

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Here comes the neighborhood.**

Conservation Corps North Bay will be holding its Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Cotati on September 1 from 4:30 – 7:30pm. But they've been hard at work making Sonoma County a better place to live for the past year.

Since 1982, CCNB has provided thousands of at risk youth in Marin County with education, skills and a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves while preserving and nurturing rapidly dwindling natural resources.

In response to increases in gangs, juvenile crime and unemployment in Sonoma County, CCNB opened its doors here last year. In that short time, they've enrolled more than 30 youth in their natural resources management and community recycling programs. CCNB has already celebrated the high school graduation of 11 of those Sonoma youth and changed their life trajectories. They've also restored 16 acres of wildlife habitat and constructed 14 miles of trail, and diverted 60,381 pounds of recyclable materials from landfill in Sonoma County.

This summer CCNB also expanded its popular Project ReGeneration summer youth program to Sonoma County. 20 sixth to ninth graders participated in this program with its unique combination of environmental service, education, and outdoor recreation.

CCNB does it by joining forces with local land management agencies and businesses, such as the Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County Agricultural Open Space and Preservation District, Sonoma County Regional Parks and the Sonoma Ecology Center, to provide training and mentorship opportunities to young people. Youth learn green skills, teamwork and gain valuable work experience while getting the education they need to thrive in today's job market.

CCNB's September 1<sup>st</sup> Open House in Cotati is not only a community event introducing a great new addition to the neighborhood, it's a celebration of the work they've already done to improve it. Refreshments, entertainment and program demonstrations led by local youth will be available. 365 Blodgett Street, Cotati.

For more information call 707-202-3069 or visit [www.conservationcorpsnorthbay.org](http://www.conservationcorpsnorthbay.org).

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