

# Annual Report 2016

WMCS has served as a central hub to support the residents of West Marin for almost 40 years. We offer a diverse range of programs, and in 2015 - 2016 we served over 1700 individuals (803 households) with over 3500 direct services through the Food Pantry, Thrift Store Emergency Distribution Fund, Holiday Food and Gift Program, Abriendo Caminos, and Waterdogs Swim Classes.

## Year in Review

### **Abriendo Caminos (Finding our Path)**

*Abriendo Caminos*, the Latino Engagement program with the West Marin Collaborative, continues to expand. This year it includes trainings in Tomales as well as in Point Reyes, introduces new topics (e.g., Board Roles), and adds a wider range of community events. *La Mesa de las Abuelas*, an annual potluck for which people bring a dish their grandmother cooked, led to a deeper discussion of issues of equity.



Leadership/empowerment workshops included a Mediation/Active Listening program in Point Reyes and a Healing and Growth training in Tomales, where participants were given the space to reflect on personal and community issues. The Tomales training was held shortly after the presidential election and participants were especially sensitive to concerns regarding immigration and racial issues. These concerns have become an additional focus for *Abriendo Caminos*. With the goal of making us one community, we are addressing the fear and isolation our local immigrant population is experiencing.

Abriendo Caminos participants were instrumental in the following community events held in 2016: Dia de Reyes, Cinco de Mayo, Western Weekend, Mexican Independence



Celebration, La Mesa de las Abuelas, Tu Voto Es Mi Voz (Your Vote is My Voice), and Day of the Dead.

### **Community Resource Center Core Services**

The Community Resource Center was as busy and lively as ever in 2016, with the food pantry open five days a week, emergency assistance and case management services offered in Point Reyes and expanded to Tomales, and the event supplies library. We hired additional staff to help with increased demand for these services. The food pantry, which operates with support from the Marin-San Francisco Food Bank, the USDA emergency food program, Respecting our Elders, and community donations, distributed approximately 160,000 pounds of food in 2015-2016. It is the only food pantry in West Marin that is open five days a week.



## West Marin Community Thrift Store

The West Marin Community Thrift Store saw many positive changes in 2016 such as a new credit card machine and several physical improvements – new racks, shelves, and reorganization of merchandise.

As always, 100% of the profits go back to the community, providing funds for emergency needs, scholarships for child care, and other support of WMCS programs. In 2015-2016, we distributed a total of \$27,699 directly to individuals with emergency needs, to schools, and to nonprofit organizations with childcare programs. The Thrift Store has provided over \$700,000 to the community in individual and non-profit grants since its inception.

The Thrift Store also benefits from the generosity of local volunteers who help keep the doors open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. As expressed by



longtime volunteer Gina Kutchins, the Thrift Store offers many benefits to the dedicated volunteers:

*“Shhh. Don’t tell anyone, but I don’t volunteer for the big bucks doled out once a year as a reward in the form of “funny money.” Selfishly, I volunteer because I have a chance to see all my chatty friends who drift in looking for a bargain and, in the distribution meetings, get a real high seeing the fruits of my (all of our) labor being put to good use for those in need.”*

– Gina Kutchins, Thrift Store Volunteer

## Waterdogs Swim Classes

Waterdogs, the traditional Tomales Bay swim program for local kids, had record enrollment in 2016 with a total of 43 students, including 13 students who received scholarships. These Red Cross-certified classes started in the early 1940s and

are held every summer at Shell Beach to ensure our kids are safe in Tomales Bay. Funding for Waterdogs was provided by proceeds from the Tostada Booth at the Inverness Summer Fair, a grant from the West Marin Fund, and individual donations.



## Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Our busy fall included that great tradition, the Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Dance Palace for over 300 people. With home-cooked food – almost all organic this year, including the turkeys – and convivial atmosphere, cheerful volunteers, and the captainship of Socorro Romo, a delicious time was had by all.

## Holiday Food and Gift Program

The Holiday Food and Gift Program served 372 individuals (including over 200 children and teens) thanks to the incredible teamwork and commitment of many people and organizations. With so much community support, we were able to provide a real holiday for local families and seniors.



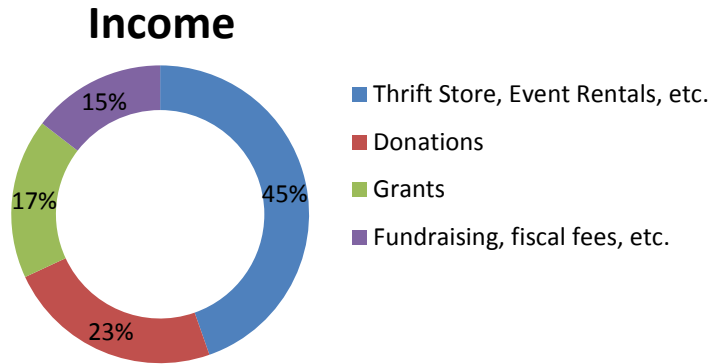
## Fiscal Sponsorship and Contracts

In 2015-2015, we continued fiscal sponsorship support for community partners who work within our mission: Tomales Bay Youth Center, Point Reyes Farmers’ Market, Far West Fest, and Point Reyes Community Garden (the Rotary Peace Garden at Toby’s will be dedicated on January 20, 2017). We also contract with Shoreline Unified School District to provide bilingual Family Advocates in the schools.

**2015-2016 Operating Financial Report**

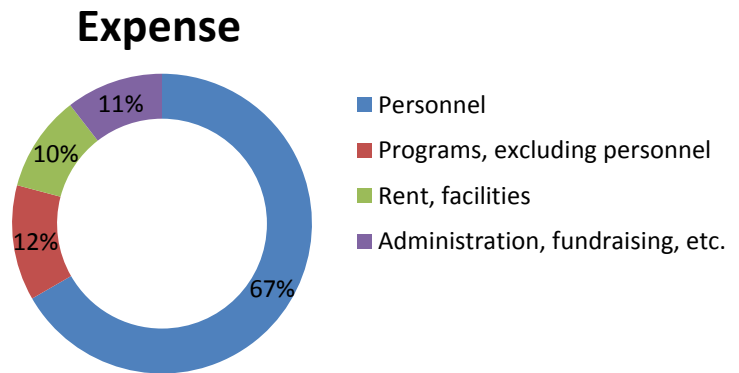
**Income**

Thrift Store, Event Rentals, etc.	199,559
Donations	104,834
Grants	77,694
Fundraising, fiscal fees, etc.	65,053
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>447,139</b>



**Expense**

Personnel	279,099
Programs, excluding personnel	52,124
Rent, facilities	43,471
Administration, fundraising, etc.	43,909
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>418,603</b>




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**Net Total Income 28,536**

**Principal Staff 2016**

Wendy Friefeld, Executive Director  
 Socorro Romo, Program Director  
 Heather Martinelli Ivey, Associate Director  
 Martha Martinez, Assistant Manager, Resource Center  
 Adee Swanson, Thrift Store Manager

**Board of Directors 2016**

Melanie Stone, President  
 Kris Brown, Vice President  
 Kate Levinson, Secretary  
 Jeff Felix, Treasurer  
 Yvonne Morales  
 Ernesto Orozco  
 Jim Pellegrin  
 Chris Reding  
 Patricia Thomas  
 Larry Enos

**WMCS Advisory Board 2016**

Steve Costa  
 Debbie Daly  
 Mark Dowie  
 Dolores Gonzales  
 Nancy Hemmingway  
 Martha Howard  
 Gary Ireland  
 Cindy B. Mann  
 Michael Mery  
 Carlos Porrata  
 Angelo Sacheli  
 Mark Switzer