



WEST MARIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

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westmarincommunityservices.org



Every one. All ways.



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 2022

WEST MARIN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Letter From Our Executive Director

West Marin Community Services Officers, the Executive Director, and the Staff are very grateful for your support during difficult times!

In years past, especially at the peak of the pandemic, our most vulnerable neighbors struggled to meet their basic needs. We have never faced a crisis of this magnitude. Yet, when we believed we'd emerged from the catastrophe, we now face skyrocketing food and rent prices, causing further insecurity in our community. These evolving historical emergencies are putting the stability of our families, seniors, the unhoused, and children in jeopardy. West Marin Community Services is doing everything possible to help everyone in our community endure these challenging times, and we are committed to providing the resources to support our community's essential needs.

While each day brings different encumbrances, we are encouraged by the good moments that emerge within the organization. We are inspired by our clients' gestures of gratitude when they get food or receive rent assistance. We get motivated by the high spirit of those seeking services, such as COVID-19 tests, vaccine information, and the Holiday and After-School Programs. AND YOU! You have not ignored the cry for help of those whose lives have been disproportionately impacted by the recent crises.

There is an important anniversary coming up! Last year around this time, you sent your contribution to WMCS. It allowed us to continue providing a safety net and other essential services in West Marin. We were able to meet the increasing service demand and adopt and implement new programs to address the ever-changing needs in our community.

We encourage you to read this report and learn what we have done together. Because of you, we are making a difference in our community.

We look forward to your support once again!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Socorro Romo'.

Socorro Romo
Executive Director

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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About Us

West Marin Community Services (WMCS) is a central hub for a diverse range of services that support our neighbors in West Marin including Point Reyes Station, 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. Our organization brings our community closer together by building equity and fostering effective communication between vulnerable populations and their resources. For more than 40 years, we have provided critical support in many forms: supplying food to the hungry, providing clothing and household items to families, routing referrals to county, state or federal programs, and offering sponsorship to other local non-profits offering essential services.

Our Programs

WMCS supports 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. We provide emergency funds to people who are in crisis and are unable to find assistance through any other means. Our assisted population includes low-income families, seniors, the unhoused, youth and children, people with disabilities, and West Marin's immigrant population/community. **In 2021-22 we served over 1,300 households and approximately 3,760 individuals.**

FOOD PANTRY

Free food for everyone, open 5 days a week. Regularly hosts free legal and medical services.

THRIFT STORE

Up-cycle community clothing and household goods. All profits go to community programs. Item vouchers for low-income folks to shop in the store.

YOUTH SERVICES

Tomales Bay Youth Center After-School program for middle schoolers. Myriad of community outreach for youth and families.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Support for community members having trouble paying their bills.

ABRIENDO CAMINOS

(Finding Our Path) Latino community leadership and equity-centered projects

EVENT SUPPLY LIBRARY

Rental supplies for local gatherings at reasonable prices. All profits go to community programs.

COVID-19 & DISASTER RESOURCES

Leadership in West Marin Community Response Team for public health & disaster outreach & organization.

West Marin Community Response Team

WMCS & San Geronimo Valley Community Center Dual Leadership

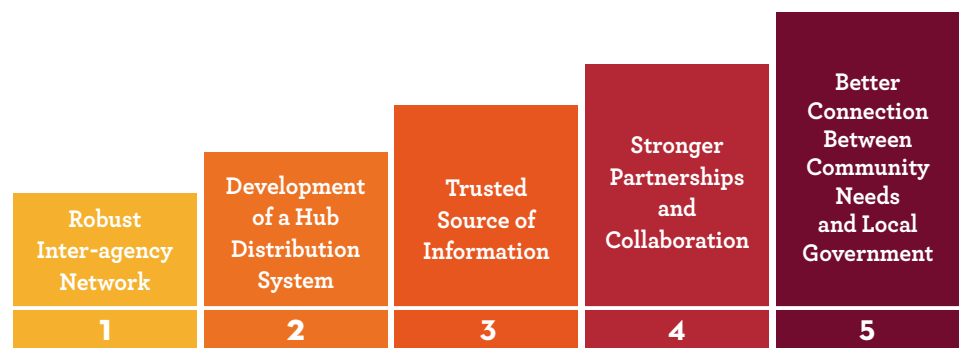
As a rural area with a relatively low-density and widespread population, West Marin has some unique challenges when it comes to coordinated responses to emergencies.

In response to the pandemic, WMCS and SGVCC, supported by the Marin County Health and Human Services, joined efforts to develop a hub distribution system throughout West Marin. Through existing and new partnerships we provided free COVID tests and vaccinations, PPE, and distributed credible information to all corners of our large geographic area. Our combined efforts ensured equitable access for our most vulnerable residents.

Formalization of the West Marin Community Response Team (WMCRT) began in early 2021 as a Marin County Initiative and with

CARES III funding. Our team has become an integral coordination project and effective communication and distribution channel between local government, nonprofits, media, and other local agencies to respond to public health and natural disasters in West Marin.

Our local Community Response Team gained national recognition for its effectiveness! We are very proud of our accomplishments and encourage you to continue supporting our efforts.



WEST MARIN COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM SUCCESSES

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's lengthy disruptions. Today, rising cost of living expenses exacerbated by inflation have undermined the ability of previously secure individuals and families to afford sufficient groceries. With support from the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank, ExtraFood.org, and donations from local businesses and individuals, our food pantry serves those in need five days a week. Your support helps the Food Pantry to remain open and support our neighbors in need.

"Economists have warned that the US is on the verge of a cost of living crisis due to rapid inflation. Food prices increased by 9.4% in the year to April – the largest 12-month rise in 40 years. Around 16% of Americans say they are struggling financially."

— World Economic Forum



Emergency Assistance & Case Management

Our Emergency Assistance Fund and Case Management Services provide crucial support for low-income residents and those experiencing temporary hardships. We offer fast and confidential funds or referrals for a range of needs, including energy and medical bills, rent, car and home repairs, and other expenses. **From 2020 - 2022 we distributed over 750K worth of rental assistance, cash aid and other financial support to West Marin residents.**

Abriendo Caminos

Community Engagement

Abriendo Caminos, 'finding our path', is a program developed by WMCS for our local Spanish speaking community to engage and empower, while addressing the cultural divide and working toward the goal of being one community. *Abriendo Caminos* has offered leadership training within the Latino community and fostered community conversations in Bolinas, Tomales, and Point Reyes, during which some systemic and cultural barriers were identified that can be overcome together. The possibility of changing perceptions and finding pathways to promote equity and mutual respect are key topics at the gatherings.

Improving Quality of Life: Health and Housing

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

Abriendo Caminos has ambitions for more sustainable and better quality living conditions for agricultural employees in West Marin. In February of 2022, three representatives from the Latino community joined the Committee for Housing for Agricultural Workers and Their Families, bringing their first-hand knowledge of living in agriculture housing to the group for the first time. WMCS' *Abriendo Caminos* is facilitating communication across cultural barriers to aid the committee's ability to consider perspectives from diverse backgrounds.



From Isolation to Community

During COVID-19, we recognized some community members were hard to reach due to work schedules, lack of internet/phone connectivity, and transportation difficulties. WMCS partnered with Marin County and other local nonprofits to provide services in response to COVID-19 ensuring information and services reached Spanish speakers.

Recent events in our country have highlighted the need for increased education, training, and opportunities for growth regarding social justice and issues related to equity. Through *Abriendo Caminos* WMCS is working hard to ensure that everyone in our community feels safe and welcome. In 2023 we hope to resume in-person meetings to give Latinos space for personal growth and community healing and encourage participants to voice their concerns and be proactive in the community. Your support enables WMCS to expand communication channels for isolated clients who otherwise would not be able to receive crucial information.

Tomales Bay Youth Center

The WMCS' Youth Services Program adopted the Tomales Bay Youth Center (TBYC) in July 2021. We are excited to offer expanded, meaningful, hands-on programming for youth and families in West Marin.

The Youth Center is located on the West Marin Elementary School campus, you may have seen the new signage driving by from Shoreline Highway! TBYC serves as a social and recreational hub for children ages 11 to 18 years. We support opportunities for West Marin youth to develop their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive abilities with a focus on experiencing achievement, leadership, enjoyment, friendship, and recognition.

Enrichment and Skills-Based Activities

TBYC offers instructional programs with community partners for activities that include skateboarding and mountain biking. We also offer academic and enrichment activities with community partners such as KWMR-Youth DJ, GRO-Mobile Maker Program, and West Marin Climate Action. Students are engaged in skills-based activities and learning opportunities through game playing, socializing, talking circles, karaoke, dinner clubs, open gyms, and outdoor play.



After-School Tutoring and Academic Resources

We stay focused on providing after-school tutoring and targeted social-emotional support for middle school students. This 2022-2023 school year is the advent of Tomales Bay After School Tutoring.

All students are encouraged to have both personal and academic goals for the school year. Whether a student is enrolled in TBAST or with 10K Degrees, Academic Wednesdays, Marin County Library Live Tutor and Homework Help, the Tomales Bay Youth Center will support their learning and help youth meet their goals.



In 2020, WMCS joined over 40 nonprofit organizations in signing an equity statement. We remain committed to both the principles and actions to which we pledged. We internally address bias and racism, while advancing equity, diversity and inclusion; we share our learning and collaborate with local nonprofits and partners in confronting systemic racism.

Accomplishments

- In order to meet significant new challenges facing our community with targeted, effective support, WMCS expanded operations accordingly. With several new staff members and increased office space, we continue to improve on existing programs while expanding some and preparing for new ways to serve our community.
- Collaboration is a key factor of efficiency and success of service delivery. WMCS engaged in a dual leadership model, sharing funding and resources to effectively bridge agencies in West Marin, and developed partnerships with eight new local organizations.
- WMCS and San Geronimo Valley Community Center (SGVCC) joined leadership efforts to ensure that hard-to-reach communities in West Marin are better served. We are currently closely collaborating on the following projects: West Marin Coalition for Healthy Youth, the West Marin Community Response Team, and the West Marin HEAL Collaborative Community. This partnership between WMCS and SGVCC has strengthened both organizations and made both more accountable for racial equity.
- We adopted Tomales Bay Youth Center Program and added a Youth Services Department to the list of our programs.
- Among our new hires are a Human Resource Manager and a Director of Finances, multiplying our programs' capacity.

Financials

2021-2022 Report

Income	\$
Direct Support	227,085
Grants	630,237
Program Income	270,889
Fundraising, Other	72,369
Total Income	1,200,580

Expenses	
Administration	157,221
Programs	639,297
Management & Misc.	97,627
Facility Occupancy	69,024
Total Expenses	963,169
<i>~2 month operational reserve</i>	<i>\$237,411</i>

2022-2023 Projected

Income	\$
Direct Support	200,000
Grants	630,000
Program Income	276,500
Fundraising, Other	130,800
Total Income	1,237,300

Expenses	
Payroll	231,162
Programs	794,549
Management & Misc.	118,839
Facility Occupancy	92,750
Total Expenses	1,227,742

"I have decided on a legacy gift as a way of giving back to the place I have called home for almost 50 years. I chose WMCS for my gift because it is a vital organization whose values I share and an invaluable resource for many in our community. I want to help ensure that it continues its good work for years to come because I believe that providing for the health and well-being of those in need improves the health and well-being of all of us. When WMCS thrives, we all thrive.

— David Hastings, Inverness Park

Sponsorships & Collaborations

WMCS provides administrative and economic support through our Fiscal Sponsorship Services to those community programs which fall within our mission to foster inclusivity and advance equity.

We collaborated with the following agencies to support those in need in the community. The San Francisco/Marin Food Bank and Extra Food to ensure that everyone in West Marin meets their nutritional needs. We referred clients to Community Action Marin (CAM) for housing, Home Energy Assistance Program, and Season of Sharing for rental assistance.

WMCS partnered with Marin County and other local nonprofits to provide services in response to COVID-19. This requires adaptability and continuous assessment to ensure information and services reach the most vulnerable in remote areas.

We partnered with Bolinas Community Land Trust (BCLT), SGVCC, CLAM, and the West Marin Fund (WMF) to better coordinate rent assistance and financial aid. Locally we joined forces with West Marin Senior Services, Health and Human Services, the Marin County Public Library, Coastal Health Alliance, Shoreline Unified School District, The Dance Palace Community and Cultural Center, Ritter Center, and other groups for referrals and service delivery.

We continue our partnership with the Marin County Sheriff's office to increase trust between the Latino community and our local law enforcement. We also continue our partnership with Natura Institute for Medicine and Ecology, providing the Latino Women's Wellness Circle.

WMCS partnered with KWMR and connected with over 200 public and private businesses and organizations to inform our community about the latest COVID-19 news and services and to efficiently coordinate services during an emergency.

Thank You!

PARTNERS

Bolinas Community Center
Commonweal
Inverness Disaster Council
Marin Fire Department
Marin Health & Human Services
Marin VOAD
Point Reyes Disaster Council
Pt. Reyes Presbyterian Church
San Geronimo Valley Community Center
Shoreline Unified School District
Tomaes Town Hall
Walnut Place
West Marin Commons

OTHER COLLABORATORS

Bolinas Stinson School District
Canal Alliance
Papermill Creek Children's Corner
Point Reyes National
San Geronimo Valley Affordable Housing Association
Seashore Association
Saint Columba's Episcopal Church
West Marin Senior Services
Rotary Club of West Marin
Salvation Army

SUPPORTERS

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Marin Community Foundation
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The Tides Foundation
West Marin Fund
West Marin Lions Club
Anonymous Donors