

Celebrating 25 Years



Lifehouse

Volume 32, Issue 2 Publication of Lifehouse

BECOME A FRIEND FOR LIFE!



TOP: LIFEHOUSE BOARD CHAIR DONNA VAZIFDAR
AND ANNE MEEKER MIDDLE: BARRY HORNSTEIN
+ ANDY HOWARD BOTTOM: CYNTHIA JOHNSON +
DANA SPARROW

COMMUNITY support has always been at the heart of our work. Lifehouse has been able to sustain our services for over 60 years because of people like you! As you make your long-term financial plans, we would be honored if you would consider us as a partner. Planned gifts are critical for the future of our services. Your thoughtful estate gift will help ensure the same high-quality services we provide today will be available for future generations.

Here's just a few reasons why your legacy matters...

Help Provide a Lifetime of Support Lifehouse is unique in its ability to provide support to an individual throughout his or her lifetime. It's important for us to not only plan for tomorrow, but for decades.

Help Protect Our Services As the cost of living increases and government funding stagnates, we must depend on community support to help ensure the people we serve continue to have access to support services in the future.

Help Address a Growing Need Today 1 in 68 children has been identified with autism. As this growing number of children begin to reach adulthood, the need for support services will also increase.

It's never too early to start your personal planning. No matter what your age or wealth, you can make a difference. There are many options available to create your own unique legacy. You can designate your contribution towards general operating support, a specific project or Lifehouse's Future Fund, an endowment established to support our programs and the people we serve in perpetuity.

If you have included Lifehouse in your plans, please let us know.

We understand that making a planned gift to Lifehouse is a significant decision. We'd like to recognize you as a member of the Friends for Life Society, honoring those who have demonstrated their commitment to caring by remembering Lifehouse in their estate plans. Knowledge of your gift will also help us effectively plan for the future.

We're here to help! We encourage you to contact your financial advisor. However, we are happy to answer any questions you may have. The experts at our partner Marin Community Foundation (MCF) can also assist you. Please contact Nancy Dow Moody at ndmoody@lifehouseagency.org or (415) 526-5309 for more information.

The President's Corner

Happy New Year, Friends!

We've had a lot of changes at Lifehouse recently. The community of people we serve is growing! To accommodate that and maintain quality, we have provided additional oversight in the form of a new Director of Services and four new Assistant Managers. You can read about our new Lifehouse positions in our staff updates! We have also increased training opportunities on the Lifehouse philosophy and mission.

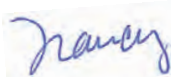
Affordable housing is one of the many challenges we face in providing support. Our Supported Living Program continues to grow, however, it is getting tougher to find housing! This has led to longer waiting periods for services to become available. We recently had a bit of good news from the Novato City Council when our staff attended a hearing regarding the extension of residency limits at Hamilton Meadows Town Houses. The council voted to lift the two year limit allowing the people we serve to remain in their homes!

We continue to hone our skills in meeting the needs of individuals on the Autism Spectrum. As this part of our business grows, we have hired two autism specialists to work specifically with this population and our staff to provide the appropriate oversight, training and service.

Lifehouse staff and the people we serve participated in a rally for an overall 10% increase to the California budget for services to people with developmental disabilities. Our system has not received an increase since 1997 and the cost of living continues to rise. We will continue to participate in budget hearings and meetings with legislators in March. If you'd like information about what you can do to help, give me a call at 415-526-5309.

Providing quality services, advocating for the rights of all people and fiscal responsibility are our most important goals. You make it easier for us to do this. Please remember, everything helps. I hope you will remember Lifehouse when you make your philanthropic plans. Thank you!

Warm Regards,



FROM LEFT: HONOREES NANCY + ALLAN HERZOG WITH LIFEHOUSE PRESIDENT NANCY DOW MOODY; HONOREE DR. NORMAN CHAU + NORTH BAY MANAGER DORI MCDONNELL; LIFEHOUSE VICE PRESIDENT MATT TARVER-WAHLQUIST + HONOREE REVEREND LINDA LANE-BORTELL OF CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...



The packed dining room was brimming with the energy of over 375 guests at the 2014 Annual Awards Banquet on September 26. This year was especially memorable as Lifehouse celebrated its 60th anniversary! The ever charismatic **Marin County Superintendent of Schools Mary Jane Burke** returned as Master of Ceremonies to lead the evening in honor of the dedicated staff and community members whose support has helped Lifehouse continue its work over the past year. Festivities included all singing "Happy Birthday" to Lifehouse and lively dancing, which was a fine finish to the evening. It was evident from the warmth in the room why this event is a favorite for many of our supporters and the people we serve!

A highlight of the evening was the first-ever award to one of the people we serve for personal achievement. **Breton Kaiser-Shinn** was excited to accept his award for his many accomplishments.

This important community event was made possible by Major Sponsor **Mt. Tamalpais Mortuary & Cemetery** as well as Community Sponsors **Filice Insurance, John Morre and Jane Ferrante** and **Private Ocean Wealth Management**. Additional support was provided by **Bay Alarm** and **BioMarin**. A special thanks also to our volunteers, **DJ Terri DeLangis**, photographer **Richard Wheeler** and **Embassy Suites**.



CONGRATULATIONS 2014 HONOREES!

Distinguished Community Service - Dr. Norman Chau D.D.S.

Extraordinary Community Service - John Baum

Outstanding Individual Service - Jeanne Crawford

Personal Achievement Award - Breton Kaiser-Shinn

Outstanding Corporate Involvement - All-American Printing Services

Employer of the Year - Rolling Hills Club

Volunteers of the Year - Margie and Lauren Rogers

Spirit of Lifehouse Award - Tak and Pat Yamamoto

Open Arms Award - Christ Presbyterian Church

Philanthropists of the Year - Allan and Nancy Herzog

Charles L. Martin Award - Joe Meylan

Outstanding Staff Recognition

Melinda Benedict – Counselor, SLP **Rolf Brouwer** – Counselor, CLP

Rita Castro – Counselor, CLP **Kenol Felix** – Direct Support Professional

Gary Malfatti – Assistant Manager, SLP



TOP: CHLOE POLLOCK + HER MOTHER SALLY SPENCER MIDDLE: LIFEHOUSE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR ANGELA ABBEY + HONOREE LAURI HAMMER OF ALL-AMERICAN PRINTING SERVICES
BOTTOM: HONOREES LAUREN, MARGIE + KATIE ROGERS

PERSONAL BEST!

If you attended this year's awards banquet, you'll most likely remember a remarkable man named Breton, who was honored with the first ever "Personal Achievement Award." We think you'll agree that he has much to be proud of. He's earned not just one, but two Associate's Degrees, and is working on his third in performing and visual arts. He recently moved into his own apartment after living with a roommate for seven years. And now, he's even embarked on the impressive undertaking of writing and illustrating a fairy tale fantasy novel! *Phew, tired yet?!*

In getting to know Breton, it's clear that his life's path has been a creative one. Early on, he exhibited a natural talent for drawing and writing. He also enjoyed drama camp and developed an interest in acting. He originally began attending College of Marin to pursue Drama. Among his many roles, he appeared in the college's production of "Wings of Fire," a musical based on "Saint Joan" by George Bernard Shaw. Over time, Breton found it was challenging to become a professional actor and decided to return to an early love, writing. While currently attending college, Breton is also working on his first novel, which includes time doing research, building models and drawing. Breton cites his mom as one of the influences in his life that has helped nurture his creativity. "As a child she took me to contemporary art museums where I was exposed to the possibility of what art could be."

Although he makes it look effortless, Breton candidly shared that achieving his goals hasn't always been easy due to his disability and that many individuals and community programs have been helpful to him, including Lifehouse. "Lifehouse has helped me claim my sense of self again by being supportive of me in the ways I needed help. It's also given me a community that I didn't have before. Sometimes community is enough," he shared. We are thrilled to share Breton's success with all of you and look forward to the announcement of the publication of his book in the future. He is an inspiration to us all; that with just a little support we can all achieve our goals!



BRETON WITH HIS PARENTS, ANNE KAISER + ROBERT TAYLOR

HELP INSPIRE INDEPENDENCE FOR A PERSON WE SERVE

*Please contact the Lifehouse office if you would like to fulfill one of the wishes below.
Find more wishes to fulfill at lifehouseagency.org/wish-list.*

- Make it possible for Fred to keep mobile with specialized orthopedic shoes. (\$900)
- Help Nikki stay "on the go" with a wheelchair battery pack. (\$500)
- Give Robin the gift of healthy teeth by helping her pay for dental work. (\$500)
- Enable an individual to visit Disneyland with Lifehouse's travel program. (\$1,000)
- Give Virginia the gift of a new 19" TV and DVD Player.
- Help Michele participate in community events by providing funds for a year of paratransit transportation. (\$400)
- Assist a resident in her disaster preparedness with an emergency backpack. (\$150)



KATE O'CONNOR

Staff Updates

As Lifehouse continues to grow we have added a number of managerial positions to assure the continued quality of our programs.

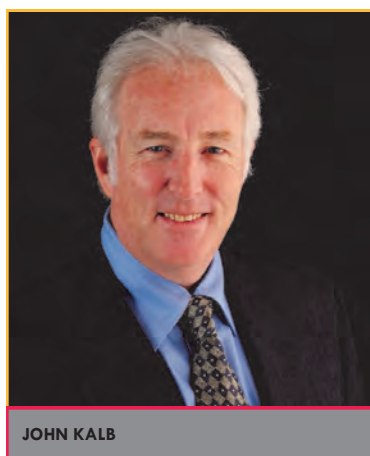
Kate O'Connor has been selected as our newly-minted Director of Services, overseeing our Marin County Supported Living Program, Community Living Program and Intermediate Care Facilities. After starting with Lifehouse as an on-call direct support counselor in 1995, the past twenty years have seen Kate play a vital role in the growth and evolution of the organization. Kate's dedication and leadership have earned the respect not only of her Lifehouse colleagues but of her peers and collaborators at other organizations, the staff of the Golden Gate Regional Center, and most importantly the people we serve and their families. Kate holds a B.A. in Psychology from San Francisco State and an M.B.A. from Dominican University.

To maintain quality as we grow, we have added four full-time Assistant Managers to provide additional support and training to our staff and the people we serve. Kilee Cooper has joined our Sweetwater Spectrum Autism Program in Sonoma. Julie Jumisko is spearheading our Autism program in Marin County as well as supporting our home in Marinwood. Megan Rincon and Ben Stein have joined our Marin County Supported Living Program, focusing primarily on the people we serve at Hamilton Meadows. Taken together, the four of them account for over 40 years of experience in the field of developmental disabilities. Needless to say, they have hit the ground running!



FROM LEFT: MEGAN RINCON, BEN STEIN, KILEE COOPER + JULIE JUMISKO

LIFEHOUSE BOARD WELCOMES JOHN KALB



JOHN KALB

The Lifehouse Board of Directors warmly welcomes John Kalb as an elected member for a three year term beginning in Fall 2014. John is the father of Jaryd, a resident at Lifehouse's Nova House, as well as a passionate advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. He is the founder and President of EV Charging Pros, an independent consultancy focused on building understanding around the business realities of electric vehicle charging. John also brings many years of experience in marketing and strategic planning. John serves on several Boards, including the CA State Disabilities Area Board 5. Lifehouse President and CEO Nancy Dow Moody, says, "I am excited to be working with John! His skills in advocacy, marketing and knowledge of the population we serve will be invaluable as a board member."

We would like to thank Board member **Steve Wilsey** for his contribution to the Lifehouse Board of Directors. He has served on the board for four years and recently stepped down to address health concerns. Steve remains dedicated to Lifehouse and his brother Hayes, and is an advocate to all people with developmental disabilities.

GREAT CHEFS & WINERIES CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AT AN EXCITING, NEW LOCATION

As you're filling in the important dates on your 2015 calendar, we hope you'll save **Saturday, April 18** for Great Chefs & Wineries. Honorary Chairman **Huey Lewis**, Culinary Host **Heidi Krahling** and Master of Ceremonies **Bud E. Luv** are all planning on being there personally to host the festivities as the event celebrates its 25th year! You won't want to miss the spectacular evening we have planned, including the dazzling lineup of cuisine, fine wine, auction items and live entertainment you've come to know and love. This year, we'll be holding the event at an **exciting, new location, The Clubhouse at Peacock Gap Golf Club** in San Rafael, adding an additional element of surprise. The evening will close with everyone moon walking on the dance floor to musical guests **Foreverland**, an electrifying 14-piece musical tribute band to Michael Jackson. **Reserve your seats now at gretchefsandwineries.org or (415) 526-5300.**

See you all there!

We would like to thank **Fireman's Fund Insurance Company** for their many years of support as host venue and founding sponsor of Great Chefs & Wineries for 24 years!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

On **January 29, Lifehouse welcomed over 75 community supporters** at the charming Falkirk Mansion in San Rafael to say "thanks." Guests spent a lovely evening enjoying fine wine provided by **Bucher Vineyards, Peterson Winery** and **Singer Cellars** and beautifully prepared food by **Piazza D'Angelo Restaurant**. Lifehouse President & CEO Nancy Dow Moody and Board Chair Donna Vazifdar both spoke briefly to share some of the exciting work the agency has been doing over the past year. Parents Julie and Scott Jones spoke with much emotion about the positive changes that Lifehouse services have brought to their daughter and their family as a whole. Once again, on behalf of all of those we serve, thank you for your support. Thank you to all who joined us for this special evening to celebrate our community's spirit of giving!



BOTTOM ROW: JOHN + DIANE BUCHER OF BUCHER VINEYARDS; LIFEHOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER ANDREW FIEDLER + DANA FRIEDMAN; HEIDI KRAHLING WITH JIM + SHARON SIDES TOP: JULIE + SCOTT JONES



SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015 / 6:00 TO 11:00 PM

AT A NEW FABULOUS LOCATION!

PEACOCK GAP

— THE CLUBHOUSE —

333 Biscayne Drive, San Rafael

SIP & SPARKLE RAFFLE

WIN AN EXTRAORDINARY DIAMOND BRACELET!

For a \$200 donation, you'll enjoy a glass of premium champagne and enter to win an exquisite 18K white gold diamond bracelet valued at \$30,000!

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HONORARY CHAIRMAN Huey Lewis

MASTER OF CEREMONIES Bud E. Luv

CULINARY HOST Heidi Insalata Krahling

MUSICAL GUEST

FOREVERLAND

An Electrifying 14-Piece Tribute to Michael Jackson

RESTAURANTS

123 Bolinas
Balboa Café
Boca Tavern & Boca Pizzeria
Buckeye Roadhouse
The Caprice
Copita Tequileria y Comida
Farmshop *new!*
the girl & the fig
Hog Island Oyster Co.
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Marin Cheese Company
Marinitas
Peacock Gap Event Center
& Range Café *new!*
Piatti Mill Valley
Piazza D'Angelo Ristorante
Poggio Trattoria
Rustic Bakery *new!*
Saylor's Restaurant & Bar
TruGourmet Organic Dim Sum
Vin Antico
WildFox Restaurant

LIBATIONS

Equator Coffees & Teas
Marin Brewing company
Moylan's Brewery
Sonoma Brothers Distilling *new!*

WINERIES

A. L. Romano Wine Company
Benovia Winery
Charles Krug Winery *new!*
Del Carlo Winery *new!*
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Kosta Browne Winery *new!*
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Mounts Family Winery *new!*
Navarro Vineyards *new!*
Papapietro Perry Winery *new!*
Patz & Hall Winery *new!*
Pride Mountain Vineyards
Rack & Riddle Winery
Ram's Gate Winery *new!*
Schweiger Vineyards *new!*
Siduri Wines *new!*
Sonoma Coast Vineyards
Thirty-Seven Wines
Wilson Winery *new!*

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July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

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TRIPS

In August, Lifehouse staff and a group of the people we serve made their way to Las Vegas, staying at the Excalibur, which includes a magical medieval castle, with a moat and fire breathing dragon.

The group enjoyed many shows but the favorite was the knights jousting on horseback. From what we gather, there were no big winners or losers even though everyone tried their hand at the slot machines.

In December, it was on to Disneyland for three days of holiday magic at the "happiest place on earth." Although it rained during their stay, their spirits weren't dampened, they simply donned ponchos and went on their merry way. For some it was a first visit, which led to one of the counselors riding Space Mountain four consecutive times! However, they didn't make it to the Tower of Terror, leaving that particular ride for their next trip.

These opportunities for travel are an important service that Lifehouse provides. Many of the people we serve begin saving months in advance for these trips; others are unable to participate due to lack of funds. **If you are interested in sponsoring a person**, please contact the Lifehouse office for more information. Individuals must pay their way and Lifehouse provides the staffing. Your contribution will give someone the opportunity to enrich their lives.



TOP PHOTO, BOTTOM ROW: JULIE BURNETT, REBECCA MULLER, CATHY PITZAK, ROBIN LOLLICK, BRIAN ADAMSON, SHARON EDGEcombe TOP ROW: TESS GAUDRY, MEREDITH LLOYD, COOPER LAWSON, SHERI MCSWENEY, CYNTHIA JOHNSON, MARY CONN, GREG GAZZANO BOTTOM PHOTO: KEN IRVINE, DAVID FRIEDLANDER, GOOFY, FELICIA ROMERO, KAYLA HOTCHKISS, GREG DESOUZA

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Jacqui + Bruce Griben's
25th Wedding Anniversary
Thomas + Jo Travers

Scott + Greg Hall
Joseph + Betty Zingale

Dr. Walter + Fran Hall's
53rd Wedding Anniversary
Greg Hall

Kyle Quick
Darby Duke

Allan + Nancy Herzog
Paul + Lois Hoffman

Holly James Shapiro
Alfred + Harrison Baumann
Michael + Arlene Hansen

William Loughran
Frank + Margy Loughran

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at Lucky Market
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Mary Mack
Allan + Nancy Herzog

Randall Martin
Charles + Debbie Martin

Fiona Middleton
Beverley Skaggs

Gene + Tracy Redig
Andrea Pino

Ben Sall
Martin + Karen Bogetz
Sid Sall + Deborah Gray

The Sall-Gray Family
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MEET MARGARET FLORES, CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AT LIFEHOUSE!

Lifehouse is very grateful for our dedicated staff whose hard work and caring every day make our services possible. Community Living Program Counselor, Margaret Flores, is one of these outstanding individuals and she's celebrating her 25th year of service!

Margaret's journey with Lifehouse began after watching a movie about group homes and spending time with a friend's brother who had a disability. She was quite moved by both experiences and felt she had found her calling. After responding to an ad in the paper, she worked for a year at MARC's Larkspur House and then began working with the residents at the San Anselmo House, where she's been ever since.

"It's been very gratifying to witness each person's development over the years. The house has a cohesiveness that I really appreciate. Everyone in the house values one another and sees each person's strengths and weaknesses. They really help one another and everyone feels like they are contributing." She cites the recent passing of one of the resident's boyfriend and how the other housemates stepped in to help ease her grieving. When asked what has kept her at Lifehouse for so many years, Margaret shares that she is given the freedom to work with each person in the specific way he or she needs. "It's important that each person is heard. I take time to find out what their passions are and encourage them to take action."

Currently, the San Anselmo House residents are having fun doing taste tests. Each week, the group tries a new unprocessed food and then each person rates its tastiness. If an item gets a "thumbs up" from the gang, it will become part of the house's ongoing healthy eating plan. The group is having a blast mixing up all kinds of healthy food combinations and are often surprised how yummy a food like kale can be. (*Aren't we all?*)

From Margaret's point of view, what should we know about people with developmental disabilities? "Don't assume you know someone's capabilities. Assume that the person is available to share what is currently present. Treat them with a gentle playful approach and enjoy the surprise."

SUMMER FUN

Lots of sun and a gentle breeze at Corte Madera Town Park made for a beautiful day on July 19 for our Annual Summer Picnic. This year's theme was "Under the Big Top." There was delicious barbeque fare served up by

Big Jim's BBQ, giant bubbles by **Sterling the Bubblesmith**, fresh popcorn and a "Strong Man and Trapeze Artist" photo booth. Lucky raffle winners took home prizes donated by: **Blue & Gold Fleet**, **Cal Skate**, **Century Northgate 15**, **Corbet's Ace Hardware**, **High Tech Burrito**, **Hornblower Cruises**, **In-N-Out Burger**, **Jamba Juice**, **Raging Waters**, **Redwood Empire Ice Arena**, **Round Table Pizza**, **San Francisco Zoo**, **Scandia Family Fun Center** and **Silbermann's Ice Cream**. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped to make the day fun for all.



TOP: MARGARET FLORES + SAN ANSELMO RESIDENT
PAM ONCINA MIDDLE: LIFEHOUSE BOARD MEMBER
LADAWN REICHLING + KATHLEEN GREENE
BOTTOM: RICHARD MOLINAR, LISSA DE MONCHY,
+ MARGIE DE MONCHY



TOP: SANTA WITH CANDACE WICKHAM BOTTOM: LIFEHOUSE BOARDING THE BOATS

Out and About With Lifehouse

Annual Holiday Party On December 10, over 300 party goers enjoyed a night of merriment at our Holiday Party at the San Rafael Community Center. Volunteers, including a group of mothers and daughters from the **National Charity League**, served up a holiday feast of pasta and **Girl Scout Cadette Troop 32792** tickled guests' sweet tooth with delicious home baked cookies. Santa stopped by to snap a few photos with guests while **DJ Terry DeLangis** spun tunes to get everyone in the holiday spirit! Thank you to Gene Phillips, Deirdre Weil, **Tomatina's Restaurant**, **Peeet's Coffee**, **United Markets** and our many volunteers.

San Rafael Yacht Club Celebrates the Spirit of the Season

It wouldn't be the holidays without the **San Rafael Yacht Club**. The jolly gang at the yacht club hosted its annual party for the people Lifehouse serves on December 20, and boy, do they know how to throw a party! The day of fun kicked off with breakfast and a cruise down the San Rafael Canal followed by lunch, live music, and Santa cruised in to hand out gifts. The yacht club has hosted this annual favorite since 1982!

Gifts That Make a Difference A big thanks to **St. Patrick's Parish** in Larkspur for generously fulfilling the gift wishes of many of the people we serve as part of their holiday giving tree program. **The Marin Outdoor Art Club** also warmed the hearts of the people we serve with handmade mittens and blankets. **The National Charity League** elves were busy this year making gifts of fragrant sachets and jars of cookie and bread mix. All of these thoughtful gifts brought smiles to many faces!

REMEMBRANCES

DR. WALTER BURNELL HALL

November 1931 to November 2014

Dr. Walter Hall passed away on November 30, 2014. Walter was a devoted father to his sons Scott and Gregory who live at the Lifehouse Comito Home in Fairfax. His wife Fran gave him a beautiful send off, complete with bagpipes, one of Walter's favorites. We will miss Walter's gentle way.



JOHN RENTSCHLER

July 1961 to February 2015

JR was with Lifehouse for 31 years. He loved the outdoors, his housemates and basketball. JR was very well cared for in his final days at Sunrise I. The Sunrise I staff, Christine Rohmer and Hospice by the Bay gave JR the TLC he deserved. All who knew him will miss him!





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SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 18, 2015

Great Chefs & Wineries

MAY 9, 2015

Marin Human Race

JULY 25, 2015

Lifeline Annual Picnic

OCTOBER 2, 2015

Annual Awards Banquet

1st Saturday Night

Novato Youth Center Dance
(monthly)

3rd Friday Night

Rec, Inc. Dance, Larkspur
(monthly)



Join Us at the Marin Human Race, May 9

Please join Team Lifeline at the Marin Human Race on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at the Marin Center Fairgrounds. You can participate by running, walking or rolling to fundraise for Lifeline or just donate to one of our many team members.

For more info, please contact Connie Siegenthaler at csiegenthaler@lifelineagency.org or 415.526.5305 or visit marinhumanrace.org.