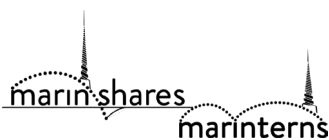


## VOLUNTEER NOTES

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A past member of our office team has a new job. **Robyn Nguyen Madias** interned in our Human Resources volunteer/intern division in 2015, then was hired as a regular employee. One of her responsibilities was supporting this newsletter's production. Robyn later moved to HR's staffing division. Now she's joined the Marin Superior Court as a principal HR specialist. "I never knew what a career in HR or public service meant until my county internship," Robyn said. "I learned so much about the good we do in public service (and) was really inspired to become a public service employee."

Former Public Defender's Office intern **Michael Melton** is a transactional attorney at Perry Johnson Anderson Miller & Moskowitz LLP in Santa Rosa. He works in land use, business and real estate transactions, estate planning, and probate. Michael is grateful to have interned with "the dedicated staff at the PD and for the mentorship of the staff and attorneys, especially Deputy Public Defender **Pedro Oliveros**."



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## Volunteer Team of the Year Helps County Respond to the Pandemic

By Tiyona Pariani

For their outstanding response to Covid-19 testing needs across Marin, the Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC) Covid-19 Field Testing Team is the Marin County Volunteer Team of the Year.

This group of 12 medical professionals responds to community, school, and outbreak response testing needs. They have performed Covid-19 rapid antigen and PCR testing around Marin, building working relationships at childcare sites, schools and their communities, senior care facilities, homeless shelters, pop-up community testing

sites, the Marin County Jail, and private homes.

The team stays current with testing protocols and adapts to diverse locations and populations. Together they have

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PHOTO BY KATE WHITTINGHAM

*Volunteer Team of the Year members pose outside Board of Supervisors chambers. L-R: Valerie Aden-Lindsey, Carla Greenblatt, Wendi Schenkler Samway, Janis Luft, Julia Krasner. Not pictured: Maxine Gilbert, Judy Greenwald, Meg Jordan, Germaine Krase, Judy Palesky, Jane Stringer, Diane Vogelei.*

## Top Intern Team Defends Civil Rights

By Tiyona Pariani



PHOTO BY ANNE STARR. INSET PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTIE HASSETT

*Posing on the patio outside of the Board of Supervisors chambers. L-R: Deputy Public Defender Tamara York, Public Defender David Sutton, honoree Reagan Vandenburg. Inset photo: honoree Mattie Hassett.*

For outstanding dedication to clients of the Marin County Public Defender's Office, a team of two is the 2021-2022 Intern Team of the Year. Marinterns students **Reagan Vandenburg** and **Madison "Mattie" Hassett** have been commended by the Board of Supervisors in recognition their exemplary teamwork.

Both attend UC Hastings College of the Law.

The intern team's involvement directly affected the outcomes of trials. Reagan and Mattie appeared in court in person during the pandemic and presented arguments and

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# Interns Aim to Prevent the Next Opioid Overdose

By Natalie Dybeck

RxSafe Marin is a community coalition dedicated to reducing harm from prescription and other drug use through core values of prevention, management, and education. Recent college grads **Lauren Kershenbaum** and **Cameron Henn** spend their days furthering this mission, which is supported by the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) and community partners.

The need is great; 56 people died of accidental overdoses in Marin last year, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Lauren and Cameron both are members of the California Opioid Prevention Network (COPN) AmeriCorps VISTA program. They desired to learn more about the public health sector and serve their communities and discovered that the AmeriCorps COPN program "sponsors volunteers, like us, to spend time at host agencies. There are about 40 host agencies like RxSafe Marin specifically devoted to opioid harm reduction and prevention," explained Cameron.

PHOTO BY CASSIDY LAIDLAW



Lauren Kershenbaum



Cameron Henn

PHOTO BY LINDA HENN

In their RxSafe Marin roles, Lauren and Cameron are simultaneously County of Marin and VISTA participants. They work 40 hours a week, and their days vary from creating marketing and social media content to training people to administer Narcan, a potentially life-saving opioid reversal medication.

"Once a week, we spend the day at The Spahr Center, RxSafe Marin's partner in harm reduction, where we help pack safe use kits and other materials for The Spahr Center's outreach efforts," said Lauren.

While it can be challenging to balance all the different projects they work on, both Lauren and Cameron have enhanced their communication and management skills and found satisfaction in their work.

"The most rewarding part for me is when we get to interact with community members who have had personal experiences with overdose and/or addiction," said Cameron. At events, "there are always a few people who come up to our table and share their stories of how substance use and overdose has impacted them. Sometimes they share a story of a loved one they are worried about, and we are fortunate to be able to give them Narcan to use if their loved one should overdose. Knowing we have given someone a little peace of mind is incredibly valuable."

Lauren agreed, adding, "It is always memorable when someone ... is really open to learning about what we do and how they can help someone in their life."

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## Volunteers Do Triple Duty at Greenbrae Park



PHOTO BY KIRK SCHROEDER

County volunteers recently took on a three-part landscape project at Hal Brown Park at Creekside in Greenbrae, accomplishing mulching, planting, and weeding in one shift. In the foreground, they spread sheet mulch, while planting happens in the background. Marin County Parks Seasonal Assistant **Kate Whittingham** supported the springtime effort; she is at far left spreading rice straw. (MarinHealth Medical Center is in the background.) For upcoming outdoor events, see the Parks community [volunteer webpage](#) or email Volunteer Coordinator [Kirk Schroeder](#).

## Volunteer Team of the Year Helps County Respond to the Pandemic

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logged over 300 hours at more than 25 sites in Marin.

Members include **Valerie Aden-Lindsey**, RN; **Maxine Gilbert**, EMT; **Carla Greenblatt**, RN; **Judy Greenwald**, NP; **Meg Jordan**, RN; **Germaine Krase**, RN; **Julia Krasner**, MD; **Janis Luft**, NP; **Judy Palesky**, RN; **Wendi Schenkler Samway**, RN; **Jane Stringer**, NP; and **Diane Vogelei**, NP.

The testing team is part of the larger, all-volunteer Marin Medical Reserve Corps, which operates under the aegis of the Health and Human Services Department (HHS).

One of their staff supervisors is HHS Senior Program Coordinator **Anne Carta**, who coordinates the MMRC program. “The breadth and quality of our outreach through the delta and omicron surges would not have been possible without (their) unwavering commitment,” Anne attested. “This team of dedicated individuals tirelessly and

consistently provided their time and support, often with little or no notice.”

Their other supervisor, HHS Support Service Worker **Jessica Chao**, said the team “has provided direct services to a diverse range of individuals and has shown flexibility and adaptivity to different protocols and environments. They show no hesitancy walking into known Covid-19 red zones for outbreak testing, and they provide nothing but the utmost care and attention to every individual they serve.”

“Responding to the pandemic and seeing how much people need the testing has been the most impactful,” said team member Carla Greenblatt about the volunteer experience. “Whether it’s for their work or family, people have been extremely thankful for it. It is really important for the county to provide the services, and it feels good to be part of the process,” Carla added.

“I feel like I am contributing a little something to our world instead of just

being on the receiving end,” said volunteer Germaine Krase. “Every little bit adds up. Even though the contact with others in the community may be brief, it brings us a little bit closer together, and that is rewarding.”

The Board of Supervisors honored the team at a ceremony on April 26. HHS Chief Assistant Director **Ken Shapiro** noted team members’ “professional excellence, compassion, and energy. Bottom line: they improved our outreach and response during the pandemic.” On behalf of her “fabulous” colleagues, team spokeswoman Janis Luft thanked the board for the recognition, adding that it “continues to be an incredible experience working with Marin County HHS. We are inspired by the leadership and dedication and responsiveness of our health care officials to the needs of our community.”

Interested in becoming a county volunteer? Contact MarinShares Coordinator [Anne Starr](#), 415-473-7167.

### Team Backs Usher Volunteers

In recognition of their steadfast support for the usher program, Marin Center House Managers **Tony Crivello**, **Sue Crivello**, **Barbara Perolini**, and **Carol Neel** (seated) were given gift baskets

and thanked by Cultural Services Department Director **Gabriella Callichio**. The four have been active behind the scenes, both during the pandemic shutdown and as performances have gradually resumed. Speaking at a recent volunteer usher meeting, Gabriella lauded the house managers. To applause from ushers, she specially noted efforts by Carol, who kept volunteers and staff connected via email. Carol now has stepped back from those extra duties; the department has hired Events Operations Manager **Marcus Sanchez**, who coordinates usher recruitment and scheduling. Readers interested in joining the usher team may email

[Marcus](#) or [apply here](#).



PHOTO BY ANNE STARR

## Top Intern Team Defends Civil Rights

*Continued from page 1*

examinations before juries. Their cases involved charges such as reckless driving, evading arrest, and resisting arrest.

“I wanted to work in a public defender’s office so that I could help people in what is often a very emotionally taxing experience and try to positively affect people’s lives,” said Reagan. “Seeing people struggle to get services that they need highlighted the importance of community resources like Helen Vine Recovery Center, Center Point, and the Odyssey Program.”

“I chose to intern at the Marin Public Defender’s Office as part of my law school’s criminal practice clinic because of the important role of criminal law and procedure in both promoting safety and protecting individual rights,” said Mattie. “As I worked alongside my supervisor and team member, I learned the importance of taking in all information and considering the other side’s perspective in conflicts, while also understanding that law rarely provides an explicit right or wrong answer or correct approach.”

Outside of court, the team met with clients and helped them navigate the justice system. They informed clients about what to expect, listened to their concerns, advised them how to behave

in court, and wrote examinations and arguments on clients’ behalf.

“For this team, one plus one equaled more than two interns,” said Deputy Public Defender **Tamara York**, the team’s staff supervisor. “Their experience on each case helped them help each other as they learned.

“They would focus on one point of a case, learn together from that, and move forward,” Tamara added. “The court trials happened back-to-back, and they were really collaborative, getting more done together.”

The Board of Supervisors recognized the Intern Team of the Year on April 26. Reagan accepted the resolution of commendation for the team.

At the ceremony, Public Defender **David Sutton** said the internship program is “a valuable, hands-on, real-world training tool for law students... (with a) real and meaningful impact on our clients and their situation and their underlying criminal case.” Tamara York highlighted Reagan and Mattie’s dedication and compassion. She told how they stayed late after trial to make sure a client had safe passage home, fielded frantic phone calls from a client who had suffered a death in the family,

and calmed a client who had fears and doubts about the trial process.

Although the internship has ended, Reagan plans to return to Marin County as a post-bar law clerk this fall to continue helping clients in need of legal defense.

Mattie did a wide range of tasks in the Public Defender’s Office, which has prepared her for success in any future legal endeavor she chooses to undertake.

Students and recent graduates interested in county internships are welcome to contact Marinerns Coordinator [Joy Fossett](#), 415-473-7447.

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CARTOON BY JOHN DONAGHY

## Interns Aim to Prevent the Next Opioid Overdose

*Continued from page 2*

Lauren and Cameron’s staff supervisor, Health and Human Services Senior Program Coordinator **Anita Renzetti**, had nothing but praise for them, noting, “RxSafe Marin’s achievements during the opioid crisis and unpredictable pandemic have been amplified by the talents, dedication, and collaborative spirit Lauren and Cameron exemplify. ...They not only provide the staff ‘backbone’ for RxSafe’s volunteer-led coalition, but they also work at The Spahr Center every Tuesday to get real-world experience in harm reduction activities.

As a grateful supervisor, I look forward to supporting their future career paths in public health or wherever their journeys take them,” Anita concluded.

This year, Lauren and Cameron are excited to represent RxSafe Marin at more in-person events, such as the Marin Teen Girl Conference.

In their free time, they enjoy exploring hiking trails in Marin and swapping baking recipes. Lauren lives in Berkeley, and Marin native Cameron is a Kentfield resident.

After they complete their AmeriCorps VISTA service commitments, Lauren looks forward to exploring the field of public health and possibly social work, while Cameron plans to pursue a master’s degree in public health.

For details, including more information about substance use and naloxone, visit [RxSafe Marin](#) or [email](#) the program.

For urgent issues, contact the [Crisis Text Line](#) (text MARIN to 741741) for help in English or Spanish.

# Happy Anniversary

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

## 28 YEARS

**Robert Eichstaedt** (Larkspur), Environmental Steward, Marin County Parks (Parks)

## 26 YEARS

**Kevin Parkhurst** (Rohnert Park), Steward for Stafford Lake Park Disc Golf, Parks

## 23 YEARS

**Eric Zeller** (Rohnert Park), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

## 19 YEARS

**John Polman** (Corte Madera), Volunteer Driver, Marin County Fire

## 13 YEARS

**Jeri Ireland** (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Parks

## 12 YEARS

**Sean Seeley** (San Anselmo), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Jeff Young** (Dillon Beach), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

## 10 YEARS

**David Atkin** (San Anselmo), **Sunita Ellenby** (Sausalito), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

**Frank Woolard** (Greenbrae), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

## 8 YEARS

**Rusty Howson** (Mill Valley), Steward for Stafford Lake Park Disc Golf, Parks

## 7 YEARS

**Stan Green** (Greenbrae), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteer, Health & Human Services (HHS)

## 6 YEARS

**Deborah Stephenson** (Mill Valley), FAST Volunteer, HHS

## 4 YEARS

**Deborah Fox** (Corte Madera), Event Aide and Administrative Aide, Human Resources

**Rika Gopinath** (San Rafael), Environmental Steward, Parks

**Lynn Merlo** (San Rafael), Preservationist, Corte Madera Library

**Ann Shores** (Corte Madera), RACES/ACS Volunteer, MCSO

## 3 YEARS

**Natalie Dybeck** (Novato), Newsletter Writer, Human Resources

## 2 YEARS

**Bryan Hendon** (Fairfax), **Michael Pechner** (Fairfield), **Steve Quarles** (Mill Valley), **Robert Rowlands** (Mill Valley), Fire Lookouts, Marin County Fire

**Ken Huang** (Tiburon), **Gary Stabile** (San Rafael), Stewards, Parks

## 1 YEAR

**Dirck Brinkerhoff** (San Rafael), Radio Communications Volunteer, Department of Public Works

## Who's New & Welcome!

**Nahomi Alemu** (San Jose), Nursing Student with West Marin Teen Project, Health & Human Services (HHS)

**Emma Bailey** (Corte Madera), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

**Justin Biddle** (San Francisco), Nursing Student with Telehealth/Home Visit Program, HHS

**Julia Camajani** (San Anselmo), Restrictive Covenant Project Volunteer, Board of Supervisors

**Edward Campbell** (San Francisco), Nursing Student with Telehealth/Home Visit Program, HHS

**Josselyn Canas Alvarez** (San Francisco), Nursing Student with Telehealth/Home Visit Program, HHS

**Frances Capupus** (Pittsburg), Nursing Student with West Marin Teen Project, HHS

**Stephanie Collins** (Mill Valley), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Harriet Cuttler** (San Francisco), Nursing Student with Telehealth/Home Visit Program, HHS

**Daniel Dillingofski** (Stinson Beach), Fire Lookout, Marin County Fire

**Navreet Garcha** (San Francisco), Nursing Student with West Marin Teen Project, HHS

**Connor Gibbens** (San Rafael), Career Explorer Program Intern, Probation Department

**Bea Goop-Lott** (San Rafael), Client Assessments Volunteer, HHS

**Olivia Koepfel** (Larkspur), Peer to Peer Homework Support Intern, Corte Madera Library

**Joy Leighton** (San Anselmo), Workplace Coach, Community Development Agency

**Sahndra Magee** (Gardena), Nursing Student, HHS

**Julie Joy Oliveira** (Corte Madera), Suicide Prevention Youth Action Team Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Dan-Tam Pham** (San Jose), Behavioral, Recovery, Integrated, and Dedicated to Growth and Excellence (BRIDGE) Team Service & Learning Intern, HHS

**Chloe Philippart** (Corte Madera), Peer to Peer Homework Support Intern, Corte Madera Library

**Maisie Pipitone** (Corte Madera), Peer to Peer Homework Support Intern, Corte Madera Library

**Sarani Puri** (Kentfield), Peer to Peer Homework Support Intern, Corte Madera Library

**Irene Ragudo** (San Francisco), Nursing Student with West Marin Teen Project, HHS

**Garrett Reid** (San Bruno), Nursing Student with Telehealth/Home Visit Program, HHS

**Marisol Robles** (Novato), Spanish Tutor, Novato Library

**Abigail Romero** (Daly City), Nursing Student with Telehealth/Home Visit Program, HHS

**Marie J. Salerno** (Novato), Shelves, Novato Library

**Tawny Strotz** (Belvedere/Tiburon), Suicide Prevention Action Team Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Alan Tan** (San Francisco), Nursing Student with West Marin Teen Project, HHS

**Sarah Thach** (San Francisco), Nursing Student with West Marin Teen Project, HHS

**Daniela Torres** (Rohnert Park), Suicide Prevention Youth Action Team Intern, Board of Supervisors

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

**Kyra Wentworth-Glasco** (San Francisco), Nursing Student with West Marin Teen Project, HHS

**Connor Williams** (Tiburon), Restrictive Covenant Project Intern, Board of Supervisors

**Allison Young** (Burbank), Nursing Student with the Communicable Disease Team, HHS