



WEST MARIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

P.O. Box 1093

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(415) 663-8361

[westmarincommunityservices.org](http://westmarincommunityservices.org)



*Every one. All ways.*

## Our Mission

The purpose of West Marin Community Services is to support programs and services that ensure the well-being of individuals and families in West Marin. Self-sufficiency, human dignity, and social justice are the values that guide our efforts.



Fall 2020

## WEST MARIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Dear Valued Friends,

On behalf of West Marin Community Services, please accept our deepest gratitude for your generosity over the last several months. Your support during this ongoing crisis moves us and inspires us to do our best every day. Together, we hope to continue to bring relief to our neighbors who need it most.

When we last contacted you, we were at the very beginning of the present crisis. We were overwhelmed in the face of so many unknowns, but you – our donors – responded from your hearts. Thanks to you, we've been able to remain open throughout the pandemic, the economic downturn, and the fires. We were able to pivot very quickly – expanding many of our existing programs and creating new ones – during this chaotic, challenging time. With your help, we were able to provide our most vulnerable neighbors with nutritious food and the resources they needed to remain in their homes.

- Our Food Pantry has remained operational five days a week and we've distributed nearly 200,000 pounds of food to needy families.
- So far, we've provided 130 families with rent assistance. (Last year we assisted 10!)
- We designed and implemented a program to temporarily house our community's homeless during Marin's Shelter-in-Place Order.
- We've strengthened our communications abilities with increased online and social media presence. In this way, we were able to continue advocating for Census participation and to assist our clients with greater flexibility.

It is only through your support that we can continue to help our community members during this global emergency and to keep pressing forward with our programs. In preparation for the next fiscal year, we are exploring ways to develop our Youth Services. Our upcoming Holiday Gift Program will bring hope and light in these times of darkness. We are also committed to continuing our vital programs that promote Latino empowerment, social justice, and racial equity.

**Our West Marin community needs our essential services more than ever.** Please send your donation in the enclosed envelope, or visit our website at [westmarincs.org](http://westmarincs.org) and click the "Donate" button.

Thank you for being there for us and for the most vulnerable in West Marin.

*Con mucho cariño,*

Socorro Romo  
Executive Director

Jim Pellegrin  
Board President

# 9,800

Approximate number of "units of service," including emergency assistance, food pantry visits, case management, referrals, childcare scholarships and community programs.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

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**[westmarincs.org](http://westmarincs.org)**

**415-663-8631**

## PRINCIPAL STAFF

Socorro Romo,  
Executive Director

Heather Oakley,  
Administrative Assistant

Geneva Gist,  
*Abriendo Caminos*  
Program Manager

Yareli Cervantes,  
Emergency Assistance  
Program Manager

Alma Sanchez,  
Program Assistant

Seamus Tomkins,  
Food Pantry Assistant

Melanie Hawk,  
Thrift Store Manager

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bill Steele, Treasurer

Ed Chiera

Ashley Dumbra

Lee Giammona

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Gina Kutchins

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Cindy Mann

Cindy Ohama

Carlos Porrata

Chris Reding

Angelo Sacheli

Melanie Stone

Mark Switzer

# About Us

West Marin Community Services (WMCS) is the central hub for a diverse range of services that support our neighbors in West Marin. Located in Point Reyes Station, our outreach also includes Inverness, Olema, Tomales, Bolinas, Stinson Beach, and San Geronimo Valley. We respond to ever-changing circumstances and act as a safety-net to address needs unfulfilled by other organizations or government programs. We work to bring our community closer together by building equity and fostering effective communication. For more than 40 years, we have provided critical support in many forms: supplying food to the hungry, clothing and household items to dislocated families, providing referrals for county, state or federal support services, and offering sponsorship of other local non-profits offering essential services. In 2014, WMCS established *Abriendo Caminos*, a outreach program designed to connect with and engage Latino-Spanish speaking community members of unincorporated areas in North/West Marin. Our goals include increased civic and community leadership of Latino community members, creation of equity-centered projects, and building bridges throughout the community.



# Our Programs

WMCS provides supportive care and emergency funds to people who are in crisis and are unable to find assistance through any other means. We offer direct services and partner with county and nonprofit organizations so that all available resources can be brought to bear. In 2019-2020, we provided approximately 9,800 units of direct services to families and individuals, as well as referrals and other assistance through our Core Programs, Community Programs, Community Engagement, workshops, and events.

**CURRENT**  
Food Pantry  
Emergency Assistance  
& Case Management  
Thrift Store  
(with limited hours)  
Holiday Program

**COVID-19 - IMPACTED**  
Waterdogs  
Abriendo Caminos  
Event Library  
Breaking Bread  
Community Giving  
Thanks

**FUTURE**  
Youth Services  
Webinars  
*Abriendo Caminos*  
Zoom Gatherings  
New Website



# Food Pantry

No one in our community should have to go hungry, and the WMCS Food Pantry is here to make sure everyone has food on the table. Food insecurity was one of the first concerns for those impacted by COVID-19. With support from the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank, ExtraFood.org, and community donations from local businesses and individuals (including an incredible spontaneous soup kitchen, which has provided nourishing soups twice weekly since April), we were able to pivot our food pantry's operations so we could continue to serve our community five days a week.



## 200,000

Pounds of food distributed  
in the last fiscal year



## 11,400

Individuals served



*“Our volunteers are very special to me. They help me feel like I’m not alone — that there are people in the community taking care of us, like we are taking care of the people who come to the food pantry.” —Alma, Food Pantry*



*“WMCS was the ONLY organization that was OPEN and able to help us at the start of the COVID crisis. Thank you for helping us with our rent! Without you, we’d be on the streets because we had nowhere else to go.”*

—Anonymous couple

## Immigration & Worker Support Services

We collaborated with many groups to provide various forms of support to workers and immigrants in our area. We collaborated with the Canal Welcome Center, and maintained constant communication about any ICE activity in the San Rafael area. We also kept our own rapid response teams aware of any immigration enforcement in our communities. WMCS additionally worked with the Canal Alliance and KWMR radio on a monthly radio show, “Temas de Inmigración,” which kept the migrant community informed of their rights and any aware of any changes to immigration law. Legal Aid of Marin also maintained a steady weekly presence at WMCS. They set up a table every Thursday during our biggest food distribution day, at which time they answered questions from the community concerning such issues as employee rights and tenant rights.

## Emergency Assistance & Case Management

Our Emergency Assistance Fund and Case Management services provided crucial support for low-income residents and those experiencing temporary hardships as a result of COVID-19. We offered fast and confidential support for a range of needs, including energy bills, rent, car and home repairs, medical bills, and other miscellaneous costs. Over the last year, we have also seen a rise in requests for car repair assistance, along with higher demand for other basic needs from our low-income community members. Last year, we provided \$23,000 in funding for emergency car repair, rental assistance, medical expenses, and other urgent needs. This year we distributed \$400K worth of rental assistance and cash aid to West Marin residents. Many of our requests for car repairs came from individuals who have lost their homes and are using their car as their primary shelter as well as means of transportation. As such, the funding for these repairs were crucial for keeping residents off the streets. Most of our requests for assistance came from residents facing homelessness due to job loss, medical expenses, or other financial hardship, many of which were due to the COVID-19 pandemic and exacerbated when combined with increases in rent costs and declining housing availability in the area.

## Community Engagement/Abriendo Caminos

After five years of leadership training within the Latinx community, we decided to broaden the scope of Abriendo Caminos to bring us together as one community. This past year, WMCS created a platform for community conversations in Bolinas, Tomales, and Point Reyes, during which we identified the systemic and cultural barriers that can be overcome together. We emphasized the possibility of changing perceptions of who we are and of finding pathways to promote

equity and mutual respect. The goal of this project is to develop a deeper understanding of our identities, acknowledge our similarities and differences, and begin to change our perspectives.

As a part of our Women’s Wellness Circle program, we worked closely with the Natura Institute for Medicine and Ecology to encourage Latino women to reconnect with their ancestors through the use of plant-based medicinal herbs and home remedies.

The CLAM-Housing Support, Abriendo Caminos Latinx Advisory Committee advocated for the purchase of the Coast Guard complex to the Board of Supervisors.

Before the spread of COVID-19, we continued to host outreach events such as Community Picnics and Farm Visits to connect with community members who are hard to reach due to work schedules and transportation difficulties and to inform them of the services available.



## Fiscal Sponsorship & Local Collaborations

WMCS provided administrative and economic support through our Fiscal Sponsorship Services to those community programs which fall within our mission to foster inclusivity and advance equity, such as the Tomales Bay Youth Center and the Point Reyes Farmers Market.

We also supported and collaborated with local organizations on specific programs and events that confront systemic racism and support our West Marin community.

We collaborated with different agencies throughout Marin to cover the community's needs. We worked with Marin/San Francisco Food Bank and Extra Food to ensure that everyone in West Marin has food on the table. We referred homeless clients to the Community Action Marin (CAM) CARE Team and worked with CAM to assist with applications for the Home Energy Assistance Program and Season of Sharing for rental assistance.

WMCS, Canal Alliance, Multicultural Center of Marin, and KWMR radio collaborate on a monthly radio show, "*Temas de Inmigración*," that keeps the immigrant community informed of their rights and apprised of any changes to immigration law.

Locally, we joined forces with West Marin Senior Services, Coastal Health Alliance, West Marin Standing Together, The Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center, and other groups for referrals and service delivery. We were active in West Marin Collaborative, a group of nonprofits and community organizations that meets monthly to address emerging needs in the community. We continued our partnership with the Marin County Sheriff's office to increase trust between the Latino community and our local law enforcement.

## Accomplishments

**WMCS has risen to the challenges of this pandemic in so many ways. On March 4th, we implemented safety protocols and best practices to make sure all employees, volunteers, and clients were protected and safe. Since then, six staff members and a band of volunteers have worked non-stop to make sure that we meet the needs of our community. Our top priorities are food security, rent assistance, sheltering the homeless, funding other emergency expenses, and making referrals to other necessary services.**

- We distributed over \$400K in housing assistance and cash aid.
- In response to COVID-19, we participated in the West Marin Food Distribution Committee that pooled resources of all the food pantries in West Marin — including local safety, public health, and communications personnel.
- We formed a partnership with BLT, SGVCC, and CLAM to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community could stay in their homes.
- We provided approximately 9,800 units of service, including emergency assistance, food pantry visits, case management, referrals, childcare scholarships, and community programs.
- We worked with Legal Aid of Marin to provide legal assistance to tenants and farm workers in our area.

# West Marin Nonprofits Equity Statement

We, the undersigned\* nonprofit organizations of West Marin, add our voices to the protests against the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Maurice Gordon and countless others at the hands of law enforcement and vigilantes.

We acknowledge the systemic racism at play in our country and county, and commit to facilitate change and foster the inclusivity that this moment in history demands. We recognize that this is the work we must do to truly live out our values of equity and inclusion.

\* See [westmarincs.org](http://westmarincs.org) for full list of participating nonprofits

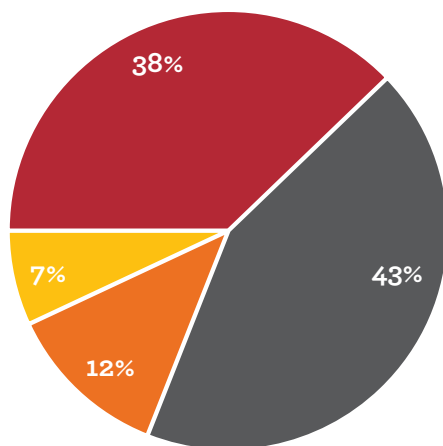
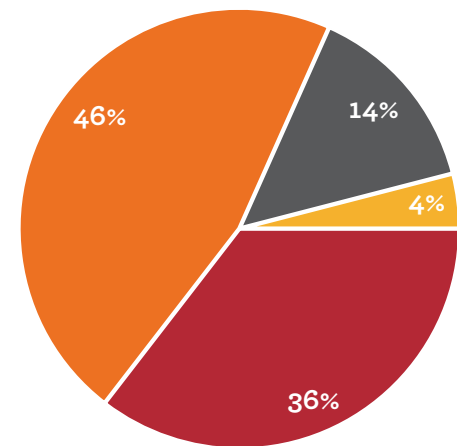
Together we agree to:

- Carry out our own internal work within our respective organizations to address bias and racism, while advancing equity, diversity and inclusion;
- Share our learning with each other for more effective action; and
- Collaborate as West Marin nonprofits to work with our communities in confronting systemic racism.

We draw our inspiration from courageous leaders who over the centuries have challenged exploitation, racism and violence.

## 2019 - 2020 WMCS Budget

INCOME	
● Direct Support	\$511,000
● Foundation Grants	\$666,000
● Program Income	\$206,000
● Fundraising & Fiscal Sponsorship	\$58,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,441,000</b>



EXPENSES	
● Personnel	\$358,000
● Programs	\$409,000
● Program Administration & Sponsorship	\$114,000
● Facility & Occupancy	\$66,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$947,000</b>

**NET INCOME \$494,000**

\$300,000 deferred to COVID - 19 Relief Fund  
 \$100,000 deferred to program and staff expansion  
 \$44,000 deferred to upgrade technology and communications infrastructure



“In a small community such as ours, being on the board of WMCS provides a way for me to help friends and neighbors and the most vulnerable among us in need of assistance.

It is a way to give back to this wonderful place I live in and love!”

– Lee Giammona, Board Member

## Thank You, Generous Supporters

Bolinas Community Center  
 Bolinas Community Land Trust  
 Bolinas Stinson School District  
 Canal Alliance  
 Coastal Health Alliance  
 Commonweal  
 Community Action Marin (CAM)  
 Community Land Trust Association  
 of West Marin  
 Dance Palace Community  
 & Cultural Center  
 KWMR  
 Marin Community Foundation  
 Marin Fire Department  
 Marin Health & Human Services  
 Marin VOAD  
 Multicultural Center of Marin  
 Natura Institute for Ecology  
 and Medicine

Papermill Creek Children's Corner  
 Point Reyes National  
 Seashore Association  
 Pt. Reyes Presbyterian Church  
 Rotary Club of West Marin  
 Saint Columba's Episcopal Church  
 Salvation Army  
 San Geronimo Valley Affordable  
 Housing Association  
 San Geronimo Valley Community Center  
 Satori Sciences  
 Shoreline Unified School District  
 Tomales Bay Youth Center  
 Tomales Town Hall  
 West Marin Fund  
 West Marin Lions Club  
 West Marin Senior Services

*And many individual donors like you!*



*iWest  
 Marin  
 – Si Se  
 Puede!*

Someday soon  
 we will gather all  
 together again!