

VOLUNTEER NOTES

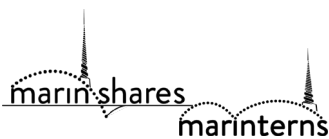
Where Are They Now?

A former law school fellow with the District Attorney's Office has joined the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps. After training at Fort Benning, GA, and at the JAG Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA, First Lt. **Austin Shopbell** reports for active duty this month to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC.

Austin was a DA Fellow for nearly two years. Chief Deputy DA **Dori Ahana** was his supervisor. Austin said he was excited to apply what he learned from the Marin team. He was "constantly impressed by the legal knowledge and dedication" he encountered among DA staff members.

Ceremony Video Online

The recent Board of Supervisors recognition event for MarinShares and Marinterns annual honorees was recorded, and the video is [archived here](#). Move the slider to the 2:40 mark to find the ceremony. Volunteer Dr. **Tom Cromwell** spoke on behalf of the Volunteer Team of the Year. There are two Intern Teams of the Year; student **Max Manwaring-Mueller** represented the HHS team while **Kate Lane** spoke for the Library's student crew.



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MMRC is Marin's 2021 Top Volunteer Team

By Tiyona Pariana

PHOTO BY ANNE CARTA



Marin Medical Reserve Corps volunteers Carol Paz (left) and Vincent Reed smile behind their masks during a community vaccination event at Northgate Mall in San Rafael.

The Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) is the Marin County 2021 Volunteer Team of the Year for outstanding efforts in fighting the spread of Covid-19. Hundreds of corps members have collectively served more than 21,000 hours for Covid operations, supporting a range of response activities and shoring up the county's pandemic response.

The corps' mission is to recruit, train, deploy, and retain volunteer health professionals and others who contribute skills and expertise in response to public health emergencies, threats of terrorism, and other community needs.

"Marin Medical Reserve Corps volunteers are dedicated, brave, and caring healthcare and support professionals,"

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Covid Testing Group Shares Honor for Intern Team of the Year

By Tiyona Pariani

For their outstanding perseverance in facing the Covid-19 pandemic, six Health and Human Services Department (HHS) interns have received resolutions of commendation celebrating them as Marin County's 2021 Intern Team of the Year. The Covid Response Mobile Testing Intern Team members are Marinterns **Ryan Samway, Jillian Hickey, Max Manwaring-Mueller, Ana-Sofia Arena, Ian Duncan, and Celine Bennett**.



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FILE PHOTO

Wearing masks and face shields, Covid Response Mobile Testing Intern Team members Jillian Hickey, Celine Bennett, and Ryan Samway are ready to welcome residents in need of Covid-19 tests during a clinic shift at Canal Alliance in San Rafael.

The HHS team tied with a Marin County Free Library teen group for 2021 Intern Team of the Year honors.

Covid Response Mobile Testing Intern Team members were on the front lines

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Library Teen Crew Shares Top Intern Team of Year Honors

By Tiyona Pariani

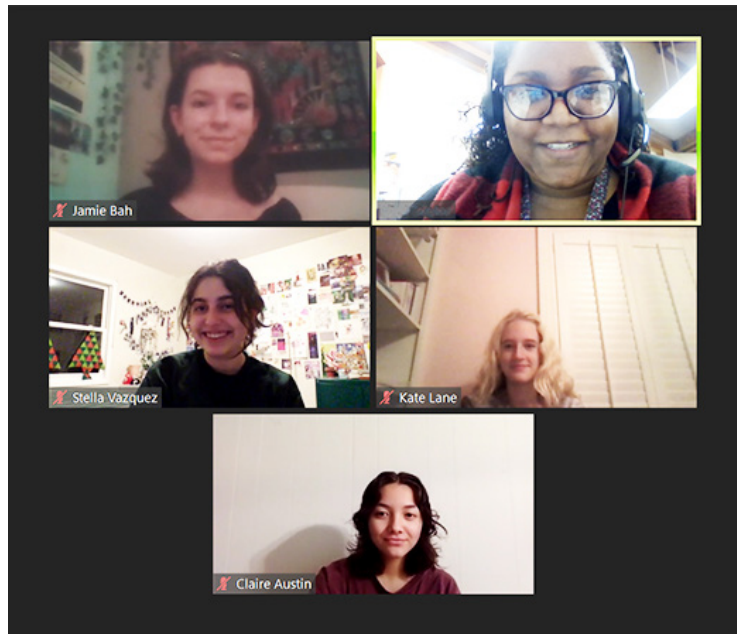
For their commitment to connecting teens during the Covid-19 pandemic when almost everything went virtual, the Teen Leadership Crew (TLC)—**Harita Kalvai, Simon Scheuer, Sofia Casano, Kate Lane, Claire Austin, Christianna Gatti, James Bah, Stella Vazquez, Madeline Knightly,** and **Sajiv Kumar**—is Marin’s 2021 Intern Team of the Year.

This group of Marin interns serving with the Marin County Free Library tied for Intern Team of the Year honors with a Health and Human Services student team.

While many public libraries halted teen volunteering during the pandemic shutdown, the county library created a virtual volunteering opportunity to connect socially isolated teens. Teen volunteers from Marin County began meeting twice weekly online in the summer of 2020 to brainstorm. Shortly after, they began hosting Friday night programs for their peers, and for younger kids, such as open mic and trivia game nights, cooking tutorials, magic demonstrations, and drawing classes.

The resulting benefits were mutual. As TLC member Simon Scheuer put it, “Though we are volunteering to help other people, there is a benefit and value to us as well. We have created a community, and that is cool.”

“The Teen Leadership Crew has been such an inspiration to me as their librarian facilitator,” said Fairfax branch Librarian **April Hayley**, who started this program. “They have boundless energy and are a truly self-motivated and service-driven group of diverse students.”



Library Teen Leadership Crew members Jamie Bah, Stella Vazquez, Kate Lane, and Claire Austin attend a Zoom meeting with their internship supervisor, Librarian Rashida Skaar. Peer activities and meetings are happening online during the pandemic.

Librarian **Rashida Skaar**, the team’s supervisor, said, “I have loved every moment of getting to know the Teen Leadership Crew. They have all worked so diligently to bring high quality programming to the children, teens, and adults of Marin and have handled everything from creating the advertisements for the programs to assisting with the actual events.”

“I chose an internship at the Marin County Free Library because I wanted to work somewhere that benefits my community,” said team member Sofia Casano. “I love working with the youth in my area because we have a lot of shared experiences, and I feel like we help each other grow.”

When school resumed in the fall, a new project was created that brought Marin teens together even if they had not joined the TLC or attended its events: their own magazine. They spent the fall and winter developing *The Spire* e-magazine (first issue shown to the right), named after the gold spire at the Civic Center. Team member Harita Kalvai chose the name.



PHOTO BY RASHIDA SKAAR

The TLC contacted peers via social media, newsletters, and word of mouth to generate submissions. The final product includes artwork, interviews with local teen activists and influencers, social justice essays, poetry, hobbies, and recipes.

The students also wrote, directed, and acted in a video, “[Cinderella’s Online Love](#).” The short film was shot entirely on Zoom. It tells the story of a handsome prince hosting the first-ever online ball and Cinderella’s adventures in love, technical difficulties, and friendship.

Crew members received resolutions of commendation signed by Board of Supervisors President **Dennis Rodoni** and were recognized during a board ceremony on November 2. The team award was given to staff for display at the Fairfax branch.

The ceremony format was hybrid, with some participants attending in person and others on Zoom, including the emcee, HR Director **Mary Hao**, and Library Director **Lana Adlawan**. Lana said the library staff was happy to have the students honored. “We are so thrilled,” she said, “and our staff is incredibly honored to be able to work with young people—they are our future leaders.”

MMRC is Marin's 2021 Top Volunteer Team

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said the group's coordinator, **Anne Carta** of the Health and Human Services Department. "We could not have achieved the high level of Covid vaccinations or served the community so thoroughly without the unwavering contributions of the MMRC. Thank you to all of the wonderful MMRC volunteers for rising to the call of duty time and time again!"

"I love that I am able to spend my time this way, with such an interesting group of people," said MMRC volunteer **Maxine Gilbert**. "There are nurses, medical doctors, pharmacists, admin personnel—and everyone is absolutely essential to making it as easy as it is to come in and get vaccinated. There's so much quiet work from so many people with different backgrounds who come together every day and make it all work smoothly."

PHOTO BY ANNE CARTA



Stuart Tanenberg

"Volunteering and giving back to my community is in my DNA," said **Stuart Tanenberg**, another team member. "As an MMRC volunteer I have had the opportunity

to serve on the leadership team for the past 12 years and have served the MMRC as a training officer and as an operations, logistics, and planning specialist. I work with a corps of wonderful people who care, and in some small

way I hope our efforts have benefited the Marin community."

More than 400 of the team's 847 members supported a Covid call center, healthcare provider hotline, contact investigations, testing, vaccination clinics, and outreach to individuals with limited access or functional needs. These dedicated volunteers rise to the occasion, diligently supporting whatever task is laid before them.

Corps members not activated yet during the pandemic are standing by to serve at a moment's notice during the pandemic response and in case of a new disaster.

"The Marin Medical Reserve Corps has been a vital partner and supported the County of Marin during the longest emergency activation for the Covid pandemic," said **Hy Hinojosa**, director of the Marin County Emergency Operations Center, which coordinates the county's pandemic response. "MMRC volunteers have helped us fully immunize 84 percent of our population and have served in vulnerable communities throughout Marin."

The Board of Supervisors recognized the team on November 2 by approving a



PHOTO BY ANNE CARTA

MMRC volunteers Shirley Young and Judy Palesky answer questions and provide updates to callers. During the pandemic shutdown, phone-bank volunteers offered free, reliable guidance to thousands of local callers about how to guard against Covid, find testing clinics, and more.

resolution of commendation and hosting a ceremony. The team award was given to staff for display at the MMRC office.

HHS Director **Benita McLarin** spoke at the ceremony, noting that the Marin corps is among the busiest in California. After listing the action areas—community call center, physician hotline, medical supply logistics, vaccination clinics, contact investigations, testing, and outreach—Benita quipped, "I'm tired just thinking about that!"

Addressing MMRC volunteers, she added, "We are so fortunate in Marin. Without you, we could not have made it through this Covid response and be in a position of the number-one team in the state [for vaccination rates]. We have achieved everything we have based on your support. Thank you!"

Who's New & Welcome!

Adam Almedilla (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Alexis Ballinger (Alameda), Legal Intern, Public Defender's Office

Leanna M. Dawydiak (San Francisco), Volunteer Legal Research Attorney, District Attorney's Office

Darlene Evans (Novato), Marin Center Usher, Cultural Services

Hanna Ferguson (Marina), Cultural Services Intern, Cultural Services

Marlin Flamer (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, HHS

Jacy McLellan (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, HHS

Anne Mendoza (San Anselmo), Packet Assembly Student Service Intern, HHS

Hugh Patterson (San Rafael), Radio Communication Volunteer, Department of Public Works

Covid Testing Group Shares Honor for Intern Team of the Year

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FILE PHOTO



Covid Response Mobile Testing Intern Team students and staff show their enthusiasm during a break from a Covid-19 testing shift at Canal Alliance, a nonprofit champion of immigrants, in San Rafael. When serving in the community the team had on-site supervisors, in this case local physicians Elizabeth Lowe and Irene Teper.

of response in the early days of the pandemic response. Before vaccines, and with personal protective equipment in short supply, they were constantly exposed to risk yet acted with courage and energy.

The students served at different sites daily in areas with many cases, including congregate living sites and lower income areas that were disproportionately impacted by the virus.

“At a time when we were ramping up testing and experiencing staffing challenges, this team of interns came in with energy, smiles, a willingness to learn and work hard, the ability to adapt, and huge hearts that are committed to supporting their community.”

Team member Max Manwaring-Mueller reflected on why he joined. “Coming from a place of privilege myself, working to help those with less fortunate living situations was something I felt I had an obligation to do, especially as many of the community

members were essential workers we’d all be lost without,” Max said. “The Covid-19 pandemic required global efforts to overcome, and I felt everyone had a responsibility to aid in some way or another—for me that was working alongside the mobile unit.”

“I chose to work with the Health and Human Services Department during the pandemic because I recognized how vital their work was and wanted to contribute in any way that I could,” said team member Ryan Samway. “As I worked alongside inspiring clinicians and volunteers, I understood the magnitude of effort required to help keep our country safe, with collaboration and communication emphasized as the most important priority. Not only did this internship give me invaluable life experience, but it prepared me for my work as a future healthcare professional as well.”

In their non-clinical roles, team members supported documentation and specimen collection and provided general administrative support of the operations. They interacted with HHS health partners Kaiser and MarinHealth, community agencies such as Canal Alliance,

and county staff. The interns learned important procedures necessary to serve as volunteer disaster service workers during a pandemic.

“At a time when we were ramping up testing and experiencing staffing challenges, this team of interns came in with energy, smiles, a willingness to learn and work hard, the ability to adapt, and huge hearts that are committed to supporting their community,” said the team supervisor, HHS Senior Department Analyst **Kristen Seatavakin**. “Quite simply, we couldn’t have done it without them, and we are forever grateful for their participation and support.”

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved resolutions of commendation for team members at a November 2 ceremony during which HHS Director **Benita McLarin** praised the students’ work ethic, willingness, and flexibility.

“As I worked alongside inspiring clinicians and volunteers, I understood the magnitude of effort required to help keep our country safe.”

“They came to us independently, outside their school programs, to support primarily non-clinical roles,” she said, noting that they became “a beloved and supportive group that was willing to learn. They stepped up fully in the face of the pandemic during a very unsettling time.”

A glass team award was presented to staff supervisors for display in HHS offices.

To learn about County of Marin internship opportunities, contact Marinerns Coordinator Joy Fossett, JFossett@marincounty.org and 415-473-7447

Look Out for Holiday Lights



PHOTO BY DOUG HITT

Thanks to autumn rains that ended wildfire season, members of the Marin County Fire Department's volunteer lookout team had time to put up lights at the county's two lookout towers this year. Pictured here is the Mt. Tamalpais tower interior decorated by MarinShares volunteers John Gazzoli and Doug Hitt. The compact room has windows on all four sides, and local residents can look up on clear nights and catch the colorful glow signifying the team's wish for happy holidays across Marin.

Happy Anniversary

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

27 YEARS

Ray Peterson (Petaluma), Air Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

19 YEARS

Gregory Felton (Stateline, NV), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

9 YEARS

Tim Graves (Tomaes), Volunteer Tomaes Firefighter, Marin County Fire

8 YEARS

Louise Berto (San Anselmo), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

6 YEARS

Kenn Kovitz (Novato), **Gail Mitchell** (Novato), Spanish Tutors, Novato Library

5 YEARS

Michael Warner (Petaluma), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

4 YEARS

Valerie Lels (Kentfield), Volunteer Attorney, District Attorney's Office

3 YEARS

Denise Kovacik (Sausalito), Public Defender Law Library Aide, Public Defender's Office

2 YEARS

P. J. Nave (San Rafael), District 1 Intern, Board of Supervisors

1 YEAR

Angelica Almanza (San Rafael), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Gabriela McElligott (Oakland), Electronic Medical Records Intern, HHS

