



## A Community Foundation Strengthening our Coastal Communities

### Autumn 2016 Update

With summer over and schools back in session, West Marin begins its season of great weather and wide-open spaces – with big crowds only on the weekends.

**TRENDS:** The West Marin Fund held a range of community meetings throughout the summer, where local nonprofit executive directors, community residents and local leaders identified the following trends:

- **Strain on Services:** One growing conversation in our communities is how to manage the influx of visitors given our limited parking, toilets, trash receptacles and security services. Visitors are the life-blood of most local economies out here, but services to accommodate them are often stretched.
- **Fraying Neighborhoods:** Another conversation centers on the impact of full time residents giving way to part-time homeowners and vacation rentals. While rental income allows many people to keep their long-held homes in West Marin, it leaves gaps in communities and in schools that we haven't witnessed or experienced before.

Winter is a good time for our village associations and community groups to gather and discuss common approaches to these challenges. The West Marin Fund looks forward to supporting these conversations as they develop.

**CONFAB:** Tuesday September 13, we convened our 10th ConFab, this one on **Fundraising and Legacy Giving Programs**, offered by the inimitable and popular expert Kim Klein. Her style is informative and entertaining – and a roomful of local leaders went away better fundraisers because of it. Kim's book *Fundraising for Social Change*, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> edition, is the bible for many in this field.

Our ConFabs convey best practices in nonprofit management to staff and board members of West Marin organizations. "Lifting all boats" with a single tutorial is a high-impact service we provide – and the wine and cheese reception afterwards creates strong relationships and a shared delight in our work together.



*Artwork by Wendy Schwartz*

*Coastal West Marin is a special place, cherished by all who live or visit here. In many easily-seen ways, it is a paradise. But there are other realities here that are harder to detect. The communities of West Marin have a median income of \$32,350\* – housing costs are 4 times the national average and over half our school children qualify for free or subsidized lunch programs. With no local governments, the 11 unincorporated towns of West Marin rely on our 60+ local nonprofit organizations to provide a broad diversity of community services.*

*The West Marin Fund was created to address these issues and is the only organization that supports the health and well-being of ALL of coastal West Marin. We raise funds to benefit our coastal West Marin communities and to bring these communities together for the common good of the region.*

*\*from Marin Community Foundation's "Portrait of Marin 2012"*



**Fall Confab:** 83 local nonprofit staff, board members and volunteers attended this free skill-building workshop, a new record!

**BUILDING NONPROFITS CAPABILITIES:** This ConFab and others respond to the **critical need to upgrade fundraising capacities of nonprofits**. It's hard work, and not always comfortable for board members or staff to ask for money. But supporting The Good Efforts can be a pleasure and a reward for donors (witness how happy it makes our Giving Through Youth students!).



**Giving Through Youth:** Bolinas – Stinson 4th Grade class, Summer 2016.

This is why the WMF has focused many of its grants on helping our local nonprofits improve their fundraising effectiveness:

- Friends of Sam's House: \$1500 grant allowed them to organize their first fundraising event which raised \$10,000, gained them 40 new donors and resulted in service to up to 24 new clients
- CLAM, the community land trust in Point Reyes Station, used a grant of \$5000 to pay for an audit so CLAM can be eligible for significant federal funding – which we hope will allow CLAM to shepherd the release of 36 affordable homes at the Coast Guard station into community hands.

**Helping our nonprofits fund their work** – with small grants, with training, and with access to new funding opportunities, **is key to our mission.**

**Second homeowners in West Marin** are increasingly finding that donating to the West Marin Fund is an effective way to support the health and wellbeing of all our coastal West Marin communities. We hope "giving back" in two communities feels twice as rewarding.

*“We give back to the community in the East Bay, but West Marin is also a big part of our lives, and the needs here are large yet often hidden. Giving to the West Marin Fund is our high-leverage and low-overhead strategy for helping to make change out here.”*

*– Maureen Kennedy, Inverness*

**IF YOU LOVE WEST MARIN, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE WEST MARIN FUND**

We offer anonymity, if desired, and a deep understanding of local needs to donors who want their charitable dollars to be spent effectively.

**If you are not yet a funding partner, won't you join us?** Contributing to the Fund is the easiest way to insure 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 contact Catherine Porter, Executive Director: P.O. Box 1496, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 Phone: 415-663-9733 [catherine@westmarinfund.org](mailto:catherine@westmarinfund.org)

**For more information** about the work of the West Marin Fund and photos of what we support please visit [www.westmarinfund.org](http://www.westmarinfund.org) or <http://facebook.com/westmarinfund>

We pride ourselves on being in touch with the community, through our board and advisors and nonprofit leaders – so we can be confident



about where funds and services are most needed.

**Bolinas House Party:** Deborah Manetta, Sirima Sataman and Anne Sands at Linda Mornell & Stockton Buck's neighbors' gathering.

If you'd like to be included in a West Marin Fund House Party to meet full-time and part-time neighbors, please let us know. They are a fun and meaningful way to find out about concerns and accomplishments in each community.