

> Obituaries / B2

> News across Marin / B3

> Californians asked to conserve energy / B3

# MARIN

Sunday, Across Marin  
Community Agendas  
Marin Independent Journal  
Call 1-800-1 WANT IJ  
marinij.com

B



IJ photo/Jeff Vendsel

**GARDENERS:** Janay Garrard, 5, a student at Manzanita Child Development Center, gets help from Americorps Supervisor

Shelly Flint while planting a flower in a planter box at the dedication of the Marin City Children's Enchanted Garden yesterday.

## Marin City garden opens to smiles

Volunteers help create sanctuary

By Mark Prado

IJ reporter

On a gloriously sunny day, a crowd of young and old sporting satisfied smiles gathered on a Marin City hillside to celebrate the first phase of a new community garden.

"I think it looks pretty good," said Brandon Montgomery, 15, of Marin City. "We had to clear out a lot of weeds to make this

happen. It was a lot of work."

Those involved with the Marin City Children's Enchanted Garden project gathered at the site at the top of Cole Drive to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the project with food, music, Scripture and song.

Montgomery was one of several Marin Conservation Corps volunteers who worked to put the project together with the help of other community-minded individuals and business-

es. AmeriCorps volunteers also helped with the garden.

The result: a sanctuary where people, in particular the young, can come relax and enjoy the sun, a variety of planting and views of Mount Tamalpais, Richardson Bay and the surround green hillsides.

"It a place where people can come and meditate and just relax to get away from everything," said Felicia Gaston, who helped lead the project. "It's beautiful here and peaceful.

Children can come and learn about nature and the environment."

The centerpiece of the garden is a wood-framed star that honors grandparents in the community. The garden is dotted with red, yellow and green flowers, which are framed with pink stones and bird houses.

Children pranced around the garden with grins, while parents and elders watched in approval

See Garden, page B2

## Garden

From page B1

from afar.

"We have just started here," Gaston said. "We want to do things like have birthday parties and weddings here."

The project has captured the imagination of a host of businesses and agencies: Fairfax Lumber and Hardware, Sloat Nursery, O'Donnel's Nursery, Goodman's Building and Supply, Kimber Management Co., the Marin Arts Council, the Ollie Foundation, Shamrock Materials, Hammond's concrete and the Marin Housing Authority all have donated to the garden.

The project is far from finished. Organizers would like to see a gazebo, benches, a sunflower garden and a pumpkin patch, among other things.

"This garden is a metaphor for Marin City," said Thomas Peters, head of the Marin Community Foundation, who has helped sponsor Gaston's Performing Stars group.

"It's growing from the ground-up into something very special."

Contact Mark Prado via e-mail at [mprado@marinij.com](mailto:mprado@marinij.com)