

A sampling of *FRIENDS OF MARIN CENTER* Outreach Program Quotes:

"Lifehouse has always stressed the importance of providing recreational and educational opportunities for the clients we serve, and the *Friends of Marin Center* makes this possible. FOMC provides our clients with an opportunity to see so many wonderful performances that they could not otherwise afford to attend. Thanks also to Jayle for organizing and keeping track of the offerings. It's truly a great community service."
-Nancy Riess, Lifehouse

"...thank you for making this happen. There is nothing like watching someone experience the Symphony for the first time..."
-Mary Ann Maggiore, President, Five 4 Five

"These outings are wonderful opportunities for the women and children at our shelter to purely have fun, which can be vital to their emotional growth and development."
-Donna Garske, Executive Director, Marin Abused Women's Services

"Thank you for helping us to fulfill our mission to enrich the lives of children and the community through one-to-one mentoring relationships."
-Heidi Pidcoke, Associate Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marin and Napa

"...Our seniors truly appreciate your outreach to them. One told me last week that the show "Frogz" uplifted her very much from a bout of depression..." "With this thank-you note come 21 big hugs: one from each of the 20 recipients of the tickets and one from me. We deeply appreciate your reaching out to our seniors and helping them enhance their quality of life through attending Marin Center performances."
-Ross Reyes Dizon, Novato Independent Elders Program

"...sincere thanks to you for your generous donation of tickets... We are only able to continue to provide the opportunity to teach our residents to re-enter society as productive citizens because of the help of friends like you. There is no way we can adequately explain how much your support means to us."
-Roxanne Dracopoulos, Delancey Street Foundation

"We appreciate the opportunity FOMC has made available to our families. Theatre, comedy & dance etc. is a joy that is often unavailable for our clients."
-Rachelle Averbach, Family Service Agency

"Almost all of our low vision and blind members are seniors, many with limited income. There are a limited number of activities that those without sight can enjoy, and so we are very grateful to FOMC. Even our blind members enjoy the music, dialogue, stories, atmosphere and excitement of these events. [This program] has been very successful, welcome, and appreciated."
-Pat Merrill, Executive Director, Blind & Vision Impaired of Marin

"I wanted to thank you so much for the opportunity you provided for our young men to attend the Symphony. The minute the conductor walked onto the stage I could see the excitement in the faces of these men; they leaned forward in their seats and as the first note was struck there were smiles all around. Their favorite part was when Elizabeth Pitcairn came out on stage looking royal and beautiful in her bright red dress, and began playing her violin; we were in awe! One young man whispered in my ear "her violin is shining like gold." Later that evening we talked about "The Red Violin" story and that her "Stradivari" violin was so rare and special that it was like gold. The performance was full of energy, and left us all with a desire to listen to more classical music, which one gentleman said was 'very calming.' We will be checking out the music stores for CD's of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Brahms, the composers we listened to that evening."
- 60 Circle Group Home, Cedars of Marin

"...we would sincerely like to thank you for your generosity and the cultural experience that we were allowed to share with each other through your donation." "For most of us it was a first time experience that we will remember the rest of our lives..."
-Miguel Garibay, Center Point

"Providing these tickets gives a sense of hope and opportunity to these most vulnerable families to share an inspiring musical together, while in the process of reconnecting with each other and their community."

-Zara Babitzke, Resource Developer, Matrix Parent Network

"Thank you for the wonderful work you do --- you are indeed a Valentine to so many in Marin County."

-The Center for Attitudinal Healing

"I wanted to express the heartfelt gratitude of the residents; they were transfixed by the singing and dancing. No one seemed tired when we got back at 11:00 pm, although a few people were sleepy at Senior Stretch the next day. One resident gave me the best smile I've ever seen on her face when she talked about the concert."

-Anita, Tam Creek Seniors

"...our seniors are on fixed incomes and their limited budgets don't stretch to include live performance; they really appreciate the outreach offerings..." On a visit from FOMC Executive Director Jayle Hale, resident Fran Cohen, 93, told her, 'I've really enjoyed every single event I've attended at Marin Center. It's opened doors for all of us here. It gives me a lot of mental stimulation; I feel young again!' "...by making these performances available to our residents, they are able to venture out and improve the quality of their lives by coming into contact with the arts. The benefits are numerous but as one resident mentioned to me, "I can still hear that beautiful music and it just makes me smile."

-Calen Chapman & Karen Nunn, Services Coordinators, Parnow Friendship House

"Thank you for your program. We received tickets to Madama Butterfly and though we had difficulty reading the opera translation, the kids were mesmerized by the stage presentation."

-Barbara Sykes, ISOJI Marin City Coalition

"Just want to let you know how much my dance students enjoyed seeing Tango Fire! Thank you for that opportunity.

They are 'fired' up now! Thank you greatly!"

-Kris Van Treese, Napa High Dance Department

"Every time I receive FOMC Outreach tickets to Marin Center performances, there is great excitement & anticipation in the class; after every performance they talk about it for days afterwards. Members of my class told Jayle Hale when she came to visit us: 'Coming from Moscow and St. Petersburg, we grew up appreciating great music and culture, but because of the programmed narrow offerings of the Soviet Union, only now are we truly enjoying a full range of amazing performances from all over the world.' 'Attending the events is important for us in order to socialize with Americans. It helps our English skills.' 'FOMC's free tickets are an example of the American experience, a generous people share a wealth of diverse cultural experiences.' '...we feel as if we are living in near a great cultural center.' 'It is the center of our lives.'"

-Vicky Chuck, teacher, ESL Class, Maria B. Freitas Senior Center

"...FOMC has exposed dozens and dozens of these girls to a wide variety of cultural events. They have come away from these performances amazed and ecstatic. Due to budget limitations purchasing tickets to events of this caliber would not be possible. Without [FOMC] our girls would not have had these wonderful experiences. I am extremely grateful for this program."

-Sherry Hull, San Francisco Girls' Home

"I received a phone call from one our clients today RAVING about the concert Friday night. I know that had they not have been able to see the performance as guests, they would have missed out on a fantastic evening. They were thrilled to attend! I sincerely appreciate the ticket offerings and we look forward to helping our seniors attend future events!"

-Cynthia Hammond, West Marin Senior Services

"I feel so lucky that I am able to enjoy a variety of programs that I would not be able to afford. I look forward to an evening out; a bit of culture rounds out my life. This is a wonderful program and I am thankful someone is thinking of others."

-Barb DeVaut, YMCA