



## A Community Foundation Strengthening our Coastal Communities

### Summer 2017 Update

You can feel it in the air. Schools are emptying out and our towns are filling up with summer visitors. It's a great time to take stock of local services and community concerns as you search for parking, line up to pay for your purchases, or try to get into your favorite local restaurant.

What keeps West Marin special are the magnificent landscapes, the wonderful choice of activities, and people from diverse backgrounds. What keeps our West Marin communities vibrant are the services of our [65+ nonprofit organizations](#) that endeavor to make sure everyone's needs are met as we accommodate our "Visitor Economy".

In support of these community services, West Marin Fund is **making grants**, **making changes**, and **making a difference**.

#### MAKING GRANTS



The West Marin Fund recently awarded \$63,000 in grants towards "[Keeping Communities Strong](#)" – our ninth round of small grants in the past five years. We received the greatest number of proposals thus far, and were pleased to award grants to 32 organizations serving the diverse needs of coastal West Marin.

Our small grants are supporting many worthwhile efforts: camp scholarships in Bolinas, Stinson Beach and Point Reyes Station; volunteer and intern trainings at Halleck Creek Ranch, Turtle Island Restoration Network and the Bolinas Community Center; technology upgrades and innovations to KWMR, the Dance Palace Community Center, and the West Marin Review; innovative collaborations between partner organizations such as the Tomales Bay Youth Center and the Bolinas Stinson Youth Group; and numerous other small yet significant efforts that will strengthen West Marin nonprofits and the communities they serve.



Through our [small grants program](#), West Marin Fund has awarded **over \$500,000 to more than 60 nonprofit organizations** in our coastal region – all made possible by generous gifts from local donors like you.

The planning process is underway for our next grants cycle. We will invite proposals in late July to strengthen non-profit initiatives in West Marin. Be sure to check our website. If you would like to make a contribution towards these community grants, please contact [sarah@westmarinfund.org](mailto:sarah@westmarinfund.org).



*Sarah Hobson, West Marin Fund's new Executive Director*

#### MAKING CHANGES

[Sarah Hobson](#) has joined the Fund as its new Executive Director. She brings extensive philanthropic and nonprofit experience, and a deep commitment to supporting rural communities around the globe. An Inverness resident, she also brings an understanding of West Marin's needs and service providers.

Board Chair Harriet Moss says "We are thrilled to have Sarah's expertise and dedication at the West Marin Fund. We welcome her skills and deep roots in our community."

Sarah commented: "I look forward to taking the West Marin Fund to its next level of excellence in service of West Marin's needs: access to services, education, affordable housing, quality of life for everyone who lives and works here. And I look forward to meeting the Fund's friends, supporters, and partners."

Together, we can create the change we want to see in our communities.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

You may find it hard to know about the challenges that face children and youth in our communities. Without regular public transport, they may not be able to attend after-school programs. With diminishing class sizes, they have limited opportunities for socializing. For homes that lack internet access, they may have difficulty getting their homework done. Every community is stronger when families are confident their children will thrive.

Thankfully there are many nonprofit organizations working – and working together – to help West Marin youth get the support that their more urban peers take for granted “over the hill”. This includes West Marin’s preschools, our community and teen centers, as well as scholarship and mentoring programs, summer camps and science internships – all these warrant our enthusiastic support. In the last three months, West Marin Fund has awarded \$29,500 to 15 nonprofits working with youth.

### Giving Through Youth

This spring, our [youth philanthropy program](#) was once again heartwarming and significant. Students in three classrooms spanning grades 3-8 met with local nonprofit leaders, learned about their work, and made the case for funding organizations of their choice. As a result, \$9,000 was awarded to 14 organizations for specific activities benefiting local communities. Congratulations to the teachers, nonprofits, and students for their thoughtful and compelling work.

[Giving Through Youth](#) is made possible by a core group of dedicated donors and volunteers. Please join this initiative and support our next generation of philanthropists.



Photo by Carlos Porrata

*The Giving Through Youth Program gave my fourth and fifth graders first hand knowledge of the enormity of deciding how to give money and to whom... The whole project gave them a voice in their community.*

---Rebecca Braun, 4/5 Teacher  
Bolinás-Stinson Union School District

*(left) Donor Richard Kirschman engages with students in the Giving Through Youth Program.*

### Nonprofit collaboration

In June, with support from the West Marin Fund, West Marin nonprofit Executive Directors met for a half-day retreat – the first of its kind – to identify how best to collaborate on critical issues in West Marin, with a focus on equity and inclusion. The group agreed on the importance of working together to create solutions, build support, and bring in additional resources. It rapidly identified key actions, ways of sharing, and relevant partners. Your contribution in support of non-profit collaboration and learning is greatly appreciated.

### Welcome to the Board of the West Marin Fund

[Susan Byrd](#) is a philanthropist and clinical social worker who provides parenting workshops and family counseling services to families in San Francisco and Marin County. She and her husband Mark Lampert established a family foundation that invests resources and time in organizations serving youth in the Bay Area and beyond. Their Youth Opportunity Scholarships program serves hundreds of middle schoolers in the Bay Area. Susan lives in San Francisco and Stinson Beach, is an Advisory Board member of the National Parks Foundation and a trustee of the Lampert Byrd Foundation.



Photo by Carlos Porrata

**We invite you to join us in making a difference, making grants, and making positive change happen in West Marin.**

**If you are not yet a funding partner, will you join us?**

Contributing to the West Marin Fund is the easiest way to ensure that your charitable dollars are supporting the health and vibrancy of our coastal West Marin communities.

All donations are tax-deductible. To discuss a donation, a non-cash gift or a legacy gift, please write to Sarah Hobson, Executive Director, [sarah@westmarinfund.org](mailto:sarah@westmarinfund.org) or call 415-624-5519.

**For more information**, please visit [www.westmarinfund.org](http://www.westmarinfund.org) and <http://facebook.com/westmarinfund>

West Marin Fund is a community foundation supporting the long-term wellbeing of coastal West Marin. We make grants, provide trainings, convene, and educate – all thanks to the generous contributions of our donors.

*“As a part-time resident of Stinson Beach, I am thrilled to have recently joined the board of the West Marin Fund. A second home may certainly be a place to hike, swim, play, and relax. But also with it comes a responsibility to care for the land, know our neighbors, and understand what services and infrastructure it takes to make these beautiful places survive and thrive.”*

---Susan Byrd, West Marin Fund’s newest Board member

