

CONSERVATION CORPS NORTH BAY

NEWS
SPRING
2016

A proud member of the REDF portfolio and subgrantee of the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) program (see page 3).

CCNB Annual Gala

You're invited!

Come celebrate with us! On May 26, Conservation Corps North Bay will hold our annual **Gala Fundraiser**, from 6-9 pm at the Marin Art and Garden Center in Ross.

With delicious food from prominent local providers, fine wines, the most interesting crowd of community and business leaders and a heartwarming program of presentations by our corpsmembers, the CCNB Gala is the social event of the season!

We are particularly proud and grateful towards our **Presenting Sponsor, the Richard Aster Fund of Marin Community Foundation**, which is underwriting most of the expense of putting on the Gala. This generous support enables us to apply the funds raised directly towards services for the under-served young adults we serve. All event sponsors will be highlighted in our next newsletter.

Visit CCNB's website to buy tickets, and we'll see you there!



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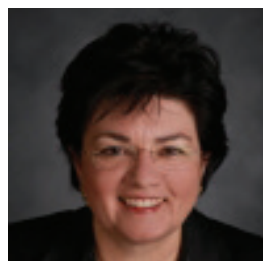
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From the CEO's Desk

Good Times at CCNB

INSIDE



Recycling crew on the road

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CCNB lands prestigious
grant

Spring has sprung! I hope you are enjoying the green hills covered with wildflowers and the beautiful blue skies. It is a time of renewal and optimism for regeneration.

Recently I took some out of town guests out to Point Reyes National Seashore. We stopped by the Elephant Seal Overlook at Chimney Rock to eat our lunch. Years ago, CCNB restored that trail, which was badly eroded, causing the cliff to start sliding into the ocean. Our crews built retaining walls to stop the erosion, installed fencing and turned the trail into a beautiful handicapped accessible trail. I was very pleased to see that our work paid off and the trail was still in excellent shape. A steady flow of visitors were able to enjoy the colorful wild flowers along the trail and observe the seals without disturbing their activities.

As you will see in this newsletter, Conservation Corps North Bay is excited to announce that we are now part of the REDF portfolio, and a proud subgrantee of the Social Investment Fund (SIF). What is so exciting about this is that now even more youth will be able to participate in our training program. They will acquire the needed job skills to secure a meaningful job when they complete our program.

Finally, if you are looking for a little uplifting of your spirit and hope for the future, come out to CCNB's Gala on May 26th. We will enjoy great food in a relaxed atmosphere and hear from our corpsmembers about how CCNB is providing them with opportunities to realize their dreams. We will have lots of fun and you will leave feeling encouraged about our next chapter on this beautiful planet we all share.

Marilee Eckert

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COMMUNITY CIRCLES AT CCNB

Restorative Practices Build a Sense of Team

In September 2015, the Restorative Practices Committee looked at all of the components of restorative practices—an approach to discipline that emphasizes collaboration over punishment—and decided that the first step should be strategic community building. As each department looked at their daily schedules, fitting in a 5-10 minute community circle each day was possible to implement right away. At these circles, the staff member briefly reviews the circle guidelines and chooses a prompt for the day. The prompts are getting-to-know-you questions which facilitate a stronger sense of community. We explained to the corps members that the better we know each other, the better we can help each other achieve our goals.

Thanks to the dedication of our staff over the recent months, we are still running morning circles with our corps members daily. This provides each member with a clear and predictable morning routine whether they are headed to work or school for the day. We have been able to show our members that we care about them and want to know who they are, so that we can help them reach their goals. Several staff members and corps members have commented that there is a better sense of community at the corps since we started doing circles. “The circles are doing what they were supposed to do. The students are seeing each other in a different way, they are more interested in each other. As staff, we have more information about students to use to get to know them better. Overall, we have a closer, more tight-knit community now,” said Jennifer Hunter, Teacher. —*Heather Ramme, Education and Career Pathways Manager*

THANKS TO OUR BUSINESS TRAILBLAZERS!

CCNB Business Trailblazers give to sustain our programs for youth and conservation.



RECYCLING CREW ON THE ROAD

As part of a grant received from CalRecycle, CCNB has been helping the State by verifying proper signage at Certified Used Oil Collection Centers. In mid-February, a few lucky Corpsmembers were able to go on a three day road trip to verify over thirty locations in rural counties throughout Northern California. During their trip they visited Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Siskiyou, Shasta, Trinity, and Lake Counties.

A story told by the crew supervisor, “We were driving up a mountain in Shasta County and we were heading through thick fog. I was paying close attention to the road when I was startled by one of the Corpsmembers exclaiming “I think I just saw snow!”



We continued to see small patches along the side of the road through the dense fog. Suddenly, we broke through the fog. Blinding sunlight revealed that we had summited a large mountain and it was blanketed in pure white snow. I pulled the vehicle over as all the Corpmembers were unable to contain their excitement and insisted on touching the snow. Once parked, the Corpmembers sprang into the snow with no regard to the wet and the cold. One member insisted on taking off his shirt as he stomped through the snow, just to show that he was unaffected by the freezing temperatures. I could not help but think... these guys are crazy! Then it hit me: they had never seen snow before.”

It is easy to take our experiences for granted. We work with Corpsmembers every day who have never seen the snow, never put their feet in the ocean, never picked a ripe tomato off the vine. It is exciting to be able to provide these experiences to our program participants. It is yet another reason why we all love our jobs.—*Eli Goodsell, Director of Regenerative Programs*

MORE NEWS:

- **Community Recycling Crews are available for your public event! Contact CCNB with inquiries.**

Visit www.ccnorthbay.org/conservation/community-recycling-crews/

IT'S EASY TO GIVE!

Just scan this code with the barcode scanner on your phone to go to CCNB's donation web page!



FLOOD EMERGENCY HEROISM

NRC Takes the Night Shift During Storms

CCNB NRC crews were out until 4 am for emergency flood duty during March's series of storms. Cleaning trash racks and culverts on flood control channels threatened with flooding, they really made the difference for homes and businesses in the communities we serve.

One of the most important things we do here at CCNB is to give our Corpsmembers a sense that they matter: that their effort and skills can really make a difference in their communities and in the world at large. Whether it's protecting areas from floods, creating safe fire fuel buffer zones to keep neighborhoods from the danger of wildfire, or working on larger challenges like water conservation and climate change, our Corpsmembers are essential participants in creating a better future for all of us.



REDF
Investing in Employment and Hope

CCNB AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS GRANT

Following a rigorous national competition, Conservation Corps North Bay was recently selected as one of 22 organizations nationwide to join the new FY 16 portfolio of California-based venture philanthropy organization REDF, supported by the federal Social Innovation Fund.

This high visibility project endorses and promotes CCNB as an effective organization with a promising 'double bottom line' business model that delivers jobs and preparation for the mainstream economy to people who otherwise face obstacles to entering the workforce or staying employed.

This initiative is among those with a track record of success, fueled by the support of the federal Social Innovation Fund (SIF), which has to date committed an unprecedented \$14.5 million – the largest federal investment ever in U.S. employment-focused social enterprises that focus on jobs and workforce preparation; while also leveraging tens of millions of dollars in private sector support. —*Brenda Paulucci-Whiting, Program Development and Outcomes Manager*

BUY OUR ORGANIC PRODUCE!

Find an abundance of certified organic fruits and vegetables at the Saturday Farm Stand! 10am-2pm: 1800 Ignacio Boulevard. Starting May 19, we will also sell at the Thursday evening Farmers Market at the Marin Civic Center.

The Farm is on the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus in Novato. Parking is available at the end of campus in lot 6; parking in lot 6 is now free. Walk past the left side of the athletic field to the farm entrance.

Please remember to bring your own bags as we do not supply plastic bags.

Come out and see us!

IVOF&G produce is also served by Boca Tavern, Marin Country Club, and Rustic Bakery, and is for sale at Good Earth and Cooper's Public Market. Plants from the Farm are available at Green Jeans Garden Supply.



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Make a gift of \$1,000 (or a monthly gift of \$84)

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- CCNB monthly e-news Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden monthly e-news

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Since our inception in 1982, CCNB has helped more than 12,000 young men and women break the cycle of poverty while serving our environment and community. We provide year-round job training and education services to 250 youth. Our programs prepare young people from all corners of the North Bay to become environmental leaders, develop an ethic of service and create strong, sustainable communities.

CCNB volunteers and corpsmembers have performed nearly three million hours of work on 150,000 acres of public lands. If you haven't seen them scattered throughout the region cheerfully doing their work, you've seen the results of their labors in pristine trails, clear rivers and streams, fewer wildfires, reduced carbon footprint, and reduced crime in your neighborhood.

In short, we teach young adults with uncertain futures to create a better present and future for all of us.

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