



Volume Three

Volunteer Voice

News from the San Rafael
Volunteer Program

www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org

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March 2011

All the news, events, accomplishments, and special people in volunteerism that keep the City of San Rafael Volunteer Program playing such a vital role in our community.

Volunteer Spotlight-Pauline Tomlinson-Canal Family Support Program



Pauline Tomlinson, volunteer for the Canal Family Support Program, was recently nominated for the Heart of Marin Volunteer of the Year Award. With a vision to break the cycle of disparity and poverty that exists within immigrant populations, Pauline not only tutors the students who have the most challenging academic and behavioral needs, but goes the extra mile by helping to minimize obstacles standing in the way of their success. With her unwavering dedication, Pauline is tutor, good friend, and mentor to the children, teaching them it is possible to break down barriers and stereotypes that stand in one's way. From academics to cooking and nutrition classes, Pauline has been a positive presence in the children's lives for the past eight years, always pouring her heart and soul into her work with them. Born and raised in England, one-part fairy godmother and one-part Mary Poppins, Pauline is a model volunteer in her adopted country. The Volunteer Program is proud to spotlight Pauline Tomlinson for her passionate and persistent work with the Canal Family Support Program at Pickleweed Community Center!

Volunteer Strategic Plan Adopted by City Council

A Volunteer Strategic Plan was presented to and accepted by the City Council on January 18, 2011. Highlights include Plan Goals: coach department staff to develop volunteer budget goals; train new staff in volunteer management; increase marketing and recognition efforts; implement ongoing graffiti program in accordance with the Graffiti Action Plan; implement cross-training of volunteers across departments; create more high impact opportunities and recruit professional volunteers; and continue many of our current successful volunteer programs and projects. Special emphasis is being placed on the coming wave of Boomer volunteers—those people retiring from the work force with specialized skills offering high impact value.

4th Saturday Parks and Paths Service Days

Hosted by the Parks Division of Public Works, a new volunteer series called 4th Saturday Parks and Paths will be devoted to general cleanup and maintenance of park areas, including graffiti prevention and abatement as well as park and path renovations. The series kicks off on March 26 with a Shoreline Path invasive plant removal, weeding and mulching program. The series continues April 23 for Earth Day with mulching, graffiti and litter abatement programs around town and continues the 4th Saturday of every month through the end of October, culminating in Make a Difference Day. **So save these dates, come on out and get dirty for your community!**



[Gift of Love Benefits San Rafael](#)



On Saturday, February 13, hundreds of volunteers from churches throughout Marin presented an early Valentine of love by donating services at various sites throughout the County, including Falkirk Cultural Center gardens, Pickleweed Park, Shoreline Path and the Terra Linda Community Gardens. Tom Holmes, spending the morning with wife Catherine and five-year-old son Lucas, was planting in the Australian garden at Falkirk, and remarked, “My mom, Scoop Holmes, was the volunteer coordinator at Falkirk. She did all the tea parties in the ‘80’s and ‘90’s.” Holmes said, “She had a super heart for this place and was a big proponent of keeping it up. Today I brought my wife and son so we could all have fun. We want to make it beautiful. This would make my mom very happy.” This is the third year congregants from thirteen churches partnered with Marin County Parks and Open Space and the first year they partnered with the City as well to pull invasive plants, pick up litter and maintain trails at several sites. Thank you to the nineteen churches involved and over 400 volunteers that participated! We hope they share the love again next year.

[Featured Volunteer Opportunities](#)

The City is looking for someone with experience in brochure and flyer design and writing that can help develop some informational materials for residents, apartment owners and businesses to illustrate government codes, regulations and best practices in easily understandable fashion. A **Social Media volunteer** is needed to assist Volunteer Program in maximizing social media outreach through a video contest and fan drive, and a **Membership/Fundraising volunteer** will help maintain the Falkirk Cultural Center’s property and programming. Some expertise, creativity and good follow-through is necessary for these positions. [Contact us](#) if you’d like to sign up to volunteer! More opportunities online at www.sanrafaelvolunteers.org.

[Earth Day 2011](#)

Earth Day on April 23 is a day to call attention to the environment, and a perfect time to be grateful and volunteer for the beautiful place we live in. This year’s Earth Day event will be a county-wide program involving agencies from throughout Marin, including: San Rafael Clean, Marin County Parks & Open Space, MCSTOPP, MMWD, CVNL and Sustainable San Rafael, among others. Plan on welcoming in spring by joining in the activities! Service projects include invasive plant removal, litter cleanups, trail and creek maintenance and other opportunities. For more information log on to: www.MyEarthDayMarin.org.



[Did You Know?](#)

San Rafael counted **2,257 volunteers** in 2010. These volunteers contributed over **57,000 hours** of time at a **value of over \$1,344,000** to the City. These are volunteers such as you, many with passion for the community and a wealth of expertise, who care about our community and quality of life. *Hats off to our volunteers!*

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Thank you for being a contributing member of your community.