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## Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

### Hill Branch Supports Family House and Children's Hospital

Submitted by Sara Whitfield



Hill Branch members tour UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

Photo provided

The 2015 debutante class of Hill Branch – including Lamorinda locals Cate Barber, Rachel Cratsenburg, Linnea Engstrom, Erica Holland, Gabriella Kreutzelman, Kenyon Watson, Hannah Buck, Montana Dunn and Amanda Giles – in addition to their escorts and fathers were given a tour of UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, which will be the recipient of funds raised from the Hill Branch Winter Ball.

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland will break ground this month on major infrastructure improvements expanding the outpatient

zone along with upgrades and enhancements to surgery and intensive care units, setting a new level of excellence in pediatric care. The emergency room at Children's Hospital Oakland sees more kids each year than other ERs in the area combined. The hospital is one of only five ACS verified Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Centers in California dedicated exclusively to caring for children.

Family House is a low-cost "home away from home" for patient families who live more than 70 miles from the hospital. Most of the food, supplies and toys are generously do-

nated by the community. This year's debutantes, escorts and fathers donated over 56 boxes of toiletries, paper supplies and desserts and dinners to over 30 families who were guests at Family House the evening of their recent visit.

The Winter Ball – a celebratory and charitable Hill Branch event 58 years strong – will be held on Dec. 21 at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco. For more information on Hill Branch and the Winter Ball, visit [www.chohillbranch.com](http://www.chohillbranch.com).

### Bay Area Nonprofit Calls on the Community to Hike to End Homelessness

Submitted by Chris Flitter



Lafayette resident Ernie Vosti with his grandson, Ethan, at last year's Hike for Shelter event.

Photo provided

Nearly 120 people from the Lamorinda area, including more than 60 from St. Perpetua School alone, and hundreds of others are hoping to raise \$150,000 this year at the Sixth Annual Hike for Shelter event from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, starting at the base of Mt. Diablo State Park at Macedo Ranch in Alamo. Presented by Lafayette-based Douglass Designs Inc., Hike for Shelter is a fundraising and awareness campaign open to all individuals, groups, and families of all fitness levels to benefit Shelter, Inc. The Martinez-based nonprofit prevents homelessness and promotes self-sufficiency among low-income and homeless residents through multiple services, such as case management, tutoring, employment services, finance management, parenting classes and life-skills training. Four hikes are available at varied levels of difficulty.

According to Shelter, Inc., the face of homelessness is changing. The nonprofit is seeing more adults, children and veterans struggling to meet basic needs, such as food, housing and safety. As the needs are growing, the availability of resources and services are declining due to budget cuts

and a slowly recovering economy.

"Last year was my first time participating in the Hike for Shelter and I had a wonderful time walking (and running) with my grandson, Ethan," said Lafayette resident Ernie Vosti. "The hike was very well organized from the registration process, to the trail markers, to the delicious catered lunch and program. I hiked last year because it looked like a fun outdoor activity with my grandchildren and I knew it supported a good cause. Since then I've had an opportunity to learn more about Shelter, Inc. and am currently a volunteer helping with their computers and I'm on the 2015 Hike Committee. I'm hiking this year because I want to support Shelter's mission to prevent homelessness by helping low-income families to stay in their homes. It is much more cost effective to keep families in their homes than to allow them to slip into the abyss of homelessness."

Individuals, families and teams can register at [www.shelterhike.org](http://www.shelterhike.org). Registration fee is \$25 and there is a minimum fundraising goal of \$250 per adult and \$750 for 3-6 adults. Kids (under 18) are not required to fundraise.

### Harvest Festival Helps Trinity Center

Submitted by Vicki Pappas



St. Anselm's parishioners John Powers, Marian Mulkey, and Liz Powers. John Powers is on the Trinity Center board of directors and was instrumental in the success of the fundraiser.

Photo provided

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Lafayette hosted its annual Harvest Festival Sept. 12, which raised over \$30,000 to benefit Trinity Center, Walnut Creek, one of the few programs for homeless adults in Contra Costa County that provides a safety net of basic human services including food, breakfast and hot lunch, showers and laundry, clothing, referral services, help with benefits, and more.

Participants included parishioners of St. Anselm's, St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Walnut Creek, and St.

Luke's Episcopal of Rossmoor. There was a live auction, a silent auction, a raffle and a live baseball pool, conducted while the San Francisco Giants pounded the Padres. Guests were so excited in their desire to help Trinity Center that some even bid on non-existent prizes in order to give more to the cause.

The St. Anselm's chairperson of the Harvest Festival, Marty Fischer, had this to say following the event: "What thrilled me as much as the grand total was the spiritual unity of

those who were there and the feeling of common purpose, almost joy at making contributions to a cause that we all were 100 percent behind. It was unlike any Harvest Festival that I've been to in my many years of going to such events. Our goal was to retain a social event that unified the congregation and raise a lot of money. We exceeded at both."

For information about Trinity Center, visit [trinitycenterwc.org](http://trinitycenterwc.org). For information about St. Anselm's, go to [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws).

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.