepting applications and other roles are available, too. Contact Coordinator of Volunteers Anne Starr, ASstar@marincounty.org and 415-473-7167, or see the volunteer section of the Marin County Human Resources website.
Who’s New & Welcome!

Ken Adams (Woodacre), Fire Lookout, Fire Department
Olivia Amezcue (Berkeley), Pre-Law Intern, Public Defender
Kadiatu ‘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 Dellosso (Novato), Shelves, 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 Keboe (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 (Bolinas), Tutor, Pt. Reyes Library
Mia Sandovol (Novato), Summer Challenge Ambassador, Civic Center Library
Kaianne Segura (San Anselmo), High School Intern, Public Defender
Phillip Shamlan (San Rafael), Shelves, 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

Who’s New & Welcome!

June 2019
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 (Tomales), Volunteer Firefighter, Tomales 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 (Tomales), Volunteer Firefighter, Tomales 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 Seely (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
Josefa 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
Achinthya 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