



THE CEDARS OF MARIN

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BRANCHES

SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO FOSTER INDEPENDENCE, DEFEND DIGNITY, AND REALIZE EACH PERSON'S FULL POTENTIAL

BUILDING A STRONGER and more integrated COMMUNITY

I would like to thank everyone who gave me such a warm welcome as the new Executive Director of The Cedars of Marin. It is a privilege for me to be one of the many leaders who will be building on our rich history of caring and innovation as we transition to a new and exciting future. Our vision includes building a stronger and more integrated community with our families, friends and neighbors. It involves telling stories about the many contributions our clients and programs bring to the communities in which we live and work. Stories about the thousands of hours of volunteer service, art, master weaving, work programs, and inspirational examples of cultivating the human spirit in those we serve and those we touch. We will be building new partnerships with other agencies, businesses, and public programs designed to enrich the lives of all of the participants. We will be creating new and exciting volunteer opportunities for adults and youth. We will be implementing new systems to improve communications and support highest quality outcomes.



On a Ross Valley Fire department field trip, Elliot, who just celebrated his 73rd birthday, shares a laugh with ED Bob Phillips.

It is indeed an exciting time at The Cedars of Marin. I want to thank all of our readers for their ongoing support and welcome you as active participants in our bright and promising future. The people of The Cedars shine as beacons of light in a world that hungers for a positive connection with the human condition.

— Bob Phillips, Executive Director

FIELDS OF GARLIC



Gardeners plant garlic as Peter Martinelli and sister Wiki look on.

Members of the TAC gardening program spent a beautiful fall day in Bolinas at Peter Martinelli's "Fresh Run Farm" planting garlic. Edith Tobin shared her homemade oatmeal cookies and local cheese with all during our picnic lunch in the planting fields. We look forward to helping with the garlic harvest in late spring. Everyone is enjoying this wonderful partnership with Peter to be able to help him on his amazing organic farm.

Cedars Branches NEWSLETTER will become a quarterly publication with a new look and new features. Next issue in July 2008 will be available via email and print. If you prefer to receive future issues via email or have comments please email us at info@thecedarsofmarin.org

MARIN OPEN STUDIOS

EACH YEAR the Cedars of Marin, Victory Center Artists participate in Marin Open Studios.

In preparation for 2008 Marin Open Studios, Cynthia Adams was asked to be our featured artist, and she gladly accepted. To qualify for the position the artist must be passionate, prolific and focused on creating a viable, gallery-ready body of artwork. Cynthia has certainly maintained a great deal of artistic commitment, and her portfolio is bursting at the seams!

When Cynthia was asked why it is so exciting for her art to be featured, her wide smiled, emphatic response was simply "cash"! She also expressed the enjoyment of doing happy art, and showing it everywhere.



In addition to Open Studios, the artists are involved in local juried exhibitions, the De Young Art Slam, as well as various other venues. This has clearly developed an increase in personal

success, fulfillment, and self-esteem that gives them recognition with other professional artists in the greater community.

Please visit the Victory Center at 2 Kensington Road in San Anselmo, to view the work of Cynthia Adams and other award-winning Victory Center artists as part of Marin Open Studios on May 10th or 11th from 10am to 6pm.

The Cedars' Victory Center provides individuals with developmental disabilities an opportunity to express themselves as fully as possible through the arts, to increase their self-esteem and communication skills, and to facilitate their integration into the greater community.

—Lisa Scandurra, Program Manager



THE CEDARS OF MARIN
 115 Upper Road
 PO Box 947 Ross, CA 94957
www.thecedarsofmarin.org

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As part of an Expressive Arts project, Bridget poses as a wood nymph celebrating the winter solstice near the Victory Center.

*Why I like art
 I prefer this program
 because it has art. It is my
 hobby. I love to do it. I wouldn't
 have it any other way.
 It inspires me to do more.
 All artists should be able to do art
 all day. I consider art to be my
 life's work and have sold numerous
 pieces.
 Bridget Jackson
 March 27, 2008*

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SAVE THESE DATES!

- Easter Seals Spring Formal "Garden Party"
 at Embassy Suites May 3
- Special Olympics May 4 & 17
- Human Race May 10
- Marin Open Studios May 10-11
- Cedars Family Assoc. Reception May 17
- Ross Centennial Parade September 20
- La Vendemmia October 18

Cedars' VOLUNTEERS GIVE BACK!

AT THE CEDARS, there are many opportunities for community service, including volunteer work. One of our classes has dedicated their Tuesdays to helping out a beloved friend.

Barbie is a very special person to us all, a dear friend and confidant to many, including staff and clients. As a result



Laura, Christine, Cynthia, Bridget and Mary pose with their friend Barbie Ballard at her home.

of Multiple Sclerosis, Barbie is quadriplegic, and in spite of her independent nature, she requires help feeding herself. A small group of women

who call themselves "The Mermaids" (a name they chose as an homage to Barbie's love of mermaids, as well as her "mermaid-like" lack of working legs) visit Barbie at her home in Corte Madera weekly to feed her lunch and chat about everything.

"I love Barbie. I like having lunch at her house," says Christine, who is

known for pulling her chair right along side Barbie's wheelchair and sharing jokes.

"I like her in the wheelchair," says Laura, "and

I like her bird-he talks to," referring to Oliver, Barbie's cockatoo, who makes his presence known by shouting his name at us. Oliver is not alone, however, as Barbie has 32 birds in all. Amazingly, the noise is pleasant, as Laura states, "She has a nice house."

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Robert Phillips, Executive Director 415 526 1358
branches@thecedarsofmarin.org

Bob Phillips, Editor
 Kate Henke, Designer