

December 1, 2018

**Dear NMCS Supporter,**

Your support matters to so many in our community. **Here's how you make a difference and why we need your help now.**

**You matter** to a child during the holidays – you bring joy to a little girl's heart as she opens holiday gifts, and shares a hot meal with her family.

**You matter** to a family that finds itself unable to pay the rent due to an unexpected job loss – you provide emergency rental assistance that prevents homelessness.

**You matter** to a senior living at the edge of poverty – you ensure access to healthy, nutritious food through our food pantry program.

**You matter** to a teenager overcome with severe depression – you provide a compassionate, skilled mental health care professional who is there to listen and to help.

**You matter** to a single mother in need of quality childcare for her child – you enable a scholarship for childcare so that she can work and contribute to her family.

**You matter** to a newly arriving immigrant that has experienced trauma and oppression – you provide a trained community leader who connects them to shelter, food, friends and support.

**You matter** to teens looking for a place to be after school – you bring them a place to play and exercise, which builds confidence and character, and you bring after-school tutoring that helps them succeed in school.

These are the clients North Marin Community Services (NMCS) serves, every day, with the utmost respect, dignity and care. **These are the clients that YOU help every day! Thank you.**

**As we plan for 2019, we ask for your generosity again.** NMCS is the merged organization of Novato Human Needs Center and Novato Youth Center. We are the most comprehensive human services agency serving North Marin. NMCS is a prevailing lifeline to those who need us. And, there are many people that do need our help. Thirty-five percent of families living in Marin cannot afford basic living expenses. Furthermore, eleven percent of children in Marin live in poverty. Unfortunately, mental health is also a growing concern in Novato.



Last year, twenty percent of adults reported needing help with mental health or substance abuse problems and twenty percent of eleventh graders reported they had seriously considered attempting suicide\*.

**NMCS helps more than 5,500 people in our community each year.** Your support, and the support from others like you, enables us to feed, shelter, educate, and simply be there for those who need help during times of extreme hardship, struggle and difficulty. Our highly trained staff and cadre of volunteers faithfully provide the compassion, care and tools clients need to rise out of crisis, and achieve well-being, growth and success.

***Nicole with her daughter***



When Nicole came to NMCS, she had summoned the courage to leave her abusive husband, but was unemployed, and rented a single room for herself and her young daughter. It is no exaggeration to say that daily life for them was a constant struggle. With her NMCS case manager's regular support, over time Nicole improved her employment situation, secured a two-bedroom apartment and is on track to receive her California Real Estate License. Nicole now has hope in her heart - and shines with pride and gratitude for the stability, safety and peace she has achieved for her and her daughter.

**Please help us continue to help clients like Nicole and reach more people in the community** with our vital, life-changing services. Please give generously, knowing that your gift has very real, transformative effects on the youth, families and seniors that walk through our doors every day. We appreciate your support, and could not do this work without you - our faithful neighbor.

With deepest gratitude,

Cheryl Paddack, Chief Executive Officer

Michael Domer, Board President

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**PS - Please give today to help people in need. Your gift will be matched by an anonymous donor, so please give generously to amplify the power of your gift!**

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*\*Data from Children Now, Healthymarin.org & California Healthy Kids Survey*