

Fighting Food Waste and Hunger in Sonoma County

CCNB's Zero Waste team continues to find new services to offer our communities while teaching corpsmembers marketable job skills. Thanks to a Food Waste Prevention and Rescue grant awarded to longtime partner Zero Waste Sonoma from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) through California Climate Investments, CCNB will significantly expand food recovery services in Sonoma County, resulting in an estimated 705,200 pounds of food rescued and 561 metric tons of CO₂ reduced over the two-year grant term.

This partnership will prepare some of Sonoma County's largest food generators (like supermarkets, food service providers, wholesalers, and food distributors) to meet California's 2025 goal to redirect 20% of edible food currently thrown away to feed people in need instead. Additionally, it will also create a new job-training pathway for corpsmembers delivering donated food to local food recovery organizations, starting with the Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB). Corpsmembers and their supervisors will earn Safe Food Handling certificates and receive paid, on-the-job training to learn about data collection and delivery logistics from REFB. In return, CCNB will provide REFB with a grant-funded workforce to help offset the food bank's pandemic-related labor shortage.



The remaining grant funds will be used to purchase a refrigerated box truck, pallet jack, insulated food carriers, and other associated materials for food rescue. Any food not fit for human consumption will be sent to feed local farm animals whenever possible or otherwise composted. CCNB will expand this program over time to serve larger geographic areas, adding to the list of recyclable materials our Zero Waste team diverts from the landfill and creating even more green career opportunities for corpsmembers in our program. Additionally, CCNB will continue to help Sonoma County and the state of California achieve their long-term goals to slow climate change. There are so many "wins" with this new program that we've lost count!



Our Values and Commitments

CCNB leadership has worked hard over the past year to reassess our values statements and update our mission to better reflect our services and the young people we serve as a part of a larger Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan. As an organization, we look to the values of empowerment, community, and sustainability to guide our work. CCNB recognizes the potential of all corpsmembers and staff working to define their individual paths. We surround corpsmembers with support so they can build positive relationships and play active roles in improving the communities where they live, work, and serve. CCNB fosters environmental stewards who will contribute to the creation of an ecologically sound, socially just society.



For nearly forty years, CCNB has been a safe space for young people to transform their lives through paid work, education, employability, civic engagement, and leadership.

With various opportunities for advancement and awards, our program provides the opportunity for young people to recognize and harness their own strengths and empower themselves to face systemic barriers like racism, poverty, and incarceration. We are continually inspired by the young people we serve and all the work they do to improve their lives, our communities, and the planet.

Other Program Expansion

January 1st, 2021 marked the opening day for our second-newest collection program—carpet recycling! With an aim to increase our recycling efforts, and to help the community with their local options for recycling carpet, we have partnered with Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE). This program allows residents and businesses to bring their rolls of carpet to our Cotati facility, and drop it off to be recycled, rather than taking it to the local dump where it would be tossed into the landfill, never to be seen again. We are excited by the potential of this program, as we are the first corps in California to partner with CARE. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting new venture.

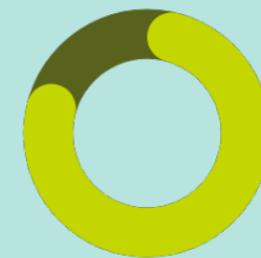


CCNB by the Numbers

In our work, it is important we are able to identify corpsmembers who have successful CCNB experiences. Instead of waiting until a corpsmember completes or otherwise exits our program, we evaluate success in three areas throughout a corpsmember's tenure with CCNB: work experience (e.g., months at CCNB, hours worked), personal achievements (e.g., getting their driver's license, earning a high school diploma), and professional achievements (e.g., positive placement at exit, receiving a promotion).

How are our corpsmembers succeeding?

Current Corpsmember Success:



**83% OF ACTIVE
CORPSMEMBERS**

Corpsmembers achieve success in a huge variety of ways, but one that has the biggest impact on their lives after leaving CCNB is the wage they earn after being placed in a job.

The current average wage for a former corpsmember is **\$17.22** and 55% of our former corpsmembers earn at least **\$17** an hour. Not only do higher wages help corpsmembers and their families, but these wages give our corpsmembers more buying power to stimulate the local economy.

Perservering in the Pandemic

Readers may recognize this dedicated corpsmember from our e-news and social media postings six months back: Roxana was one of a small cohort that walked in the 2020 graduation ceremony for John Muir Charter School, our onsite high school. Since graduation, Roxana has been working on a crew alongside our longtime partners at Marin County Parks, learning valuable skills and exploring potential careers. Earlier this year she applied for a parks position, and we learned recently that she secured a job as a seasonal assistant!

Roxana originally left high school to work but was encouraged by her mother to join CCNB. She points to working, studying, and raising her son as a single mom as the biggest challenge she has had to overcome—we think it is even more impressive she worked through this challenge to stay in school, earn all of her credits for her high school diploma, and start her new career during the pandemic.

Roxana points to her son and her family as the reason she has worked so hard with CCNB and thanks her teachers for all their patience, support, and motivation as she navigated high school. We cannot wait for the day she works alongside a CCNB supervisor and crew as a park employee in the future!



GREEN NOTE

Even if you are a pro at avoiding food waste, there will always be excess food material created (like banana peels) that we want to keep out of the landfill. Not only does any material take up precious space, organic material like food and yard waste releases methane into our air when it breaks down anaerobically in the landfill! While composting at home is a great way to reduce your impact, not everyone has the capacity to do so. Luckily, our friends at both Marin Sanitary Services and Recology Sonoma Marin make it easy to prevent this build-up of material in landfills by offering weekly collection of residential compostable items in green bins. If you don't compost at home or in your neighborhood, request a bin today from the company serving your area! Live in an apartment? Talk to your property manager about adding this service in addition to recycling and garbage so everyone in your apartment, condominium, or townhouse complex can benefit.



CONSERVATION CORPS NORTH BAY



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About CCNB

Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) is the oldest local nonprofit youth conservation corps in the country. Serving Marin and Sonoma Counties since 1982, CCNB has helped more than 12,000 young people break the cycle of poverty through education and job skills, while serving the environment and community. Our mission is to develop youth and conserve natural resources for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable community.

Follow us on your favorite social media channels to stay up-to-date on all our projects, corpsmember spotlights, and program expansion announcements!



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