



CorpsResponse

Since 1982

Winter 2009



MAKING THINGS RIGHT

When it comes to education, an increasing number of our youth are taking the wrong path. In the 2006–2007 school year alone, it has been reported that 127,292—or almost 25 percent—of California’s high school students quit school before graduating.

“I was shocked at how many students are falling through the cracks,” said California’s superintendent of education, Jack O’Connell, in July 2008, commenting on the results of the state’s first report on a student tracking system instituted in 2006. “This is a crisis.”

California’s dropouts cost the state \$50 billion a year, according to Darrell Steinberg, president of the California State Senate. Studies indicate that those who quit are more likely to be unemployed, need state-funded medical care, receive welfare and pay no taxes.

The crime rate is also higher among dropouts. University of California, Berkeley, economist Enrico Moretti suggests that a one percent increase in the male high school graduation rate would save America approximately \$1.4 billion annually in “social savings,” realized by a reduction in crime. But it is not just the financial cost, which can be measured in dollars. It also is the human cost, measured in wasted lives.

Dropouts are faced with a future of limited opportunities. Roughly 60 percent of jobs require some sort of training or education beyond high school. And one study projects that an 18-year-old dropout will earn approximately \$260,000 less over his or her lifetime than a high school graduate.

The benefits to be gained by having a high school diploma are obvious to the corpsmembers of Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB).

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MEET OUR 2009 GRADUATES!



Ben Madrigali

“With a high school diploma, I feel fully equipped to take the world on, to hit the ground running and give it my all.”

“This is where I wanted to go. CCNB offered me a job and education. I had the opportunity here that I didn’t have in any other place.”



Gloria Carbajal

“Becoming a father was the start of responsibility for me. I didn’t want my child to grow up and one day ask me, Dad, did you graduate from high school?”



Matthew Rainey

“It’s not easy to get a high school diploma. I succeeded at CCNB because there are good people who are willing to help you reach your goals.”



Howard Rosales

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“Now that I have experienced life without a high school diploma,” says Dominic Fabiani, “I want to experience life with one.”

“I really want the diploma so I can have more opportunity to get the career I want,” says Miguel Perez.

Still, it’s not only their pockets and career prospects that are affected. Self-esteem suffers as well.

“[Earning a diploma means] I can be proud of myself and prove to myself that it isn’t impossible to do,” says Kevin Klaut. “I want to have a better education and continue to college to become someone with a better career.”

Through its partnership with the John Muir Charter School, an accredited high school for young adults between the ages of 18 and 25, CCNB affords corpsmembers a strong educational framework in which they can acquire academic skills and earn the course credits necessary to complete high school.

CCNB’s education program is a constituent part of a comprehensive and integrated program of community service, job-skills training and study that targets youth trapped in the vicious cycle of under-education and poverty. Those most vulnerable come from poor or single-parent families, have a mother who dropped out of school, are members of minority groups, or must shoulder adult responsibilities while still in school, according to Lynn Olson, an education policy expert. CCNB’s strategy has proven to be adept at redirecting these youth to better outcomes.

“My goal is to graduate from college and become a teacher,” says Pedro Chom. “Your support has helped me develop my English and landscaping skills so I can achieve my goals.”

With an experienced and motivated staff of credentialed teachers—who often work with students on an individual basis—as

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HONOR THY MOTHER AND FATHER

This year, please consider making a tribute gift to Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) that will not only honor your parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day but will help develop youth and conserve natural resources for a strong, sustainable community.

You can use our tribute program throughout the year to designate a financial gift in honor of a birthday, retirement, graduation, wedding, anniversary or new baby—or in memory of a loved one. These special events are ideal opportunities for you to give a lasting gift.

We will send your honoree a card announcing that a donation to CCNB has been made in his or her name. And remember, your gift is also a tax-deductible donation. Visit ConservationCorpsNorthBay.org to make your gift online.

LEAVE A LEGACY AND CREATE GOOD WILL

Once you have taken care of your family's needs in your will, please consider a bequest to Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) in support of its mission. By including CCNB in your will, you are making a thoughtful contribution that will be felt for generations to come.

For the purpose of including CCNB in your will, please designate your bequest to "Conservation Corps North Bay, Inc., a California non-profit public benefit corporation."

Conservation Corps North Bay is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its federal tax identification number is 94-2831592.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Development Director Laura J. Giacomini by phone at 415.454.4554, Ext. 274, or by email at lgiacomini@ConservationCorpsNorthBay.org, or visit ConservationCorpsNorthBay.org.

Turn that extra vehicle into a tax-deductible donation to CCNB!

It's quick and easy.

Check out

www.lic.org/VDACwebsite.asp

CCNB VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

EVENT DATE & TIME	EVENT
WEDNESDAYS OF EVERY MONTH 10 AM – 1 PM	REDWOOD CREEK NURSERY PROGRAM & STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS OF EVERY MONTH 1 PM – 4 PM	LAND'S END STEWARDSHIP
SECOND & LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 9 AM – 2 PM	HABITAT RESTORATION
SECOND & LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 9 AM – 2 PM	STREAM TEAM
THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 9 AM – 12 PM	MT. TAMALPAIS WATERSHED STEWARDS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009 9 AM – 2 PM	BOTHIN MARSH WORKDAY
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009 9 AM – 2 PM	CESAR CHAVEZ DAY OF SERVICE & LEARNING
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009 9 AM – 2 PM	EARTH DAY
FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009 9 AM – 2 PM	SUMMER SERVICE DAYS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2009 9 AM – 2 PM	SUMMER SERVICE DAYS

For more information, contact CCNB's Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@ConservationCorpsNorthBay.org or at 415.454.4554, Ext. 285.

A YEAR OF CULTIVATION & GROWTH FOR INDIAN VALLEY ORGANIC FARM & GARDEN



In January 2009, CCNB corpsmembers completed 1,800 feet of perimeter fencing around the project site to keep deer out.



The excitement was palpable in the group that scaled the grassy hillside behind College of Marin's Indian Valley campus on a day in early 2008. CCNB Executive Director Marilee Eckert, accompanied by representatives of CCNB's partners from College of Marin and UC Cooperative Extension—Marin Master Gardeners, looked over the valley, surveying the future 5.8-acre campus of Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden, Marin County's first educational and vocational training center dedicated to the art and science of sustainable horticulture and agriculture. With the project's conceptual site plan before them, they envisioned a bustling hub for the county's environmental sustainability movement, providing the tools and resources to advance our knowledge and practices.

With community support and generous funding from the Marin Community Foundation and the Marin County Board of Supervisors in 2008, CCNB and its project partners have taken the first steps toward completion of the center, including finishing the preliminary site grading and erosion control, installing utility lines and fencing, building an organic greenhouse and shade structures, and developing the curriculum and hands-on programming.

This spring, CCNB hopes to raise an additional \$410,000, which is needed to finance the final phase, scheduled for completion later this year. Look for an announcement this summer about the official opening.

TOURS OF INDIAN VALLEY ORGANIC FARM & GARDEN are every Wednesday at 4 p.m., 1800 Ignacio Blvd., Novato. Parking is at the end of the campus. ▲

News Bytes



CCNB LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

February 15 marked the launch of CCNB's new website. Under a service grant awarded to CCNB by the Taproot Foundation (taprootfoundation.org), CCNB completed a much-needed website upgrade. The project was led by five marketing professionals who volunteered their time and expertise over an entire year to ensure that the project stayed on track. The website is filled with new features, including online corpsmember, staff and volunteer application forms, as well as expanded information on volunteer opportunities.

Our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the entire Taproot team—especially, Lesley Stern, account director and copywriter; Pierre Granier, website designer; and Dave Shapiro, website developer—for their ongoing commitment to the project and their professionalism, creativity and hard work. ▲



LOWER REDWOOD CREEK RESTORATION

Thanks to support from the California Coastal Conservancy and the Mary A. Crocker Trust, CCNB recently completed a landmark project aimed at restoring one of the San Francisco Bay Area's most iconic and ecologically significant watersheds. Located in Marin County within Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Redwood Creek provides critical habitats for such endangered species as coho and steelhead trout, as well as for more than 80 species of migratory and resident birds. Decades of agricultural activities had severely altered the creek's natural floodplain processes and salmonid habitat.

In the past year, more than 4,500 hours were accrued by CCNB's corpsmembers toward the project's completion. Their efforts included stabilizing the creek's banks, controlling erosion and planting native species. The ecological impact of their work is already visible. Native plants are flourishing, and a CCNB AmeriCorps member will be monitoring

the creek this spring to determine how many salmon make their way upstream to this newly restored habitat. ▲



CCNB's newest corpsmembers are based at CCNB's facility in Santa Rosa.

FACILITY IN SANTA ROSA OPENS

In October 2008, CCNB welcomed its first corpsmembers recruited from Sonoma County. Based at CCNB's new Santa Rosa facility, they have settled in well as a team, according to CCNB Sonoma Program Director Gary Miltimore. "In my seven years with the corps, I have never seen such a diverse crew with such positive attitudes and enthusiasm," says Miltimore.

The corpsmembers serve in CCNB's natural resources and community recycling programs for Sonoma County, modeled after the successful programs CCNB operates in Marin County.

CCNB's fledgling programs have already generated a lot of interest. Miltimore reports that there is a growing demand for CCNB's services across Sonoma County. In addition, there is a waiting list for corpsmember positions. ▲

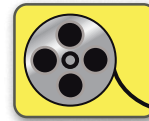


We're Going Paperless!

And conserving natural resources.

Join us by opting for a digital version of CCNB's news! Subscribe to our e-newsletter today at:

ConservationCorpsNorthBay.org



BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT CCNB

The acclaimed Banff Mountain Film Festival, held locally in San Rafael, will again benefit CCNB's environmental programs. Hosted by REI, the festival features a collection of thought-provoking films about mountain cultures, sports and the environment.

COME OUT. BE INSPIRED. SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!

WHEN & WHERE? 7 p.m. March 10, Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center at 1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael. Doors open one-half hour before showtime for open seating.

TICKETS? On sale February 1 at REI Corte Madera; \$15 for REI members (if purchased in advance at REI); \$18 for nonmembers and will-call, and at the box office. Will-call tickets are available at both the store and venue box office. ▲



PROJECT REGENERATION APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 6

Fight summer boredom! Experience innovation! Be part of a team of your peers designing and completing community and environmental service projects. And participate in amazing outdoor recreational adventures.

Enroll now in CCNB's way cool summer program, Project ReGeneration, open to middle and high school students.

FAQ! Two 4-week sessions are offered:

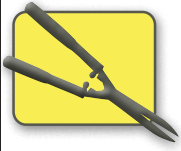
JUNE 22 TO JULY 17
JULY 21 TO AUGUST 14

Overall enrollment is limited to 140 students. The deadline for applications is March 6.

HOW TO APPLY? Applications are available from our San Rafael office at 27 Larkspur Street and Novato office at 11 Pimentel Court, and on our website at ConservationCorpsNorthBay.org. ▲



well as a flexible program, CCNB provides solid footing on the path to success for students who have struggled in previous school environments. ▲



WINTERIZATION TIPS

Living in communities surrounded by protected open spaces and marbled with creeks and parks affords us limitless opportunities to enjoy beautiful scenery and recreational activities year-round. It also exposes our homes and lives to increased risk from floods and wildfires.

If your property adjoins a creek, there are two precautions you can take this winter to reduce the risk of flooding:

- Remove trash, sticks and small logs from the channel that might impede the flow of water.
- Cut and remove ivy climbing trees along the bank. If growth is extensive, remove at least six inches from all ivy stalks around the circumference of the tree. If left to grow, the ivy will eventually shade out the tree's leaves, weakening the tree, or the weight of the ivy will be too heavy for the tree to support. In either case, the tree could fall in the creek—or it could fall on your house!

NEED PROFESSIONAL HELP?

Corpsmembers serving on crews in CCNB's natural resources programs maintain more than 41 miles of urban creeks. In addition to undertaking the above measures, our crews prune vegetation to allow for water maximum flow, while maintaining shade and habitat for salmon and preserving the integrity of the creek banks. If the creek by your home requires this type of management, please contact us to arrange for a free estimate for our work.

MARIN:

NRC Manager Max Korten
415.454.4554, Ext. 149
mkorten@ConservationCorpsNorthBay.org

SONOMA:

Sonoma Program Director Gary Miltimore
707.235.2418
gmiltimore@ConservationCorpsNorthBay.org



Joey Mesquite

“I succeeded when I hadn't before because of CCNB's teachers. I really raised my math skills. I set my mind to doing it, and did it to the best of my ability.”

“I had dropped out of school because I had to make enough money to survive. The education program at CCNB is exceptional because it is incorporated with work.”



John Bahel



Jorge Garcia

“At CCNB, you get motivated by all the teachers and people around you. I can work, make money and get an education. It makes me independent.”

“A high school diploma is a huge step to succeeding in life. After receiving my diploma, more opportunities will be open to me not only in education but for work as well.”



Miguel Rodriguez



Javier Chan

“It has material advantages, but mainly I want a high school diploma for self-satisfaction. I want to show my family that I can do it, I am doing it, and I will do it.”



CCNB's AmeriCorps member Stephanie Morgan, with an educational display.

RECYCLEPALOOZA BRINGS OUT VOLUNTEERS

Forty energetic volunteers arrived at McNear's Beach in San Rafael on November 15 to celebrate America Recycles Day by participating in a beach cleanup and recycling-education fair organized by 15 members of CCNB's AmeriCorps program and 3 staff members.

The volunteers, including families with children, enjoyed great weather as they focused on the serious task of picking up hundreds of pieces of plastic debris brought in by the tides. The debris, likely washed down into the bay through storm drains from city streets, is an environmental nightmare, releasing toxins into the water and breaking up into small bits that are difficult to clean up and often ingested by wildlife.

The educational materials created for this event will be reused as resources at future CCNB community events and in a new, comprehensive recycling program for the Novato School District. ▲

CorpsResponse

is a publication of
Conservation Corps North Bay,
(formerly Marin Conservation Corps)
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ConservationCorpsNorthBay.org

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